



CENTENNIAL 209 NEWSLETTER

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

March 2003



From the Commander
Charles Zeitvogel

Post General Membership Meetings:

Your input is needed at the Post General Membership meetings for a variety of reasons. Membership participation is what makes the Post a success providing activities that members want. Bingo is no longer a source of income for us and funding for current and future Post activities is something for members to discuss.

Officer Elections.

Post officer elections are scheduled for May. Submit nominations for officers to the nomination committee as addressed in the February newsletter.

Home Land Security & War.

Home Land Security & the possibility of War are on my mind as I write for this newsletter. There is much we can do to secure our personal security. This includes what we would normally do to prepare for such things as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, and snowstorms. Preparations may include maintaining an adequate supply of food and water, keeping your medications up to date, review first aid procedures, and have your vehicle in good repair. Stay calm and alert.

The Peace Movement /To Demonstrate / To Protest.

Some 1,000 to 3,000 individuals demonstrated in Colorado Springs, Saturday, February 15th in support of peace and no war with Iraq. For most it was a peaceful demonstration. However, some got out of hand and caused a public disturbance by blocking a small portion Academy Blvd. near Palmer Park, then later in the day by Peterson Air Force Base front gate. Did they have a right to do that? The answer, Yes & No!

The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Consider this: 1) while peacefully assembled they were within their Constitutional rights, 2) when they (those who did it) caused a public disturbance by blocking Academy Blvd., and later trespassing on Peterson AFB, they violated the law, in my opinion.

It would be interesting to know if the demonstrators voted in this past election. Did they take part in their precinct caucus process? Did they ever contact their elected representatives by letter, phone or attend a town-hall meeting? I wonder at how easily some people are willing to demonstrate and protest when in fact they do not take part in the political process by becoming educated voters, voting, or staying in contact with their elected representatives. It would have been more productive for the demonstrators to have been proactive in the political process by attending their precinct caucus meetings, asking questions of individuals running for public office be it local, state or federal. Then voting for who they believed to be the best person to represent them. In my opinion these are productive actions for citizens to follow. What do you believe? Vote in the April election.

**Post 209
2002-2003 OFFICERS**

Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
Sr. Vice Cdr.	Norman Moyer
Jr. Vice Cdr.	Greg Andries
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Gideon Diamon
Historian	Bill Marshall
Sergeant at Arms	Robert Rydeil
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson
Service Officer	Tom Morant
Post Exec Committeeman	Neal Thomas
DUES	\$ 30.00

**Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers
2002-2003**

President	Dot Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Marcia Shellhammer
Sergeant at Arms	Ruth Hornik
DUES	\$ 15.00

MEETINGS

Board of Trustees – 1 st Thursday 6:30 P.M. at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste. 104 Executive Committee Meeting to follow
Post Membership Meeting – 3 rd Thursday at 7:00 P.M. VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave

Board of Trustees

Chairman (3 yr)	Neal Thomas
Secretary (2 yr)	Alton Cyriaque
Finance Officer (1 yr)	Gideon Diamon
Commander (1 yr)	Charles Zeitvogel
Member (3 yr)	Larry Johnson
Member (2 yr)	Francis Redington
Member (1 yr)	Ann Foster
Meets on the 1 st Thursday before the Post Executive Committee Meeting at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste. 104	



It is time
For you to
Get
Involved

NOW

Membership Eligibility Dates

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 February 28, 1961 – May 7 1975
Grenada & Lebanon August 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984
Panama December 20, 1989 – January 31, 1990
Persian Gulf August 2, 1990 – Until the end of hostilities as set by Congress

Committees

Planning/Budget and Public Relations	Chuck Zeitvogel 719-531-0546
Membership	Norman Moyer 719-392-3725
Program and Social Activities	Greg Andries 719-636-3346
Americanism/Youth/Sc outing/Jr. ROTC & Marksmanship	Francis Redington 719-471-3925
Boys State & Oratorical Contest	Bill Marshall 719-495-0088
Legislative & 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
ADHOC	COMMITTEES
Constitution and By-Law	Neal Thomas 719-392-1510
Property Inventory Office Storage	Ann Foster 719-599-8624 Larry Johnson 719-622-0344
Donation Request	Neal Thomas 719-392-1510
Auxiliary Liaison	
Sons of The American Legion	Larry Johnson 719-622-0344



From the Nominations
Committee
Bill Marshall

We are in the process of nominating Post officers for 2003-2004. As chairman of the Nominating Committee, I request any nominations you feel would best represent Post 209. The following are the positions to be filled:

Commander: Entrusted with the supervision of the duties of all other officers of the Post, and with planning post operations for the coming year.

Senior Vice Commander: Membership is the primary concern; also presides in the absence of the Commander.

Junior Vice Commander: Primarily responsible for patriotic observances of all kinds, for developing Post activities, and for the entertainment features, which mark all meetings.

Adjutant: Holds the same relative position in the post as the secretary of any other organized body--and a little more--the office serves as the "First Sergeant." Duties are administrative.

Finance Officer: Must be a person of proven integrity and experience in handling financial affairs. The Finance Officer is in charge of all receiving and disbursing of Post funds.

Chaplain: Need not necessarily be a clergyman, but must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership and one who gives dignity and respect to the office.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Should know how to arrange the meeting hall and assist the Post Commander and Adjutant in the preliminary arrangements for the meeting, including custodian of the colors. He/she is the flag etiquette person.

Historian: The Historian works in matters of historical interest and maintains Post archives. There should be close and effective cooperation between the Adjutant and the Historian.

Post Executive Committeeman: This person is elected for the purpose of serving as a representative of the members in all meetings.

