



THE AMERICAN LEGION - CENTENNIAL POST 209

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

NEWSLETTER - October 2003

Officers Comments

Commander - Chuck Zeitvogel

Special Executive Committee & Board of Trustees Meetings.

Post 209 Executive Committee & Board of Trustees met in special sessions Sept. 18, 22, & 23, 2003 with representatives from three different commercial real estate sales and development firms. The purpose was to gain information on how to best develop and/or sale the 7.38-acre lot currently owned by Post 209.

The results of these meetings will be a topic for discussion at the Post 209 General Membership Meeting scheduled for October 16th. Members will be asked to consider the future use of the Post's lot and vote on the action that the Executive Committee should take thereto.

Therefore, members should seriously make plans to attend the October meeting. Contact the office at 599-8624 if you have questions in this regard.

Lot Maintenance. Grass and weeds were cut on the lot Monday, Sept 22nd. Drive by and take a look at what Post 209 owns. It is across the road from the Loaf & Jug, on the corner of Austin Bluffs Pkwy. & Old Farm Road.

Flag Retirement Ceremony. A flag retirement / disposal ceremony will be held Saturday, October 11th at 10:00 a.m. on the lot by Post 209. Should you have an American Flag that is no longer serviceable you may bring it to this Flag Retirement Ceremony for proper disposition. Contact the office at 599-8624 should you have questions.

Membership Meetings

Not to be sounding like a broken record, but these meetings are important to you and your American Legion Post 209. It's true, the meetings may not be the most exciting event you will ever attend - but, they are important, important, important! Business of any consequence cannot take part without a quorum of members present and voting. I am willing to listen to constructive concerns from any and all members of our Post. All members are important to what we do as a Post.

Members are needed to willingly fill officer positions and serve on committees. Members are needed to be part of the action! Keep in mind that we are all volunteers and that many diverse opinions of what should and should not be done have to be taken into consideration to arrive at a consensus. We try to accent the positive, de-emphasis the negative and move on to doing what needs to be done in the true spirit of The American Legion.

Early Bird Dinner

Support and attend the Early Bird Dinner. See the Early Bird Dinner notice later in this newsletter. What's the Early Bird Dinner all about? It is for most an opportunity to socialize, recognize fellow Legionnaires, and induct new members that have never been inducted before. These are fun events. We look forward to seeing you & yours there. Early reservations are appreciated, contact Legionnaire Bill Marshall at 495-0088.

Veterans Day Parade.

The Veterans Day Parade in Colorado Springs is scheduled for November 8th at 9:30 a.m. this year. Vietnam Veterans will be given the, "Welcome Home," Parade they never received 30 years ago. Those returning from Iraq will also be especially honored in this Parade. Per Diana D. Cecilian, Executive Director, Colorado Springs Veteran's Day Parade.

Some may say I'm getting along in years, (translated - I'm to old), and walking in a parade is not one of my highest priorities. Please, please put that thought aside. Post 209 will do what it can to provide rides in the parade for anyone not able to walk the parade route. The route will be down Tejon Street as in past years. We will receive notice of where our starting position is about two weeks before the parade date. Plan now to be part of this event. Legionnaire Bill Marshall, Jr. Vice Commander, is our Post 209 contact person for the Parade. Call the office at 599-8624 and leave a message or call Bill at 495-0088 should you need a ride in the parade.

In my opinion, it is important that veterans, and especially American Legion veterans, participate in Veterans Day Parades. This is an open invitation for all Post 209 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion affiliated with Post 209 to be in this Parade.

All Patients' Activity Day.

Legionnaires Ann Foster - Adjutant, Neal Thomas - Post Executive Committeeman, and Chuck Zeitvogel - Commander, represented Post 209 at the All Patients' Activity Day at the VA Nursing Home in Pueblo this past September 20th. The nursing home serves veteran patients afflicted with various degrees of illnesses. The All Patients Activity Day gives the patients and staff an opportunity for a fun change in their otherwise routine schedule. Many other volunteers from civic and veteran organizations in Colorado also took part in this event.

