




Centennial 209 Newsletter

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

October 2002



**From the Commander
Chuck Zeitvogel**

Proposal for Benefactor/s and Recognition

Reminders:

1. The American Legion is the oldest of all veteran organizations. It constantly works for the betterment of veteran concerns, and also works to support many family and community youth programs. It takes many dedicated volunteers to carry out these commitments and meet these goals. Please help where and when you can. See the list of committees & chairmen in this newsletter and contact those that interest you. Call and leave a message on the office voice recorder.
2. Take action to register and vote in the November General elections.
3. Let your Representatives and Senators know your concerns. Telephone calls and brief letters to them are effective.
4. The Veterans Day Parade will take place 9 November here in Colorado Springs. Contact our Program Chairman to be a part of this event. See his article on this in this newsletter.
5. Many social events for members are being scheduled. Check for details in this newsletter.
6. The project to develop and build on our 7.4-acre lot continues. Please be a part of this effort. We need your comments and support.
7. The following is one way we could recognize benefactors who contribute to the lot and building fund. Please let me know what you think of it. Also, let me know your ideas and thoughts on how we might otherwise proceed and see this project through.

This proposal is to recognize benefactors by their different levels of giving. Names of benefactors could be listed within categories of dollar amounts given on a suitable plaque or recognition board that would be hung in a conspicuous place in the new Post Home/General-purpose building. Following is an example for suggested benefactor recognition categories. What do you think about it? Let me hear from you on this.

Benefactor	Categories
Philanthropist	\$ 10,000 or more
Patron	\$5,000 to \$9,999
Sponsor	\$1,000 to \$4,999
Friend	\$ 500 to \$ 999
Giver	\$ 100 to \$ 499
Helper	\$ 1 to \$ 99

Freedom – Justice & Vote

Think about the definitions of "freedom" and "justice." What do they mean to you? It seems to me that they go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other. As citizens we need to be alert to the freedoms and responsibilities provided for in our Constitution of the United States of America. They are not to be taken for granted. One way not to take them for granted is to take action to become educated on ballot issues, support candidates for public office we believe who will best represent us and work for the preservation of our Constitutional freedoms. Vote to insure freedom and justice during the General Election this November.

Post 209 Officers

Commander	Charles "Chuck" Zeitvogel
Senior Vice Commander	Norm Moyer
Junior Vice commander	Greg Andries
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Gideon Diamon
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 -- 7:00 P.M. -- 4291 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Ste 204

Post General Membership Meeting -- 3rd Thursday -- 7:00 P.M. at VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave.

Auxiliary General Membership Meeting -- 1:30 P.M. -- 4291 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Ste 204

Board of Trustees

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

Eligibility Dates

World War I
April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918

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

Korean War
June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955

Vietnam War
February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975

Lebanon/Grenada
August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984

Panama
December 1989 to January 31, 1990

Persian Gulf
August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities
as determined by U.S. Government

Standing Committees

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

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

Membership -- Norm Moyer 719-392-3725

Program/Social -- Greg Andries 636-3346

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

Oratorical and Boys State -- Bill Marshall 495-0088

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

Veterans Affairs -- Tom Morant

Rehabilitation -- Howard Hornik 719-596-6343

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

Adhoc Committees

Constitution and By-Laws -- Neal Thomas 719-392-1510

Property Inventory -- Office Ann Foster 719-599-8624,

Storage -- Larry Johnson 719-622-0344

Auxiliary Liaison (Open)

Sons of The American Legion Liaison -- Larry Johnson
719-622-0344

Bingo -- Greg Andries 719-636-3346



From the Commander
Chuck Zeitvogel (cont)

Veteran Benefits

Benefits are available for veterans with service and non-service connected disabilities. It is in the veterans' personal interest as well as that of his/her spouse to review and update any disability claimed or not claimed previously with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). The El Paso County Office of Veteran & Military Affairs at 105 North Spruce Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80905, Phone Number (719) 444-5625 serves as a liaison between the claimant and the VA.

Veterans regardless of disabilities claimed or not previously claimed with the VA should contact the El Paso County Office of Veteran & Military Affairs for a review and update their veteran benefits. They are there to assist veterans. Call them - they will provide you with current information.

**BINGO
NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Fund Raising Activities

We all know that you didn't join The American Legion to work the game of Bingo. But the plain fact is, Bingo is what is keeping this Post alive financially.

If this Post is going to continue supporting The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest where students have a chance of competing for prize of \$18,000 towards continuing their education or the American Legion Boys State where students can learn how government should be run or the American Legion's shooters program where students learn the proper way of handling weapons and marksmanship or the other

programs of The American Legion and involvement with the community, we NEED your help RIGHT NOW.

We have 292 Legionnaires who renewed their membership last year. Now we have about 75 of those Legionnaires who live outside El Paso County. That leaves about 227 Legionnaires that should be available to help this Post.

