

# CENTENNIAL POST 209

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

MARCH 2000

### LEGION NEWS FRANCIS REDINGTON COMMANDER

On March 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> the NEW ORATORICAL CONTEST will be held at CU Boulder. We, unfortunately, will not have a contestant to compete. Due to the lack of having a volunteer to take the Oratorical chairman position, no students were contacted or instructed about the program. If someone would like to chair that position next year, please let us know so you can be given all the information as soon as possible. Then when school opens in the fall, you can begin canvassing the high schools in our area.

This is the start of the 2000 BOYS STATE delegate search. We currently cover nine high schools. Of course, this year the cost of sending a delegate is \$185.00. This will curtail the number of delegates we can send. With outside support of business contributions we would be able to sponsor more young men to BOYS STATE. This is one of the most important Americanism Programs we

participate in with boys and girls from our area.

Veterans are our main concern when it comes down to taking care of our own. If you know of anyone who may need help or you need it yourself, please contact the Post Officers for that assistance.

A return to the elections coming up very soon, Be sure to get out and VOTE. IT IS IMPORTANT. Single out the candidates who will support veterans' programs and possibly return some of the benefits other Congresspersons have taken away. Presidential candidates will be putting forth their programs for the next four years. Between the President and the National Congress, WE get just what WE deserve when WE fail to speak up for ourselves ... the erosion of our benefits just because WE thought ONE vote didn't really count. So Veterans, get out and vote. Let's get people in office who will take care of US as they should.

Do not forget the Post elections in April; it's just around the corner. More information about the Post Home will be coming next month.

## VOTE

**OFFICERS**

COMMANDER	FRANCIS REDINGTON
SR VICE COMMANDER	
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-ARM	RUTH HORNIK

**DUES \$15.00**

**AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
DOROTHY DASSERO**

Weather and anticipated lack of attendance cancelled our February meeting.

All of our contributions for the year have been made. We plan on sponsoring two girls to Girls State again this year. We thank the committee of Post 5 Auxiliary for helping us with the interviewing and selection of the young women we sponsor.

**MEETINGS**

3RD THURSDAY - 7:00 P.M.  
VFW POST #4051, 430 E PIKES PEAK AVE.  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Elections for new officers for the Auxiliary will be held soon. We would love to see some new faces at our meetings. With plans proceeding for a new Post Home, this year could be very exciting. Come and be a part of it.

**EDITOR**

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

**OFFICE**

4291 AUSTIN BLIFFS PKY STE 104  
COLORADO SPGS CO 80918-2944  
719-599-8634

The Eight & Forty plans to meet in March at the County Line Barbecue at 3350 North Chestnut. The food is good so, Partners, plan to attend. The installation of officers will be held there as well.

**SERVICE OFFICER  
THOMAS MORANT**

I've been over to the Colorado Springs VA Medical Center. There's a lot to know about this Clinic. You Veterans should go see for yourselves what services you can get there. Take a veteran friend with you. There is an Orientation Class Wednesday, February 9 and Wednesday, February 23. It will be in the Conference Room at 10:00 and 1:00. If you need to know more, call Neal Thomas at 719-392-1510 or Ann Foster at 719-228-4170 or me at 719-570-1716 or /fax at 719-572-9891.

**ADJUTANT ANNOTATIONS  
Ann Foster**

We now have 263 members for the year 2000, one more than we needed for 85%. We need 14 more for 90%, 30 for 95% and 45 for 100%, the closest we have been to 100% at this time of the year in quite awhile. If just a few of you would sign up at least one new member, we will make it. Please, help and/or let us know if there is someone you think we should talk to about becoming a member.

Commander Redington has reminded us of upcoming Post Officer Elections. To help you know about what the various officers do, a copy of job descriptions are included in this newsletter. Look these over and consider the possibility of helping out. You

can let any current officer know of your interest and they will be glad to answer any questions you might have. If we all work together, none of these positions are difficult.