Booths were set up in front of the nursing home from which different games were available for patients to play. A variety of prizes were offered the patients. The game conducted by Post 209 was a "penny pitch" game. Large washers were used instead of pennies. Prizes offered from our booth included wrist-watches, pocket watches, snacks, and personal care items. We thank the Post Executive Committee members who donated the \$80.00 used to purchase the prizes for the patients that visited the Post 209 booth. All the patients were winners. It was a good day for everyone, patients, staff and volunteers.

Age - Activity - Commitment.

Post 209 membership records reveal some interesting statistics. Approximately, 100 of our members are 70 plus years young, another 150 or so members are between the ages of 50 and 60 years, with the remaining 40 or so, between 30 and 49 year of age.

It may be that as members increase in age their energy level decreases, which results in less active participation and commitment in Post 209 activities. To some degree this is understandable. However, there are several things that all members can do. Following are a few suggestions for consideration:

- (1) Attend general membership meetings - your presence is really needed.
- (2) Answer questions posed in the newsletter - they are asked to better serve the membership.
- (3) Attend social functions - again, your presence is needed & these are fun events.
- (4) Provide feedback to the Post Executive Committee - so they can better serve you.
- (5) Provide information for our "skills bank" - what you can do to help other members.
- (6) Participate in the Veterans Day Parade - show pride in your military service.
- (7) Share your computer skills - there are a few simple data entry things that need doing in the office.
- (8) The list could go on - please realize that many hands doing a few things can accomplish much.

Fund Raising.

Last month there was a brief article about Fund Raising in the newsletter. Please look back at it. You will notice it indicated that we are looking for someone (a Legionnaire) willing to be in charge of fund

raising for Post 209. Yes - our Post! Unfortunately, as of this writing, no one has volunteered and the offer is still open. This is a real need that will not go away - call the office (599-8624) and leave a message for the Post Commander if you are interested and your willing to take on this challenge. I look forward to hearing from you. Be assured I will call you back.

Junior Vice Commander - Bill Marshall

Early Bird Dinner. November 8 – Early Bird Dinner, at TREA, 6:30 P.M., dinner at 7 P.M. Cost: \$16.00 per person, includes dinner, tax, gratuity and rental. Menu: Roast Beef, Baked Potato, Vegetable, House Salad, rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and dessert. I need to your reservation by Nov 3rd. If you make a reservation and for any reason you have to cancel, I will need to know by the same date otherwise we have to pay. I look forward to seeing you there. Call me, Bill Marshall, at 495-0088 to make reservations and for additional information.

Veterans Day Parade. November is also the date for the Veterans Day Parade let's have a great turnout to celebrate this event. The Commander has already addressed attending and participating in the parade earlier in this newsletter. Please contact me at 495-0088 if you have questions.

Adjutant - Ann Foster

The membership goal for 2004 for Post 209 is 285. The following have renewed their membership since the last newsletter:

Jack Ades
Dan Anderson
Regina Bufkin
Troy Burrell
Reginald Clay
Richard Cole
John Cress

Fred DeHerrera
Carl Dickey
Jason Doughty
Benny Johnson
Joyce Moyer
Norm Moyer
Michael Robinson

Joseph Totoro

These additional members bring our total to 183. Our percentage of goal is now 64%. That is very good for this time of year. However, we would like to keep on going through the roof as the saying goes and have many more names to put in this column next month.

We have also had the following individuals transfer to us as already paid members: Gary George, Richard Gregg, and Joseph Parzych. Many thanks to the above for your support of Post 209.

Finance Officer

This position is open. It requires a person who knows how to use the "Quick Books" program for financial data entries. The actual time commitment is minimal and there are not that many financial transactions to keep up with. Should you be interested in filling this position, contact Post Commander Chuck Zeitvogel at 599-8624. Your services will be greatly appreciated.

Check Book balance as of Sept 24, 2003 \$4,492.00.

