



Centennial 209 Newsletter

P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334
719-599-8624

April 2002



From the Commander
Charles Zeitvogel

Attendance at General Membership Meetings

This is a repeat from last month! "Attendance at General Membership meetings by members is of the utmost importance. Our By-laws indicate that at least 10% of the membership must be present to conduct an official business meeting.

The Post is offering a door prize cash/check drawing for members that are present. The base amount of this drawing is \$25.00 with \$5.00 added to the drawing each month if the member who's name is drawn is not present. Don't let that be you." Harry Cassel's name was drawn at the March 21, 2002 General Membership Meeting. He was not present.

Note: A cash door prize drawing of \$50.00 is being offered by the Commander at the April 18th meeting. This is in addition to the door prize previously mentioned. The member whose name is drawn must be present to win.

Post Elections

Election of officers for this Post will be held April 18, 2002. This is in compliance with Post 209's Constitution and By-Laws.

Nominations from the floor may be made prior to the election Nominations by the Nomination Committee, chaired by Francis Redington, Past Commander are:

Commander.....Charles "Chuck" Zeitvogel
Senior Vice Commander.....Norman Moyer
Junior Vice Commander.....Greg Andries
Adjutant..... Ann Foster
Finance Officer.....Gideon Diamon
Post Chaplain.....Howard Hornik
Post Historian.....Bill Marshall
Post Service Officer.Thomas Morant
Sergeant at Arms.....Robert Rydell
Post Member Elected.....Neal Thomas

The Post Commander, with agreement of the Executive Committee, appoints the Judge Advocate and Service Officer.

We need as many members as possible present for this election. Please try to be present for this election.

Letters to the Editor

No "Letters to the Commander or Editor" have been received for publication.

General Membership Meeting Programs:

General membership meetings are naturally to conduct business, but they also include a program segment in which various speakers are invited to speak about topics that are interesting and have some relevance to American Legion members of our Post 209. American Legion members have frequent contact with young people that may have an interest in a military career or at the least are potential recruits for a one tour of military service.
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Post 209 Officers

Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
Senior Vice Commander	Larry Johnson
Junior Vice Commander	Norm Moyer
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Greg Andries
Historian	Harry Mc Fadden
Sgt-at-Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Judge Advocate	Alton Cyriaque
Service Officer	Thomas Morant
Post Exec Committeeman	Neal Thomas

Dues \$ 30.00

Auxiliary Officers

President	Dorothy Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Marcia Shellhammer
Sgt-at-Arms	Ruth Hornik

Dues \$ 15.00

Meetings

Post Executive Meeting – 1st Thursday
6:30 P.M. at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Ste 104.

Post General Meeting – 3rd Thursday
7:00 P.M. at VFW Post 4051
430 East Pikes Peak Avenue.

Auxiliary General Membership Meeting
1:30 P.M. at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Ste 104.

Board of Trustees

Chairman	Neal Thomas
Secretary	Alton Cyriaque
Member	Greg Andries
Member	Chuck Zeitvogel
Member	Francis Redington
Member	Harry Mc Fadden
Member	Alton Cyriaque
Member	Larry Johnson

Meets on the 1st Thursday following the
Executive Committee Meeting

Membership Eligibility

World War I
April 6, 1917 – 11 November 1918

World War II
December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946

Korean War
June 25, 1950 – January 31, 1955

Vietnam War
December 22, 1961 – May 7, 1975

Grenada & Lebanon
August 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984

Persian Gulf
August 2, 1990 – Until the end of Hostilities as
set by Congress



Sick Call

Dot Dassero – The last that was heard is that she slowly getting better. We would like you back Dot, so keep working at recovery.

Alice Hart– Isn't feeling all that spry these days but is doing pretty good. All who know Alice, send her a card to cheer her up a little. We hope you feel better.

Michael Dassero – Recovering from Back Surgery.

If you are sick or if you know of someone who is under the weather or in the hospital, please give a call to Howard Hornik at 719-596-6345. Information needs to be in the editor's hands by the 2nd Friday of every month for inclusion in the newsletter.



From the Chaplain Howard Hornik

The Quilt

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles. An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth.

The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and death, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. And now, I had to face

the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through.

