



Centennial 209 Newsletter

P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80917-5334
719-599-8624

July 2002



From the Commander Charles Zeltvogel

General Membership Meeting - Format Changes.

The General Membership meeting format is being changed to eliminate lengthy committee reports and leave more time for program special events and socializing. This is being done to increase member participation.

General Membership meetings are usually held the third Thursday each month in the upstairs meeting room of the VFW facilities, 430 East Pikes Peak Avenue, Colorado Springs. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and generally run no more than an hour and a half hour.

Greg Andries, Jr. Vice Commander, is lining up dynamic programs for members that attend. Your time will not be wasted at our General Membership Meetings. Let Greg know of special programs you would like to have presented.

Committees & Point of Contacts.

Please note that standing committee and chairpersons with phone numbers are listed in your newsletters. There are a number of community programs and projects the post is involved with, so call the committee chairperson/s of the activity/activities that you have an interest in and offer assistance.

Raffles / Sweepstakes / Money

Raffles / Sweepstakes are methods other than Bingo to raise money. Money from Bingo helps to finance our community and veteran programs. However, we need several thousands of dollars to develop the lot we own and to build a Post Home for members to use and enjoy. My questions to you:

- 1) Should we have sweepstakes/ raffles to raise money for this special need?
- 2) Would you support these efforts by buying and selling tickets for these events?
- 3) At a dollar a ticket, would you buy 10 or 20 of the tickets and help sell more?
- 4) What types of raffles / sweepstakes are you willing to participate in?

We need to know how you and other members feel about these questions and will proceed accordingly. Please let us know.

Call the office at (719) 599-8624 or my home phone number: (719) 531-0546. Also, feel free to use e-mail to contact me. My e-mail address is: timebird@juno.com. This is important. We really do need to hear from you. Thanks!

Post 209 Officers

Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
Senior Vice Commander	Norm Moyer
Junior Vice Commander	Greg Andries
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Gideon Diamond
Historian	Bill Marshall
Sgt-at-Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson
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
Not held during the summer months.

Board of Trustees

Chairman (3 yr.)	Neal Thomas
Secretary (2 yr.)	Alton Cyriaque
Finance Officer	Gideon Diamon
Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
3 year	Larry Johnson
2 year	Francis Redington
1 year	Ann Foster

Meets on the 1st Thursday after
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, 1956

Vietnam War
February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975

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

Panama
December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990

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

Standing Committees

The following are the committees and the chairperson
with their telephone numbers.

Planning/Budget and Public Relations – Chuck Zeitvogel
719-531-0546

Membership – Norm Moyer 719-392-3725

Program/Social – Greg Andries 719-636-3346

Americanism/Youth/Scouting/Jr. ROTC and
Marksmanship – Francis Redington 719-471-3925

Boys State and Oratorical Contest – Bill Marshal
719-495-0088

Legislative and National Security – Neal Thomas 719-
392-1510

Veterans Affairs – Tom Morant

Rehabilitation – Howard Hornik 719-596-6345

(Club) Land Use, Care, Development – Greg Andries
719-636-3346

Ad Hoc Committees

Constitution and By Laws Review and Update – Neal
Thomas, 719-392-1510

Property Inventory
Office – Ann Foster 719-599-8624
Storage – Larry Johnson 719-622-0344

Donations Requests - Neal Thomas 719-392-1510

Auxiliary Liaison: (Open)

Sons of the American Legion Liaison: Larry Johnson
719-622-0344

Bingo: Greg Andries 719-636-3346



Calendar Of Events



**From The Jr. Vice Cdr.
Greg Andries**

CENTENNIAL POST ANNUAL PICNIC

- 4 Jul Independence Day - Have a safe and fun holiday
- 11 Jul Post Executive Meeting, 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkway Ste104, 6:30 P.M.

Board of Trustees Meeting to follow.
- 18 Jul Post General Membership Meeting, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave, 7:00 P.M.
- 1 Aug Post Executive Meeting, 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkway Ste104, 6:30 P.M.

Board of Trustees Meeting to be conducted after Exec. Mtg.
- 12 Aug Deadline for RSVP for the Centennial 209 Picnic at Palmer Park.
- 15 Aug Post General Membership Meeting, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave, 7:00 P.M.
- 18 Aug Centennial 209 Annual Picnic, Palmer Park, on the corner of Maizeland and Academy. from 11:00 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.
- 5 Sep Post Executive Meeting, 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkway Ste104, 6:30 P.M.

Board of Trustees Meeting to be conducted after Exec. Mtg.
- 19 Sep Post General Membership Meeting, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave, 7:00 P.M.