I would like to share with you some random notes from the Department Mid-Year Conference, held here in Colorado Springs. Our special guest was L. Harry Easley, National Junior Vice Commander for the Western Region. He delivered an excellent Key Note speech at the Media Awards banquet on Saturday night. Our second guest, who delivered an inspiring address to us on Saturday morning, was our own Past Department President Alma "Smitty" Smith, now the National Auxiliary Northwest Division Vice President. The last was Rick Cook, the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion (SAL).

We are growing in Colorado. There is a new Post in Evergreen, and Leadville and Newcastle Posts have been revitalized.

The staff is now in the new Department Headquarters, located at 7465 E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Suite D, Denver, located on the old Lowry AFB. Tom Bock gave us an outstanding briefing on the new building, the move, etc. A big hand goes to the SAL for doing a lot of the physical labor involved with the move. A resolution was passed to name the new large Conference Room after the Department Adjutant, Charles "Pat" Smith in thanks for the 23 different aspects of the purchase and move.

The American Legion Riders here in Colorado were in attendance and gave a report on their activities.

The Department Executive Committee moved that this group become a standing committee for the purpose of unity and efficiency.

One of our informational guest speakers was the Colorado Secretary of State, Donetta Davidson. She gave us an excellent overview of the current situation regarding Bingo and Raffles for non-profits. There is now an Advisory Board working with the Secretary to make the laws, rules, regulations, etc. fair and better for all parties concerned. Del Lennie from Post 161 is the Department Representative to the Board.

We also received briefings on the current status of the Grand Junction VA Medical Center and the State Veterans Nursing Home at Walsenburg from the respective directors. Both of these institutions are working hard to provide services.

The following individuals announced as candidates for the Department offices listed: Commander - Jeff Luginbuel; Senior Vice Commander - Danny DuMiller; Junior Vice Commanders - Don Loomiller, Doug Winter, Rick Padilla and Namon Owens; Chaplain-Tony McCrary and Father Neville; and Historian - Bill Miekel.

New Officer Orientation will be in July. Details will be provided later.

Department Convention will be June 23 - 25 at Longmont. This is not a long trip so I hope some will consider going to learn more about The American Legion and to share of yourselves with your fellow veterans.

Every year the various Posts, Districts and Department, and the Nation Organization, perform the ritual and custom of installing the newly elected officers to lead us into the next year. Following are the charges given to the newly installed officers. This will give you some idea of the duties of each office. Read these obligations and if you feel you have the time and skill to perform these duties, please do not hesitate as we are in need of your talents and leadership.

**SERGEANT OF ARMS:** "You are the sentinel or tiler, the outer guard of this Post. You will guard especially against the loss of The American Legion's greatest possession - our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship. You will learn the identity of, and introduce to the Commander, all visiting comrades and guests of the Post. You are responsible that no one shall remain a stranger in our midst. Be ready at all times to assist your Commander. Into your hands is given the charge of the stand of colors which you will properly display at all Post meetings and ceremonial occasions."

**SERVICE OFFICER:** "You have been singly honored by this Post by your election to perform fundamental unselfish work, not only for the benefit of the members of this Post, but for those war veterans particularly in need of your service. Yours is the choice responsibility of looking out for the welfare of all concerned. The duties of a Service Officer are highly important and exacting, and while your accomplishments will be deeply appreciated by those

immediately concerned, the work itself will not be sufficiently conspicuous to catch the headlines in the newspapers. Depending upon satisfactory performance of duty, there will come to you the heartfelt gratitude of each and every member of this Post. I congratulate you upon the opportunity to serve so constructively and so unselfishly."

HISTORIAN: "Your office is an important one. To you is given the responsibility of preserving and compiling the records of this Post. The future can only be judged by the past. Be mindful the lamp of recorded experience may do much in guiding the footsteps of those who follow. Ever remember that without the recorded history of this Post, its policies and accomplishments will be blank to the ones who come after we are gone."

JUDGE ADVOCATE: "To you, my Comrade, is assigned a most important duty for which your legal training and/or past Legion experience so aptly prepare you. You are the interpreter of the Constitution and By Laws of your Post, and may at any time be called upon by the Commander and other officers and members of the Post to rule upon the legality of their actions and decisions insofar as they affect the good of The American Legion. You are also charged with protecting the integrity of our organization and keeping alight the torch of truth and fidelity that symbolizes the high and ennobling ideals under which our great American Legion was founded. Protect wisely that heritage."