Please share this with someone you love, care about or even someone who needs Jesus in their heart. They may scoff, but at least the seed has been planted, and God will do the rest. May God bless you today and Forever. (Taken from the Internet)



From the Oratorical Chairman Bill Marshall

Congratulations to Cassandra Marshall of Pine Creek High School and Michael Subialka of Lewis-Palmer High School. Each received a \$400.00 scholarship as a semi-finalist in the 65th Annual Colorado American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, held at CU Boulder on March 2, 2002. Sponsored by Post 209, they were among 25 contestants who presented 8 – 10 minute orations on a subject of their choice concerning the US Constitution and an 3 – 5 minute oration on one of four assigned constitutional topics. As a moderator for the quarter and semi-finals, I listened to nine of the presentations, and I can assure my fellow Legionnaires that our country will be in good hands with young men and women such as these.

For complete details concerning the Oratorical Contest, see the April issue of The Colorado Legionnaire.



From the Adjutant
Ann Foster

Slowly, but surely we are inching up in membership. We are now at 282! That is only 3 away from 105% and 16 away from 110% of our goal for 2002. Let's keep on trying for that 110%. We have already received a very nice certificate from the National Commander for meeting our 100% goal. Let's see what else we can do.

As the Commander mentioned in his article, our American Legion Birthday party was 16 March. A highlight of the evening was presenting cloth stars for members achieving 5, 10, 15, 20, and 45 years of These stars can be worn on their Legion caps. We have a total of 53 this year and the categories break down as follows: Five years – 10, Ten years – 16, Fifteen years – 16, Twenty years – 2, and Forty-five years – 2. Imagine that! All of these members know the benefits of staying with the largest veterans organization. Hopefully, some of you will reach one of these key years when we do this again next year.

If you have never been to a District 7 Ball, I would encourage you to attend this year on 20 April, at American Legion Post 38, 6685 Southmoor Dr, Security. This is a very nice event and provides the chance to get better acquainted with other Legionnaires and Auxiliary members in our District. The cost is \$10.00 per person for a prime rib dinner with all the fixings and a dance afterwards.

Tickets are available by contacting Past Commander Alton Cyriaque at 719-495-4032 or Past Commander Larry Johnson at 719-622-0344.

National Commander to visit Colorado Springs in April

Richard J. Santos, National Commander of The American Legion, will be visiting Colorado Springs on Wednesday, 10 April 2002. The host Post for his visitation will be American Legion Post 38, 6685 Southmoor Drive in Security.

The reception will begin around 6:00 P.M. and a fried chicken dinner for a nominal cost of \$5.00 per person will be served at 7:00 P.M. For more

information and to make reservations call American Legion Post 38 at 719-392-9901.

This would be nice opportunity to meet the National Commander.

ATTENTION, ATTENTION ALL VETERANS

Have you had a disability awarded by the VA, submitted a claim to upgrade your disability, and received that upgrade to your disability?

I recently had my disability upgraded. I had an appointment at the Denver VA and decided to get some prescriptions filled. To my surprise, my file had not been upgraded to show that my medications were now service connected and that I did not have to pay for them.

When I asked why my records weren't updated, I was informed that the Denver Regional Office did not talk to the Denver VA Hospital and therefore the files didn't upgrade.

The Patient Advocate told me the same thing. The advisor said that the two VA's do not talk to each other and, "if I wanted my files updated, I would have to take a copy of the award letter to the VA Clinic on Spruce street and they would have to forward it."

Also, if you did get an upgrade and papers were sent to you to update your beneficiary file, you should make sure all information is correct.

If you have any doubt and you feel you should check this out just **TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE – DO IT!** You might feel better knowing for sure that all of your information is correct.

If you would like to talk with me and get further information, please feel free to call me, Larry Johnson, at 719-526-8095 (daytime) or 719-622-0344 (evening).

Information has been received that "if you haven't registered with the VA by now, it will be quite awhile before you can have an appointment". They are over loaded and waiting to find ways to help all of us Veterans.