WHEN: Sunday, 18 August 2002
TIME: 11:a.m. to 3:45 p.m..
WHERE: Palmer Park, located at the corner of Academy and Maizeland. We will be using the Meadowlands picnic area near the kids playground..

Come out and enjoy a relaxing picnic and activities such as volleyball, horseshoes, badminton and friendly discussions with friends that you know or you make.

We have reserved the picnic area near the kids playground with space for many activities.

MENU: Centennial 209 will provide meats (pork ribs, hamburgers, hotdogs and brats), condiments, buns and sodas.

All we ask is that you bring your favorite dish and make enough to share with at least 10 others.

PLEASE CALL NORM MOYER AT 719-392-3725 OR CELL 719-332-3701 OR GREG ANDRIES 719-636-3346 and let us know how many will be in your party and how many children will be attending – by August 12th.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!!!

July 4th – Independence Day

July 4th is coming upon us very quickly. It looks like we can't celebrate it the usual way with Fireworks, canon fire, etc., but we can still have the picnic with the families and celebrate this day of our history. Have a safe and happy Independence Day.



From the Adjutant Ann Foster

We now have 304 members for 2002. That is 33 over our 100% goal and 6 over 110%. It is very gratifying to see this achievement. Now more than ever The American Legion needs numbers for a stronger voice in the halls of Congress. With Homeland Security and overseas commitments facing us, our National Commander will be testifying to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees after National Convention about these and other issues of concern to veterans. Your addition to the overall numbers means a great deal in these instances. Thanks again to all who have renewed and joined!

Before you receive this newsletter we will have attended Department Convention. We expect to have much to report on in the next newsletter. Major General Patrick Brady will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet. As you may recall, he is leading the Citizens Flag Alliance for an amendment that will lead the way to precluding the desecration of the flag. There are many who feel this is not an appropriate thing to do and you are certainly entitled to your opinion. However, the majority of the citizens in this country would like to see the amendment passed. If this is truly a representative democracy, then the voices of the majority should count! This is my own opinion and should not be construed to be the opinion of our Post as each of our members is always entitled to his/her own beliefs.

Others will be contributing their report and comments on Boy's State, but I would like to add this year's banquet was again outstanding. I don't know how they do it, but they continue to out-do the year before. Could it be the boys are getting a better education? One can certainly hope so. Next year we need more of our female veterans to attend this event. I have been the only one and these young men need to know what their grandmothers and mothers have done for their country. So, I challenge all of our female veterans to put the second Thursday of June on your 2003 calendars and turn out for this wonderful experience at the University of Southern Colorado. You will be truly amazed at what the young men learn in five days of government education.



From Finance Officer Gideon Diamon

First, I would like to apologize for not being able to attend the installation meeting of officers. My daughter had planned this trip to Washington DC before there were any plans for me to run for office.

I did not know what the seminar and conference entailed until I got there. The organization is known as TAPS, The Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors, Inc. and encourages membership for those "eligible" but does not encourage anyone to meet the requirements. It is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization made up of, and providing services to, all those who have lost a loved one while serving in the Armed Forces. The heart of TAPS is the national military survivor peer support network. They also offer grief-counseling referral, caseworker assistance and crisis information, all available to help families and military personnel cope and recover. TAPS is supported, in part, by The American Legion American Legion National Auxiliary, American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, and The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., to name a few.

I won't go into detail now, of my observations, but I may be allowed to present my viewpoint at a future membership meeting.



From the Service Officer Tom Morant

I am requesting that you, as a member of the American Legion or the Auxiliary Unit, please let me know when I can be of assistance to you or someone you know. I haven't had any calls from the ladies in the Auxiliary and I would like to do a better job by being of help to you, too. "Veterans serving veterans" sounds good to me and I would like to help by serving those in need. My phone number is 570-0843.

Mr. Fuller extends his thanks for the help and assistance our Post gave him in his time of need.

American Legion and Dairy Queen to Salute Veterans.

On Saturday, July 6, members of the American Legion, along with active-duty, National Guard and Reserve military personnel and veterans, who show membership or military identification cards, will receive a free five-ounce sundae at participating Dairy Queen stores. One purpose is to honor troops fighting the war on terrorism, and veterans who fought in past wars for America. A second purpose is to raise \$1 million for Children's Miracle Network hospitals. Legion commander Richard Santos said DQ is donating a portion of any purchase of its red, white and blue All-American Blizzard during the month of July to children's hospitals across the nation. Many DQ's will feature military and veterans booths and displays as part of the July 6th festivities. The Red, White & Blue promotion will run June 29-July 31. (Taken from the Armed Forces News and The American Legion Home Page at www.Legion.org)



**From the Boys State Chairman
Francis Redington**

Boys State is one of the more important Americanism Programs. This one helps shape the future of the young men attending in the political operation of our government. This program is especially important to any young man wishing to attend a Service Academy. It is the first item to be listed on their check sheet for entry into the Academies or colleges. The Post, with the help of two individual donors and the Sertoma Club of Monument, CO., supplied \$1,272.00, which enabled our Post to send thirteen young men to the 2002 Boys State Program at the University of Southern Colorado. This program ran from June 9-14th. Its goal was to familiarize the young men about the political processes involved in running for an office. No matter what level of government, the process will be basically the same.

