

CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN

LEGION

FEBRUARY 1999

LEGION NEWS
LARRY JOHNSON
COMMANDER

We are preparing to begin the process of determining the officers who will lead this Post into the year 2000 and beyond.

We are looking for Legionnaires to fill all positions and would like to find younger people with new ideas and energy and capacities who could greatly enhance the Post.

In order for you to see what is required for the various elected or appointed positions, I have written some explanations, and, in addition, have asked the various officers and committee heads to tell you what they feel their position entails. So, I must warn you that this newsletter will be long but I feel the information is

needed and will give you insight to what it takes to manage a Post. After you have read and digested this information, you might want to call a member of the Nominating Committee (Neal Thomas - 392-1510, Al Cyriaque - 495-4032 or Harry McFadden - 591-7606). We could use your information and/or expertise.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A POST WORK?????

There are many things that cause a Post to be successful.

The most important ingredient in the making of a Post is the membership and its participation. Without the support of the membership, it is almost impossible to manage the operation of a Post and its activities.

The second most important ingredient to the success of a Post is its officers and committee chairpersons. The officers are

OFFICERS

COMMANDER	LARRY JOHNSON
SR VICE COMMANDER	FRANCIS REDINGTON
JR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	AL CYRIAQUE
HISTORIAN	NORM MOYER
SGT-AT-ARMS	NORM HARPOLE
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	TOM MORANT

DUES \$25.00

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

WORLD WAR I
APR 6, 1917 - NOV 11, 1918
WORLD WAR II
DEC 7, 1941 - DEC 31, 1946
KOREAN WAR
JUN 25, 1950 - JAN 31, 1956
VIETNAM WAR
DEC 22, 1961 - MAY 7, 1975
GRENADA & LEBANON
AUG 24, 1982 - JUL 31 1984
PANAMA
DEC 20, 1989 - JAN 31, 1990
PERSIAN GULF
AUG 2, 1990 UNTIL THE
END OF HOSTILITIES

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DOROTHY DASSERO
SECRETARY	ANITA MCFADDEN
TREASURER	BARBARA JOHNSON
CHAPLAIN	JUDITH MCFADDEN
SGT-AT-ARMS	
RUTH HORNIK	

DUES \$15.00

MEETINGS

3RD THURSDAY - 7:00 P.M.
DAY POST #26 PALMER PARK & PETERSON RD.

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

OFFICE

4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKY STE 104
COLORADO SPGS CO 80918-2944
719-599-8624

MAKING A POST WORK.....

the Executive body who are charged with ensuring that the Post remains solvent and is responsive to the needs of its membership. They must be available to post members to receive feedback on the concerns and wants of the general membership.

They must be able to work together, and independently, for each will have activities, in addition to the Executive Board. They should be ready to go the extra inch in order to support the Post and its members.

All of the officers of the Executive Committee have jobs which are important (some not glamorous).

The Immediate Past Commander and the other Past Post Commanders are very important to a Commander. The Immediate Past Commander knows what went well in his/her year and what was begun and needs carrying on.

membership we currently have and to help resolve problems with membership. The Senior Vice Commander assists the Commander, ensuring that all programs and activities are accomplished in a timely manner. The Senior Vice Commander, in most cases, is planning on becoming the next Commander of the Post and, as such, is also planning the activities for the upcoming year.

The Commander is the person who has the responsibility of ensuring that the wishes of the general membership are received and acted upon for the betterment of the Post. The Commander is responsible for seeing that the programs selected by the membership, such as Boys State, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Shooters Program, etc. are established and running. The Commander is the arbitrator, peacekeeper, tactician and overseer as needed. He/she must be able to answer questions from the membership, as well as prospective members, and the public when called upon. He or she should be a really good organizer and a juggler of time.

The programs of The American Legion are many and diverse and limited in this Post only because of membership participation and interests, and as a result we are involved with only a few programs.

The American Legion National High School Oratorical contest: The Chairman of this committee is busy once a year for about 5 months. This person visits high schools and talks with teachers and principals to make them aware of the programs and its requirements. He or she sets the Post contest in conjunction with dates set by National and

Department, procures judges and escorts, tabulators, etc. in order to conduct the contest. This chairman must be certified by Department to conduct the contest.

The Boys State Program: The chairman of this committee is responsible makes sure that enough applications are available for the number of boys attending. He visits schools to make them aware of the program and its objectives. The school provides names of boys and the committee selects the boys and sends notification. Students and their families are briefed on the program and the chairperson makes sure candidates arrive at the site.

The Post supports a Cub Pack in Old Colorado City. The Chairman of the Scout Committee meets with the Cub Pack on a regular basis and informs the Post of upcoming events/activities. We provide the money and maintain a scholarship program for those boys whose families are unable to pay dues and other items relating to the Cub Pack.

The Baseball Committee: The chairman of this committee receives requests from the high school for financial support. The chairman and committee review requests and provide recommendations to the Post and Executive Committee.