Calendar Of Events



From the Sr. Vice Cdr.
Larry Johnson

- 4 Apr Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Board of Trustees Meeting
- 18 Apr General Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M., VFW post 4051 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave,
- 20 Apr District 7 Ball, American Legion Post 38, 6685 Southmoor Dr, Security 6:00 P.M.
- 3 May Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
Board of Trustees Meeting
- 16 May General Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M. VFW Post 4051 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave
- 25 May 209 Installation of Officers, American Legion Post 5, 15 E. Platte Ave. Social Time 6:00 P.M., Dinner served at 7:00 P.M.
- 6 Jun Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M.
Board of Trustees Meeting
- 14 Jun Flag Day
- 20 Jun General Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M. VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave
- 20 -23 Jun Department Convention -- Held at the Renaissance Hotel -- located on Quebec and I-70, Denver
- 4 Jul Independence Day

I have been talking with prospective members to The American Legion and Centennial Post 209. While talking with them one of them asked me why I do what I do with The American Legion since I am not retired from any military organization.

My reply to him was that, "just because I did not retire from the military doesn't mean that I do not care about the men and women who are answering the call of our great country just as we did". I also informed him that this organization was not founded on the necessity of a Legionnaire being retired before he could join. In fact, we have many Legionnaires who are still on active duty and belong to our great organization.

He asked what benefit is The American Legion to me? How have I benefited from the organization? I asked him how he bought his house and his reply was using the VA. I asked him if he went to college when he got out of the military. His reply was, "The only reason I went into the military was to get the education benefits".

I informed him that his ability to buy the house and to attend college was because of the veterans who went before him and secured those benefits so that he was able to use them.

I also told him of the medical benefits (such as they are) and the VA Hospital system that would not be around to help him if it wasn't for the ones who have gone before us. We wouldn't have any of this to the degree we do if it wasn't for the veterans.

The thing that I did not tell him to the fullest extent was of the fun that can be had while working the various programs, and meeting Legionnaires from all walks of life when they attend meeting and functions. I didn't tell him of the look when a hospitalized veteran sees a Legionnaire in his cap, walk into his room at the hospital, knowing that the individual who just walked into his world had gone through some the things he had and was there to cheer him up a little bit. Or, the looks on children's faces when they ask you questions about your military service and how some of them hold you in awe. Think about that and get your friends to join this great organization today.



**From the Commander
Charles Zeitvogel
(continued)**

With this in mind, recruiters from the various branches of the military have been invited to be program speakers at our recent monthly general membership meetings in 2002. Starting in January a Marine Corps recruiter, then a Navy recruiter in February, in March an Air Force recruiter was invited. For the April general membership meeting, an Army recruiter is invited. Then in May we expect a recruiter from either the Coast Guard or National Guard. After that we plan to have other speakers with knowledge of importance to share with our membership.

Members attending our Post 209 General Membership Meetings will receive a warm welcome and will have an opportunity to share in the door prizes as well as the camaraderie that takes place.

The recruiter from the Air Force was unable to make the March meeting. Commander Zeitvogel gave insight to the Tax preparations that he is involved in at the Academy. He stated that any retiree or active duty military could get free tax preparation help at the Academy or at any military installation.



Children and Youth Month

April is Children and Youth Month as promoted by the American Legion at the National level. Locally, we have members working with a Cub Scout Pack, arranging for high school boys to participate in Boys State and Oratorical Contests, and junior shooting programs. Please contact Francis Redington or Bill Marshall if you would like to help with any of these programs.

THE HERO

He left that day as he normally did,
Grabbed his gear and kissed his kid.
Not knowing what this day would bring,
Not knowing he'd hear the angels sing.

His job was to help all those in need
A modest hero to everyone he'd freed.
Until he got the call that would end his life
And change the world for his child and wife.

The towers had fallen and chaos would reign
Bringing to thousands suffering and pain.
But he knew what he had to do:
Save those he could, and himself too.

The smell of death was all around,
His sight diminished, not a single sound.
He led them to safety, not caring for his own
Then he heard it: a faint cry, a moan.

He continued to work, saving countless lives
Guiding sons, daughters, husbands, wives.
There it was again, the slightest moan
It was then he realized the cry was his own.

Next thing he knew, he saw his own face
In a box, a long one, in a beautiful place
His wife, his son were at his side
While family and friends sniffled and cried.

His son's voice: "Why, daddy, why? Why aren't
you with us today?"
He had to answer. What would he say?
He looked deep into his son's eyes
And answered in a voice he didn't recognize:
"I love you forever, more than you know
But the Lord decided it was time for me to go."