There are two other positions but they are not elected but appointed by the Commander.

The Service Officer: The Legionnaire appointed to this position has the primary responsibility to be available to help veterans and their families file claims and gather information in support of claims for VA support.

The Judge Advocate: The Legionnaire appointed to this position acts as the legal representative for the Post but does not need to be a lawyer. This person has a thorough knowledge through experience in regards to the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion and the Post. He advises the Commander and the Post on matters that fall under his/her purview.

If you would be interested in filling any of these positions or know someone who would like to fill one of the positions please forward your nominations to American Legion Post 209, P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5334, Attn: Bill Marshall.



From the Jr. Vice
Commander
Greg Andries

**American Legion Birthday
Celebration:**

The Annual Birthday party for The American Legion and Centennial Post 209 will be held on Saturday, 15 March 2003. We will once again hold this function at American Legion Post 5, 15 E. Platte Ave, Colorado Springs. The activities will begin at 6:00 P.M. with a get together and meet everyone. The call to order will be at 6:45 P.M. and dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M.

The members of Centennial 209 offers the invitation to come on down and join in with this celebration of The American Legion Birthday.

The menu will consist of: ham, baked potato, sweet potato with marshmallows & brown sugar, mixed vegetables, salad, and ice cream for dessert.

There is no charge for the meal for members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxilliary, or Sons of The American Legion members. For non-members there will be a slight charge of \$ 5.00.

We would like you to make your reservation by calling Greg Andries at 719-636-3346 by 13 March 2002. This is to insure that Larry Johnson (the cook) will not run out of food because he didn't know how many are coming.

Following the dinner there will be an initiation of new members. If you haven't attended one before, you really can't miss this. I can assure you that it is a fine ceremony that provides information on The American Legion.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



From The District 7
Adjutant
Larry Johnson

District 7 Training Seminar: District Seven is offering a training seminar on The American Legion and The American Legion Auxilliary.

This training will take place on 28 and 29 March at The Cripple Creek Elks Club and American Legion Post.

The training kicks off Friday evening with Parliamentary procedureds from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Then everyone is free to select his or her entertainment for the evening.

Saturday training will kick off with a fun session of opening a meeting at 8:00 A.M. followed by Resolutions training provided by Past Department Commander Ed Wearing, Bingo reporting by Del Lennie (not confirmed), Public Relations by Past Commander and current National Vice Commander Jeff Luginbuel, Temporary Financial Assistant preparation by Past Department Commander Neal Thomas. We will break into separate sessions for training in various officers' positions like Commander, Adjutant, etc.

At 5:30 or 6:00 P.M. there will be a banquet to recognize all of the Past Presidents and Commanders of the District. The Commander of the Year and Legionnaire of the Year will also be awarded.

All of the activities should be over with by 7:30 or so.

The Victor Hotel is handling the hotel accommodations. There will shuttle service from the Victor Hotel to the Elks and back. The room rates for the activities are under \$ 50.00 for the evening.

There is a small charge for the banquet and training materials of \$ 12.00 per person.

Come out and enjoy an opportunity to find out about the Programs of The American Legion Family and what we do. Make new friends and get involved.

Dates that you should know for Activities & Participation

6 Mar	Board of Trustees Meeting – 4291 Austin Bluffs Parkway Ste. 104, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee follows
8 Mar	Department Oratorical Contest – USC Boulder, an all day event. Come and see what is happening with our Future Leaders American Legion Post 38 is hosting an Open House – 6685 Southmoor Dr, Security
15 Mar	American Legion Birthday Party American Legion Post 5, 15 E. Platte Ave. 6:30 PM
20 Mar	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M.
28 & 29 Mar	District 7 Training Session – Cripple Creek
3 Apr	Board of Trustees Meeting – 4291 Austin Bluffs Parkway Ste. 104, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee follows
17 Apr	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M. Election of Officers
1 May	Board of Trustees Meeting – 4291 Austin Bluffs Parkway Ste. 104, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee follows
15 May	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M.
5 Jun	Board of Trustees Meeting – 4291 Austin Bluffs Parkway Ste. 104, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee follows
14 Jun	Flag Day – Flag Retirement Services – More information to follow
19 Jun	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M.
26-29 Jun	Department Convention – Sheraton Hotel, Circle and I - 25

Temporary Financial Assistance and Military Deployments – Larry Johnson:

We all know that the Reserves and The National Guard are being called to active duty by the hundreds. They may even be your sons, daughters, grandchildren, neighbors, and/or co-workers who have gotten the call.

What you probably are not aware of the hardship that some of the families of these people we know are experiencing. You do not know the sacrifices that are being made. For active duty military there are many programs that have been put into place to lighten the shock that one or both of the parents have been called. But, the Reserve and National Guard families don't have those same mechanisms in place to help them.

The American Legion has in place a program to help all of the military personnel that have been called to active duty. It is a program that has been instituted whereby a family member can call The American Legion to get help. This program was put into place during the Gulf War and our Post participated in this program. Most of the calls were for help in moving from quarters so that the family could put their belongings in storage and go home to parents. There are some of us who remember carrying a freezer from the basement in the old quarters on Fort Carson. The other program that we have to help families is Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA). This program is designed to keep a roof over the head of children and other types of assistance.

All the family member has to do is call The American Legion. There is a 1-800 number for the national organization. But to save time, call a local American Legion Post and see what they can do to help.

The help these families are going to need range from baby-sitting, to getting a ride to go grocery shopping, or even a shoulder that they can cry on and understand that someone else have gone through exactly the same thing they are going through now and that they will survive. If you know of a military family that needs help call the Post and see what can be done to help or help them yourself.