Historian - W.W. Bandler

I appreciate those who have submitted photos for our history and encourage them to continue. Since I may not be able to attend every Post function, anyone wishing to use the Post camera in my absence may do so. Please let me know ahead of time so that it can be made available to you.

I hope to have a good Post history for this year and appreciate the insights the Post Executive Committee provided recently.

Chaplain - Howard Hornick

There were no reports of member illness or passing this month.

In lieu of a chaplain's prayer the following reflection is offered: The title is: Leading The Way.

"Lord, inspire us today with the qualities of good leadership. Give us insight to make wise decisions, integrity to face the truth, courage to make difficult choices and compassion for the needs of others. Make us a model of justice and honor to the world, and let us never forget that our job is to serve, both you and others." Author - Anonymous

Programs Supported by Post 209.

- Service to Veterans
 - Oratorical Contest
 - Jr. ROTC
 - Veterans Day Parade
 - Stand-Down for Homeless Veterans
 - Social Events for members
 - Other events as resources allow
 - Boys State
 - Scouting
 - Jr. Shooting Program
 - Crawford House
 - Pikes Peak Veteran Council
 - Lot Development/Post Home Vision
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Up Coming Events - Scheduled Membership Meetings the third Thursday of the Month, Flag Retirement Ceremony Oct. 11th, Veterans Day Parade & Early Bird Dinner Nov. 8th and Christmas Party TBA.

Items of Interest

Mid Year Conference. - The annual Mid-Year Conference will be held January 23-25, 2004 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Grand Junction, CO. Room rates will be \$65.00 single/double/triple/quad, a junior suite for \$159.00 and a whirlpool suite for \$189.00 per night. The tax rate is 10.65%. Reservations can be made directly with the hotel at 970-241-8888. Cut off date for reservations is December 23rd. When you call, tell them that you want the Legion rate. The agenda for the meeting will be published at a later date.

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Cold War Certificates. - Service members, veterans and federal employees who served between Sept. 2, 1945 and Dec. 26, 1991 are still eligible for a Cold War Recognition Certificate, said officials of the U.S. Army Personnel Command.

In fiscal year 1998, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding the certificate to personnel who served during the Cold War. Thus far, about one million people have responded out of the 22 million entitled to receive the certificate, officials said. An application for the Cold War Recognition Certificate can be found on the Internet at <http://coldwar.army.mil>

The web site informs applicants about correct procedures and the required documentation to receive the certificate. It also reminds them that the minimum turn around time is six months.

Applications will only be accepted by fax or mail, officials said. More information on the certificate can be found on PERSCOM's Cold War web site or by calling customer service at (703) 325-5864. (From the Afterburner - News for USAF Retired Personnel, Sept. 2003)

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Women in The Air Force Reunion Honors Post 209 -Woman Air Force Service Pilot. Colorado Springs was the location for the annual Women in the Air Force Association Reunion this year. It was held at the Doubletree Hotel from 2-8 September. Ann Foster, Post 209 Adjutant, was able to bring Millicent Young to the main banquet, 7 September, so that Air Force women could meet a Woman Air Force Service Pilot from WWII. Many of the attendees were very glad for this opportunity.

The evening started with a flag folding ceremony by an Honor Guard from Peterson AFB. When it was completed, Association President, Dottie Holmes, CMSgt, USAF Ret., asked TSgt John Parsons to present the folded flag to Millicent Young. This honor was quite a surprise for Millicent and Ann. The tears flowed while attendees stood and clapped for our honored member. The local hostess for the Reunion, Carrie Barnhill and Dottie Holmes made the decision jointly.

If you would like to know more about the Reunion and/or the Association, please leave a message for Ann at the Post, 599-8624.

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Marine For Life - From the Corps to the Community.