"Fear not my son, for we'll meet again soon.
Just think of me when you see a full moon.
I am with you all of the time,
For I am yours, and you are mine."

A martyr for freedom, a hero, a man
Doing nothing more than each of us can.
A breath, a sigh, a lonely tear,
In remembrance of those who died with no fear.

As their world fell upon them, they left this plain,
No more worry, no more pain.
A mother, a father, a daughter, a son
When it's all over, it is THEY who have won.
Kimberly N. Riggs

Spelling Bee – USA

WASHINGTON DC—During the National Spelling Bee this week in the nation's capital, Islamic spectators became outraged upon discovering that the USA was embedded in the middle of Jerusalem, Israel's holiest city

The revelation was made by Douglas Levin, an eighth grader at the Joseph Lieberman Day School in Rockville Center, Md. When young Levin was asked to spell the word Jerusalem, he replied: 'J...E...R.....USA.....L...E...M.'

An audible gasp sounded from Muslim onlookers, who realized for the first time a USA presence in the holy city. Muslim parents immediately protested the spelling contest, citing American bias toward Israel. 'It's a clear violation of church and state,' said Muhammed Ahlee, lobbyist for the Arab group Holy Shiite.

Bee officials quickly denied any wrongdoing, asserting that the Muslims were merely disgruntled because Rajeed Raheed, a seventh grader from Al Kaydah Junior High, had been eliminated earlier for misspelling Afghanistan as Afghanustan.

Part of the same family: Legion, Auxiliary work towards same goals.

By: Richard J. Santos – National Commander and Sherry McLaughlin – National President

The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion – The American Legion family – have many commonalities and goals such as service to our nation's veterans, military personnel, and their families of this country. It is important that we do not just talk about The American Legion Family. We also must stress the family and work together in achieving goals. This is why this commander and this president have decided to write this article.

Legion and Auxiliary goals and activities do go hand-in-hand. Whether volunteering in VA hospitals, raising funds for Children's Miracle Network, or working together to achieve membership goals, the two organizations are a natural fit. The two organizations must work together. In doing so, one promotes the other. When Legionnaires are on the recruiting trail, they must not just sell The American Legion. If a potential member has a wife, daughter, mother or

sister, share with them Auxiliary activities. Sell them on the Auxiliary. Explain to them that the Auxiliary assists in Legion program while maintaining their own viable programs.

The Auxiliary helps mold tomorrow's leaders through the Girls State and Girls Nation programs, as well as providing training for junior members. Through scholarships and various educational programs, they work in our school with today's youth. The same is true for Children & Youth programs that include fund-raising for Children's Miracle Network, and the child Welfare Foundation and Auxiliary units working with local agencies to help foster care programs.

When it comes to offering a helping hand, the Auxiliary is active in organ-donation programs, blood-donor drives and working with Habit for Humanity International, which helps fill affordable housing needs for families across the world.

When it comes to serving our veterans, Auxiliary members are on the front line, providing thousands of volunteer hours each year in VA facilities. The Auxiliary provides gifts for veterans to give to their families during the holidays.

For more than 70 years, the Poppy Program has been a part of the Auxiliary. Veterans in Auxiliary sponsored poppy shops make the red handcrafted poppies. These shops provide supplemental physical and psychological therapy needed by the hospitalized and disabled veterans. Each veteran is paid a small amount for assembling the poppies. The flowers are given out in exchange for donations.

All proceeds from this distribution of the poppies are invested in local programs, benefiting veterans and their families. These are just a few of the selling points of the American Legion Auxiliary. Legionnaires who are successful in selling the nation's largest veterans organization will have little trouble selling their counterpart as well. The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary need each other. They compliment each other.

Yes, they go hand-in-hand, providing many of the same services and promoting similar programs. Since 1919, the two organizations have been working together. We need to continue to work together. The veterans and service members of this country deserve it.



Birthday Party Highlights

We had two members recognized for having 45 years of continuous membership.

There was a speech by Past Department Commander Neal Thomas on the American Legion.

The table settings were the idea of Auxiliary member Pat Andries. The other decorators were Greg Andries and Larry Johnson.

Cooks for the evening were Alton Cyriaque and Larry Johnson.