Right now we have 12 people working Bingo. 8 of these workers are Legionnaires and 4 Auxiliary members. Of the Legionnaires 2 of the workers are on oxygen, 5 Legionnaires have disabilities that depending on the day is hurting or barely has the energy to work. That leaves 1 Legionnaire who is pretty much healthy but is also going to school. Of the 4 Auxiliary members, 1 is on oxygen, 1 just had surgery on her shoulder and still tries to work bingo. That leaves 2 healthy.

All of these Legionnaires work Bingo every week. We are all getting burned out and in danger of just giving up.

2 of these workers have already indicated that they are going to quit working Bingo soon. 1 possibly 2 Legionnaires are presently going to school or will be going to school.

We cannot afford to lose 4 workers and still keep the games going. Earlier I said that we had 227 Legionnaires who could work Bingo. IF all of us would volunteer to work Bingo we would be working about every 18 weeks for about 5 hours a night depending where they were working. Some could put in 1 to 1.5 hours and could leave others could work 2 hours and could leave. The biggest problem we have is in the area of Bingo Callers. Currently we have 1 who can call all night and 2 others have been trained but 1 cannot call all night because of kids and having to be at work at 4:00 in the morning. This is probably the easiest job as you can sit and talk for the whole evening and talk.

At this point all I can say is that without some help from you (the members of Centennial 209) we will not be able to survive if we have to give up Bingo again.

Pick up the phone and call Greg Andries at 719-636-3346 and let him know you would like to help.



From Jr. Vice Commander
Greg Andries

Cleanup/Paint Day

On Saturday, October 26th, we will hold a Cleanup/Paint day of Post 209 property. During cleanup there will be a picnic at which we will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs and soda. Covered dishes are welcome.

Pack 24 Cub Scouts will be helping again this year. They will also help with the painting of our post trailer making it ready for the Veterans' Day parade. The colors will be red, white and blue. Times for the fun events will be from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Greg Andries at 636-3346 by October 22. Please come join us and have fun with fellow members and young Cub Scouts!

Veterans Day Parade

On Saturday, November 9th, starting at 9:30 a.m., The City of Colorado Springs will hold the Veterans' Day Parade downtown. Post 209 will have the Post 209 station wagon and a pickup with a trailer available for anyone who would like to participate by riding in the parade if they are unable to walk the whole route. We encourage veterans and their families, including wives, children, parents, grandparents and grandchildren to join us. Cub Scout Pack 24 that we sponsor will join us.

Early Bird Dinner

On November 16th at American Legion Post 5, The American Legion Centennial Post 209 will have their annual Early Bird dinner for those who have renewed or joined our membership by paying their dues by October 31st, 2002. This includes all Paid up for Life members. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., opening session at 6:45 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.

There will be an initiation of members following dinner. These members include those who have transferred to our Post 209, joined our Post, and any Legionnaires who have not been initiated previously. The meal will be Cornish hens, rice pilaf, veggies, salad, dessert, coffee, and iced tea. There is no charge for paid up members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion.

For non-members -- those who have not renewed and are not Auxiliary or SAL members and guests there is a slight charge of \$7.00. Please call for initiation information, requirements and dinner reservations. RSVP by November 13th to Greg Andries, 636-3346.





From Sr. Vice Commander
Norm Moyer

- 3 Oct Board of Trustees Mtg. 6:30 P.M.
Post Executive meeting follows
- 17 Oct Post General Membership Meeting, VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave, 7:00 P.M.
- 26 Oct Post/Property Cleanup, 9:30 to 3:30
- 31 Oct Halloween – Please drive safely keeping an eye out for kids and parents following. Last chance to be an Early Bird

District 7 Fall Conference, American Legion Post 5, 15 E. Platte Ave 7:00 P.M.
Date to be announced
- 7 Nov Board of Trustees Meeting, 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste. 104, 6:30 P.M.

Post Executive Meeting to follow
- 13 Nov RVSP for Early Bird Dinner to Greg Andries at 719-633-3466
- 16 Nov Early Bird Dinner, American Legion Post 5, 15 E. Platte Ave, 6:00 P.M.
- 21 Nov Post General Membership Meeting , VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave, 7:00 P.M.
- 28 Nov Thanksgiving Day – Remember what you are thankful for and pray for those who aren't with their families.
- 5 Dec Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

Post Executive meeting to follow
- 19 Dec Post General Membership meeting, VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave, 7:00 P.M.
- Dec Annual Christmas Party, American Legion Post 5, 15 E. Platte Ave, 6:00 P.M.
- 25 Dec Christmas Day – May the Christmas Holidays be fun and safe.
- 31 Dec New Year's Eve – Party hardy but be safe.

Special thanks to the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) for their outstanding presentations and displays at the Retiree Appreciation Day and Information Fair, on Saturday, August 24, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Many Interesting and helpful displays provided valuable resources and interesting information on medical care, TRICARE, veterans organizations and benefits and the available facilities on USAFA. Larry Johnson, Post Judge Advocate, Chuck Zeitvogel, Post Commander and Norm Moyer, Post Sr Vice Commander, manned an American Legion information table—discussing general information about the American Legion, Post 209 and trying to recruit new members for Post 209.