There were 153 delegates attending Boys State this year. There were four major offices (six positions) to which all the candidates aspire. They are Governor, Lieutenant Governor, 1st and 2nd Senator and 1st and 2nd alternate Senator. One of our delegates, John Deniston, was elected to the 1st Senator position. He attends Colorado Springs Christian High School and

has been elected as Student President for the 2002-2003-class year. He will be attending Boys Nation during the second week of July. During that time, he will meet President Bush and visit both Houses of Congress. He will be asked to relate his views about his trip to Boys Nation at a General Membership meeting later this year. Please make every effort to attend and show your interest in these young men who are the future of this great country. All of the young men sent to Boys State appreciate the opportunity offered and work hard to show that appreciation.



From Post Exec Committeeman

Neal Thomas

VA WOULD HANDLE VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

The White House has asked Congress to authorize a new, comprehensive employment program for veterans that would consolidate federal job-search efforts for former service members within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Employment is the only major program in the continuum of service for which VA does not have responsibility," said VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi. "Just as education, home loans, insurance, and health care for veterans are entrusted to VA, so should employment."

If approved by Congress, the new program, called the Veterans Employment, Business Opportunity and Training (VEBOT) program, would begin in 2003.

Highlights: a system for state governors or public or private organizations to receive grants to provide employment programs for veterans; transfer to the VA of the current functions of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training; and a shift of the transition assistance program and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project from the Labor Department to the VA. (Taken from Armed Forces News)



From The Sr. Vice Cdr. Norm Moyer

With my recent election as Post Senior Vice Commander and appointment as Chairman of the Membership Committee, I looking forward to this enormous challenge to continue to maintain and increase our membership. Special thanks goes out to Larry Johnson for his outstanding accomplishments as Chairman of the Membership Committee over the last few years. Because of his tireless efforts and the efforts of the members of the Post, we have maintained a steady growth.

I have spent several hours coordinating with our Post Adjutant, Ann Foster, reviewing the policies and procedures concerning the membership.

Shortly after July 1, 2002, you should be receiving your annual membership renewal notification. Any questions don't hesitate to call the post (719) 599-8624 for the Adjutant or myself; otherwise you may call me at my home (719) 392-3725.

UMET

Many of todays veterans leave the military with skills and experience qualifying them sometimes with little or no additional training, for comparable civilian occupations requiring a license or certificate of competency. UMET provides: Service members and veterans with important information on how to obtain licenses and certificates and employers with information about how to access former military personnel with specialized skills. Site located on the Internet at www.umat-vets.dol.gov Article from the Am. Leg. Observer

SICK CALL

It is with deep regret that I report the passing of one of the members of The American Legion. Richard Heim has gone to Post everlasting. Our thoughts are with his family.

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.

NEW HANDBOOK UPDATES VETERANS BENEFITS

A new edition of the Department of Veterans Affairs' popular handbook, Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, updates the rates for certain federal payments and outlines a variety of programs and benefits for American veterans.

Most of the nation's 25 million veterans qualify for some VA benefits, which range from health-care program enrollment to burial in a national cemetery. In addition to describing benefits provided by VA, the 2002 edition of the 100-page booklet provides an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies.

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents includes resources to help veterans access their benefits, comprising a listing of various toll-free phone numbers, World Wide Web locations and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. The handbook can be downloaded free from VA's Web site at <http://www.va.gov/opa/feature/>. The handbook is one of the U.S. Government Printing Office's (GPO) top selling consumer publications. GPO accepts credit card orders for the publication at 866-512-1800 (toll free) for a cost of \$5 each to U.S. addresses, \$6.25 for international customers. It can be ordered by mail from the Government Printing Office at Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954 (stock #051-000-00225-3)

In addition to health-care and burial benefits, veterans may be eligible for programs providing home loan guarantees, educational assistance, training and vocational rehabilitation, income assistance pensions, life insurance and compensation for service-connected illnesses or disabilities. In some cases, survivors of veterans who received benefits may also be entitled to continuing benefits. The handbook describes programs for veterans with specific service experiences, such as prisoners of war or those concerned about environmental exposures in Vietnam or in the Gulf War, as well as special benefits for veterans with severe disabilities.

Article from the American Legion Observer