This program has as one of its main objectives assisting Marines in the transition process from active duty back to the civilian work force. Randy A Velasquez, Major, USMC, is the Marine For Life Hometown Link in Colorado Springs and this part of Southern Colorado. He can be contacted at (719) 660-2224 and ColoradoSprings@marinecorps.com for detailed information on the Marine For Life -From the Corps to the Community program. Information can also be found at www.MarineForLife.com

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NPRC Initiates Online Records Request Procedures – The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records, which can be downloaded from the online web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating their mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. Veterans and next of kin may access this application at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. Please note there is no requirement to type, “www,” in front of the web address.

Individuals without computer access and without access to Standard Form 180 may continue to request copies of records such as copies of the DD Form 214, record of active duty service, by writing to the National Personnel Records Center. Make sure to include rank, branch of service, Social Security number, previous service number and, extremely important, sign the request. The address is: National Personnel Records Center

Military Personnel Records
 9700 Page Ave
 St Louis MO 63132-5100

Post 209 Officers – 2003-2004

Commander Chuck Zeitvogel
 Sr Vice Cmdr Greg Andries
 Adjutant Ann Foster
 Finance Officer TBA
 Historian W. W. Bandler
 Sgt-At-Arms Robert Rydell

Chaplain Howard Hornik
 Service Officer Tom Morant
 Post Executive Committeeman ... Neal Thomas
 Past Commander Francis Redington

Committees

Planning & Budget Chuck Zeitvogel (719) 531-0546
Membership Greg Andries (791) 636-3346
Program & Social Activities Bill Marshall (719) 495-0088
Boys State & Oratorical Bill Marshall (719) 495-0088
Americanism/Youth/Scouting Francis Redington (719) 471-3925
Jr. ROTC/Marksmanship Francis Redington ... (719) 471-3925
Legislative & National Security Neal Thomas..... (719) 392-1510
Veteran Affairs Tom Morant (719) 570-0843
(Club) Land Use, Care & Development ... Greg Andries (719) 636-3346

Ad Hoc Committees

Constitution & By-Laws Neal Thomas (719) 392-1510
Property Inventory
-Office Ann Foster (719) 599-8624
-Storage Unit Larry Johnson (719) 622-0344
Auxiliary Liaison Chuck Zeitvogel ... (719) 531-0546
Sons of The American Legion Larry Johnson (719) 622-0344

Board of Trustees

Neal Thomas -Chairman (2yr)
Alton Cyriaque - Secretary
TBA - Finance Officer
Chuck Zeitvogel -Commander
Larry Johnson -Member (2yr)
Francis Redington -Member (1yr)
Ann Foster - Member (3yr)

Meetings

- **Board of Trustees** meets 1st Thursday
of the Month at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy,
Ste. 104, at 6:30 P.M.
- **Post Executive Committee** meets
1st Thursday of the month at 4291
Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Ste 104. At
7:00 P.M.
- **Post 209 General Membership** meets
3rd Thursday of the month. 7:00 P.M. at
VFW Post 4051; 430 East Pikes Ave. C/S

Post 209 Annual Dues - \$30.00.

Auxiliary Unit -Officers

President - Dot Dassero
Secretary Treasurer - Barbara Johnson
Chaplain - Marcia Shellhammer
Sergeant at Arms - Ruth Hornick

No communications were received from the Auxiliary Unit for publication at this time. However,
questions can be directed to Auxiliary President, Dot Dassero by calling the office at 599-8624 and they
will be passed on to her.

Auxiliary Unit Dues are \$15.00.



Early Bird Dinner Centennial Post 209

Date: November 8, 2003

Time: Social 6:30 PM Dinner 7:00 PM

Place: The Retired Enlisted Association, TREA

Cost: \$16.00 per person. Price includes dinner, tax, gratuity, and hall rental.

Menu: Roast beef, baked potato, vegetable, salad, rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and dessert.

Reservation Deadline: November 3, 2003. If you make a reservation and have to cancel I will need to know by the same date or we have to pay for the meal.

Contact: Bill Marshall—495-0088 or leave a message at the office 599-8624.

The Veterans Day Parade is the same day so come and celebrate with your fellow Legionnaires.



For God and Country

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