CHAPLAIN: "To you is given the spiritual leadership of this Post. You will, I know lend dignity and respect to your office. You should be in close confidence with the Commander and the other officers of this Post, and should attend all meetings of the Post. You should be ready on occasion to take your part in the initiation of new members, the dedication of halls, monuments or colors, and the funeral services for a comrade. All such ceremonies are made more commemorative by the use of our ritual. Into your keeping we place the spirit of comradeship of this Post. May harmony and unity prevail."

FINANCE OFFICER: "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 your comrades have implicit trust in you. Guard well that trust."

ADJUTANT: "My comrade, you have been chosen to assist in the wise and effective administration of the Commander's office and to serve not only your fellow Legionnaires but also those whose relationship to your organization has led them to look to us for guidance and relief. You will find your duties many, varied, and at times, taxing of your crowded hours and resources. The successful accomplishment of our programs depends, to a great extent, upon you and your

performance of the duties of your office.'

SECOND/JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER;  
"Into your helpful hands are placed the important responsibilities of assisting the Commander's office in all duties. Particularly should you be interested in patriotic observances of all kinds, in developing Post activities, and in the entertainment features which mark all meetings. Help to observe strict tolerance among your members on all political religious and civic matters. The application of Justice will be your particular concern."

FIRST/SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: "To you is given the responsibility of an active cooperation between yourself and the Commander. Particularly should you interest yourself in the membership of the Post. You should be assisted by the most active and devoted members. No single factor has so important an influence on the Post's success as membership. You will be the exponent of means of safeguarding the honor of the flag of our Country. To you are committed these endeavors with the expectation you shall fulfill each and everyone of them. You are the teacher of Democracy."

PAST COMMANDER: You have just completed a year of impressive service to The American Legion and to Post Number \_\_\_\_\_. The record of your Post indicates a quality of service. Through your earnest performance of the duties of leadership, you have truly justified the great trust which your comrades reposed in you. Although the mantle of leadership is now being passed to another, a

great responsibility remains with you. You possess a great wealth of knowledge gained through your leadership experience. Place this wisdom at the disposal of your successors in order that your comrades may benefit therefrom. Through your station maintain the principles of 'freedom' within this Post."

COMMANDER: To you, Comrade, is entrusted a very important duty of teaching and protecting the cardinal principle of The American Legion throughout your entire Post. To you is entrusted supervision of the duties of all other officers of this Post. To you may come the needy and the distressed, and it is your duty to see no worthy comrade is turned away without full justice. It is your duty to see that Freedom is ever the watchword of those whom you may come in contact. Loyalty to your Post, to its membership, to the State and the National Organization, are obligations you now assume. You are more than the presiding officer for meetings. You are guided by the Constitution and by the decisions of the Post as a body, yet the responsibility for the success of the year's programs is largely on your shoulders. You must initiate and carry through programs to completion. You must thoroughly familiarize yourself with the policies and traditions of your Post and the American Legion. By your sincere acceptance and earnest congratulations of the Department, and I wish you well as you assume the responsibilities of your office. I present to you a copy of the Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies to serve as your guide during the coming year."

# **Happy Birthday American Legion**

**Come Join us in celebrating the American Legion's Birthday on March 11,2000. The Party will be At VFW Post # 4051 Upper level.**

**Time: Cocktails 6:30 PM Dinner at 7 PM**

**Place: VFW Post # 4051 Building upper level**

**Menu: Caraway Seasoned Sliced Pork Roast with Natural Gravy  
Home Style Mashed Potatoes  
Honey Buttered Carrots  
Raspberry Jell-O Surprise  
Birthday cake for dessert  
Coffee and Lemonade**

**Be sure and attend this one.**

**If you plan to attend, we need to order the food. Please call your reservation to Harry Johnson at 596-9261 or Francis Reddington at 471-3925 by March 8<sup>th</sup>. If you don't call your reservation in then please don't plan to eat.**