The Fundraising committee: Right now this committee consists of the Bingo/Games Manager. This person must be certified by the state of Colorado to be manager. The Manager is responsible for the full operation of the bingo games. This includes setting the games to be played, preparing each

session's paperwork as well as all quarterly reports, settling problems of players. In order to properly meet the needs of the Bingo/Pull Tab games, at least 14 people are needed. These consist of two callers, two for front cashier, two or three people on the floor, four or five people working the pull tab buckets, one or two games managers on site.

FROM SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
FRANCIS REDINGTON

The primary duty of the Senior Vice Commander is membership. To review post recruiting measures, pro and con. To mount a campaign which will increase the Post's ability to proceed in a positive direction. Veteran Holidays, the Legion Birthday, community activities such as parades and Service Club activities promoting their service can be used for picking up new members for the Post. Coordinate with other board officers in promoting post activities and Americanism programs. Also the Senior Vice must be able to fill in for the Commander when he is not available to fulfill his duties because of a higher duty commitment illness.

The Senior Vice Commander must be able to conduct the membership meeting, including all the ceremonial aspects. The General Membership meeting is held the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at DAV 26, located at the corner of Peterson Road and Palmer Park Blvd.

The Junior Vice Commander's job is to create an atmosphere of "I like my Post because." To create

situations where the members can come together and have fun while still doing their duty, the work of The American Legion. He should encourage participation with other veteran and civil organizations in the pageantry of the Legion.

FROM THE ADJUTANT
ANN FOSTER

Commander Johnson has asked all officers of the Post to tell what our duties are in the event you may be interested in running for office now or in the future. The Adjutant holds the same relative position in the post as the secretary of any other organized body and a little more. The Adjutant's duties are administrative. The Adjutant keeps the membership records, minutes of the meetings, assists other officers and committees as needed, keeps post records filed, etc. Knowledge of computer operation and software is desirable. There is a Post Adjutant's Manual available with full information on the handling and processing of the automated membership card system plus other matters related to the duties of a Post Adjutant. While these duties may sound like a lot, none of them are difficult. However, this position can consume some time. Thus, you need to decide if your situation will allow for that possibility. If your expertise is in administration, this may be just the ticket for you. If you would like to discuss this position with me, I would be most happy to do so.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have not paid your 1999 dues yet, this will be your last Newsletter until we do

receive your dues. Since a part of your dues goes toward the expense of putting out the newsletter, we cannot justify sending it past this time. So renew now and we will be able to continue to keep you informed of the upcoming Post events and other items of interest.

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER
AL CYRIAQUE

Charge from the Installation Ceremony

"You are the keeper of the moneys and in you is reposed the financial policy of the post. To you is given charge of the year's budget and to you is given the duty of the payment of all obligations when proper authorization has been given for such payment. Your position is an important one, demanding integrity and honesty. Your election to this office signifies that your comrades have implicit trust in you. Guard well that trust."

One evening a week, every week, I go to the post to pay all bills that are due. I also write the checks to the Department of Colorado for new members and renewals. When there are checks to be deposited in any of our accounts I take care of that also. At the general membership meetings a financial report is made to the membership.

FROM THE HISTORIAN
NORMAN MOYER

The Historian is a continually growing position in importance. This position requires close coordination with all Executive Officers, especially the Adjutant

and Commander. The cumulative work on items of post interests and activities is mostly recorded on photographs. This year I have initiated video production for the events, such as the All Patients Day visitation to Ft Lyon Medical Center, various ceremonies and parades, in Cripple Creek the dedication of POW/MIA Memorial, also special gatherings of the Post such as the picnic and outing at Sky Sox Stadium. An annual historical report and scrapbook is made for the Department Historian prior to Department Convention. Another responsibility includes attending the Department Convention to coordinate with other Post Historians.

FROM THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
NORM HARPOLE

It is the responsibility of the Sergeant-at-Arms to arrange the meeting hall and to assist the Post Commander and Adjutant in the preliminary arrangements for the meeting. Other responsibilities include being the custodian of the colors and making certain that the colors are properly posted and retired at each meeting and on ceremonial occasions. The Sergeant-at-Arms should meet all visitors and new members and see that they are welcomed in the meeting. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall also preserve order at the meetings and, in general, assist the Post Commander and the Executive Committee where needed.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN
HOWARD HORNIK

As your Chaplain, it has been my pleasure to open our meetings with a prayer and close with a prayer.

It is my obligation, as Chaplain, to keep in touch with the Commander and other American Legion Officers. I try to keep in touch with members as time permits. If I am informed of a member Legionnaire who is sick, I visit that person at home or in the hospital. When we lose a member to the Supreme Architect, the Post holds a memorial service in that veteran's honor at our regular monthly meeting.

We are not happy to see our members fade away without some recognition. Many times American Legion Post 209 is never informed of these instances. We need to know if a member is in need of our aid or sympathy. It only takes a phone call to me, or our Post Home to let us know. My phone number is 596-6345.