We had five interesting speaker including Commander USAFA Hospital, Fort Carson Evans Community Hospital and Command Surgeon, Headquarters Space Command. Each spoke and answered numerous questions concerning retiree and veterans benefits available.

The guest speaker was General Ralph "Ed" Eberhart, new Commander, U.S. Northern Command, (the military element of Homeland Security). This former USAFA graduate provided an outstanding briefing on homeland defense and interactivities with civil authorities as well as federal agencies such as FBI and CIA. He emphasized to the retiree "you have not retired from our service to our country". We need your to support and volunteer assistance and awareness in our fight on terrorism. "We can not appease terrorism". General Eberhart answered numerous questions

concerning homeland security and our fight against terrorism.

I really enjoyed the presentation as did hundreds of other retirees.

POST 209 PICNIC:
CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS to Greg Andries, Larry Johnson, Chuck Zeitvogel who were of great assistance in another great post picnic at Palmer Park on Sunday August 18th. We had a lot of fun and relaxing activities and a tremendous variety of food. Great horseshoes competition.

SEE YOU AT THE EARLY BIRD DINNER!!!

Our thoughts go out to the following Legion Family members

Joyce Moyer and Pat Andries are recovering from minor surgery.

Dot Dassero is recovering and hopefully we will be able to get around just like she used to.

Lady Hawk is back from rehab hope to see you soon.

June Swearingin who lost her husband recently.

Albert Hurley – passes away in September our prayers go out to the family.

If you know of someone who is in the hospital, sick or under the weather please call the chaplain Howard Hornik 719-596-6343.



From a Past Membership Chairman: Larry Johnson

Why did you join the American Legion?

That seems to be the questions that I here the most when I talk with others about becoming a member of The American Legion Family.

But, it is interesting and I pose the question to you. Why did you join The American Legion?

I know from the past that there have been a variety of answers for this question. Some of the answers that I have received range from:

My Dad, my Grand Father, my Brother and my Sister were in the military and The American Legion so I felt that I had to be.

Another one was I wanted to have The American Legion Magazine delivered.

I felt that I needed to belong to an organization that supported Veterans and their families.

I went to college and bought my first home through the G.I. Benefits that The American Legion fought for and won.

I thought the programs of The American Legion were good for the community and the kids.

Because The American Legion helped my father when he needed it.

One Legionnaire who was very honest about why he joined was he wanted a place where I could go to drink and talk with others who had faced what I did while on active duty.

There was the one that I talked with a husband and wife and they came right out and said; the kids are grown and gone and we are tired of looking at the four walls and wanted something to occupy some of our time.

There is another one from a mother who joined the Auxiliary; I joined because my son told me to.

There were two reasons for becoming a member of The American Legion. The first one was one of the reasons I listed earlier. I first joined The American Legion in Korea was in 1977 as I wanted a place to drink. It was during this time that I attended a meeting and found that The American Legion Post sponsored a Korean orphanage. I became involved and truly enjoyed the smiles on the faces of the young children. 2nd reason began when I was getting out of the Military. I wanted to become involved with community. I thought about how I would go about this, I would go down to the Mayor's Office and say here I am I want to be involved. I thought twice about this and decided I would look foolish and someone would send me to the loony bin. About that time I met a person who talked me into attending a meeting with the Post 209 and I did. That meeting was 15 March 1984. I was attracted to the Post because as they conducted the meeting and was allowed to participant immediately, hence I transferred to the Post. I stayed with the Post and have involved with the Post and serving in many elected and appointed offices.

The third reason for my joining the Legion was that it was cheaper to go down to the Post and talk other legionnaires than it was to go to a Psychiatrist. You can always find someone that will listen. Why pay money?

One Legionnaire that I met and we were talking about VOLUNTEERISM, he often commented that if a person wanted to truly be involved that person would find the time.

I guess it is time to ask the question that always comes up after a discussion.

I know you didn't join the American Legion just to work Bingo. But, consider this, the fund raising that we do every Tuesday enables us to provide the support to Veterans and their families

Why did you decide to join The American Legion? You've read in the past newsletters that you are needed! What can we as officers of the Post and Legionnaires do to get you more involved with The American Legion and your Post?

I hope that you will consider getting involved.



From the Adjutant:
Ann Foster

Our membership currently stands at 165 towards a goal of 292. National is getting ready to send out the 2nd membership renewal letters. They should be mailed 1 October. If you have already paid your membership and have the 2003 card you don't have to do anything, however, if you don't have the 2003 card I would ask that you take a minute and renew your dues.

Commander Chuck Zeitvogel and myself attended the All Patients Day activities at the Pueblo Nursing Home. This is a carnival atmosphere for the patients that the various veterans organizations provide various types of prizes that the patients can play and win gifts. The Post had 5 prizes that we handed out and they were; trail mix, shaving cream, double "AA" batteries, dove moisturizer and Mennen deodorant. We had the ring toss as a game for the patients and things got quite lively for a while. Any gifts not claimed during the carnival were then provided to the nursing home for patients use.

Next year we will be better prepared to handle the All Patients Day Activities in Pueblo. Hope you can find sometime to come down and help with the booth and patients.