FROM THE SERVICE OFFICER
THOMAS MORANT

It is the job of the Post Service Officer to help Veterans in any way he can. The Service Officer's job is very important as he must be familiar with the ways to obtain aid for veterans. Call me if you need help or if you know of another veteran needing assistance. I thank those people who have helped me with this job.

AUXILIARY NEWS
DOT DASSERO
PRESIDENT

Wow, most impressive information that Commander Larry and his officers have put together in the

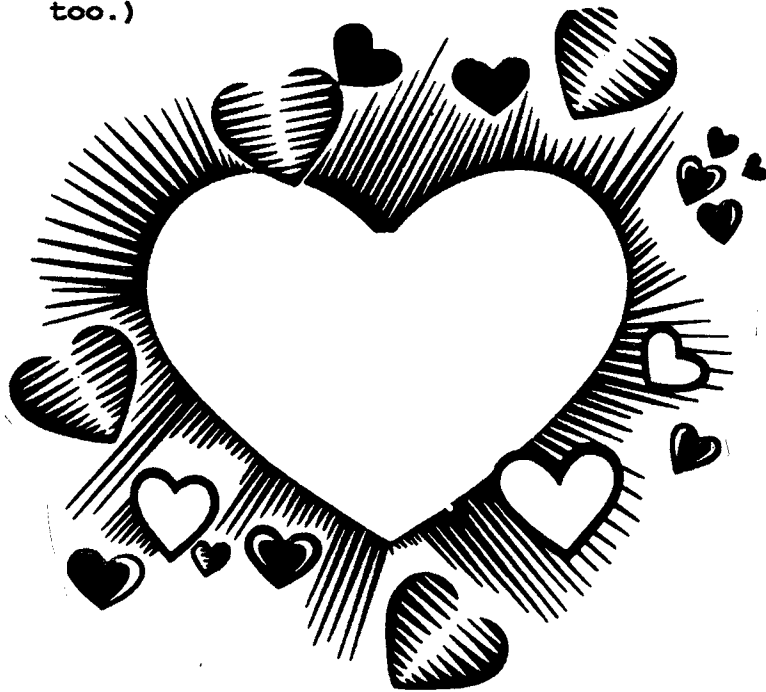
preceding pages. The duties of the Auxiliary are, of course, similar, but we require fewer officers. We would like to see more of our Auxiliary members participating in our meetings and taking positions as officers. Call Barbara or me if you would like to take an office.

Barbara tells me that we have not yet reached the membership goal set by Department. We are so close to goal; please send your dues in.

The Past President's Parley will meet Thursday, February 25, for lunch at the Country Buffet in the Mall of the Bluffs. All members are invited to join us. Time is 1:00 P.M.

Plans are underway for the Legion Birthday Dinner in March. As of today, I don't have the information but look for a flyer from Commander Larry in this Newsletter if he has been able to finalize plans.

(Got carried away there with underlining and special treatment.....(well, we deserve some too.)



The Immediate Past Commander and other Past Commanders serve as an advisory board giving advice to the Commander on various subjects and problems from time to time. Remember, they have been there, done that, and in some cases, come back for more.

The Judge Advocate is the legal eagle of the Post, thoroughly schooled in the Post's Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the Department and National, and insure that the Post is not in violation of either. The Judge Advocate also rules on points of contention.

The Historian is a very important position as he or she is the one who is responsible for recording the history/activities for the year.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is probably the second Legionnaire you see when you become a member, the first being the person who asked you to join. He or she is responsible for seeing that order is maintained at meetings and activities and is more or less the official greeter at general membership meetings.

The Chaplain plays an important role as he or she is the person who guides us spiritually and works very closely with the service officer and commander in helping members and veterans who require assistance.

The Service Officer probably has the most important office in the American Legion. He or she must be knowledgeable of the procedures for filing claims, know whom to

see for additional help when veterans, their family or others need assistance, guidance and help. This help is the reason we have a veteran's organization.

The Post Executive Committeeman is the voice of the members to the Executive Board.

The Finance Officer is the guy who is responsible for the financial records and reporting these to the Post. We have many accounts, some are better and some are dormant but it does take time. It isn't necessary to have a degree in accounting but it does help to have knowledge of accounting and computers.

Some say the most important and time-consuming position is that of Adjutant. The Adjutant really the hardest job as he or she is the official representative of the Post on day-to-day activities. Processing of membership, returning phone calls, providing administrative support to all of the officers and committees, as well as responding to requests from the news media and members of the Post never ends

The Junior Vice Commander traditionally has handled the entertainment for the Post. He or she schedules speakers or activities for the general membership meetings and is responsible for the social activities of the Post.

The Senior Vice Commander traditionally has been responsible for the Post's Membership program. The Senior Vice puts together a plan designed to increase the membership, to return the