

**THE AMERICAN LEGION - CENTENNIAL POST 209**  
**P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-5334**  
**719-599-8624**

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**NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2004**

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**Happy New Year!**

Best Wishes to You & Yours' for 2004. May Good Health and Fortune be yours.

**Legionnaire Francis M. Redington**

**Legionnaire Francis M. Redington passed to the Post Everlasting December 15, 2003. Services with military honors were held December 19, 2003 at the Shrine of Remembrance, in Colorado Springs followed by interment at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, Colorado.**

**Legionnaire Redington served Post 209 as Post Commander for the years, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as well as in many other capacities faithfully for many other years.**

**He was a true legionnaire in Post 209 and will be greatly missed.**

**Membership Meetings**

The December 18, 2003 regular General Membership meeting was cancelled in observance and out of respect for the passing of Past Commander Redington.

Members of Post 209 can start off this year of 2004 by attending the General Membership meeting January 15, 2004. Check for time and place in this newsletter.

These meetings are for the benefit of members and to conduct essential Post 209 business. They can be lively and interesting with the exchange of ideas and passions. Our Constitution and Bylaws requires that 10% of members in good standing be present to constitute a quorum for an official meeting.

Every Post 209 legionnaire is important and is needed for these meetings to be successful. Please contact the Post Commander, or a member of the Executive Committee, and let us know what it would take for you to attend our regular Post 209 membership meetings.

Call the office and leave a message (719) 599-8624 or write a letter/note and send it to the office.

**Membership**

Current status of Post 209 membership will be given later by Adjutant, Ann Foster, in this newsletter. However, I encourage every member who has not renewed for 2004 to do so by the end of January.

It would be a real accomplishment to reach the goal of 285 members by then that was set by our Department.

Personally, as Post 209 Commander, I would like for Post 209 to exceed 115% of the membership goal set. Try to recruit a new member soon. Contact the office if you need The American Legion Membership Application forms

**Reaching Out to Members**

The monthly newsletter currently is the primary means your Executive Committee has to stay in touch with members.

E-mail is another way that is proposed to augment the newsletter. We would like to use e-mail to reach as many members as possible. For this effort of reaching out to members to be successful it is necessary that members & others provide their e-mail address to the Post 209 office.

Members and others that would like to help in this effort send a brief e-mail message to [al209@pcisys.net](mailto:al209@pcisys.net) to include your name and e-mail. Please do it now.

**Update on Lot Development/Sale.**

Decisions regarding the lot are on hold. This due to not having a quorum of members at the General Membership meetings. Twenty-nine members are needed, based on a membership of 285, to have a quorum at the General Membership meetings. Members should make the effort to attend these meetings.

**Nominating Committee**

Need three legionnaire members to serve on the Nominating Committee. Please contact Post Commander Zeitvogel should you like to serve on

this committee before January 8<sup>th</sup>. Call (719) 599-8624.

The committee will have the responsibility to nominate candidates for officer positions for Post 209's Legion year 2004-2005. Candidates' names will be published in the March 2004 newsletter.

### **Election of New Post Officers**

Election of Post officers is scheduled for April 2004. Term of office is from May 2004 through April 2005. (Per Article III of Post 209's Bylaws).

### **Notifications**

The death or passing of a member is usually a sad event for families. One way to lessen the strain is to make a plan for what family members should do, and whom they should notify.

When making your notification list please include American Legion Post 209 on it.

Your Post Service Officer and Adjutant are excellent referral sources of information when provided timely notification that a member has died/passed. Notification is as simple as calling the office (719) 599-8624 and leaving a message that includes the name of the member who died/passed, and the name and telephone number of the person who called.

### **Fund Raising**

Fund raising is a necessity of life for most any non profit organization. This is no surprise for anyone who has been around very long.

Your Post 209 continues to need a member or members to be part of our fund raising efforts. New and innovative ideas on how to raise funds are invited.

Are you interested? Please contact one of the Vice-Commanders to take part in this essential effort. Everyone's enthusiastic support is needed for fund raising to be a true success.

### **Christmas Party/Office Open House.**

The Christmas Party "Pot Luck" Open House for Post 209 was held December 12<sup>th</sup> in Post 209's office as publicized. For those that attended it was a good time to relax in the spirit of the holidays. Thanks to all who were there

### **Auxiliary Unit**

Post 209 would like to have an active Auxiliary Unit to be part of the Post's activities. Should a spouse of a legionnaire like to be part of what we

do please contact one of the Auxiliary Unit Officers listed later in this newsletter.

### **Sons of The American Legion**

Members of the Sons of The American Legion can be an integral part of a Post activities. Membership is open to those who are sons of Legion members. Contact the office for additional information should you know of a person who is eligible for membership of the Sons of The American Legion.

### **Finance Officer** (*This Position is Open*)

Financial information is reported at Executive Committee and General membership meetings. It is also available for review in the office.

My thanks to Legionnaire Gideon Diamon for posting financial data to the "Quick Books" program and printing the financial statements.

*Above comments by Chuck Zeitvogel,  
Commander*

### **Chaplain Comments-Howard Hornick**

Report ill or sick: *None*

Members that passed: Legionnaire *Francis Redington*, Dec 15, 2003

### ***A Reflection***

#### **A Guy Who Wanted To Live**

**"When you lose a friend you have an overpowering desire to go back home and yell in everybody's ear,**

**"This guy was killed fighting for you. Don't forget him-ever. Keep him in your mind when you wake up in the morning and when you go to bed at night. Don't think of him as the statistic which changes 38,788 casualties to 38,789. Think of him as a guy who wanted to live every bit as much as you do.**

**"Don't let him be just one of 'Our Brave Boys' from the old home town, to whom a marble monument is erected in the city park, and a civic-minded lady calls the newspaper ten years later and wants to know why that 'unsightly stone' isn't removed."**

**By Sergeant Bill Mauldin  
from his book - Up Front 1945**

**Adjutant Comments -Ann Foster**

The recent passing of Past Commander Francis Redington points up the need to pre-plan for your own needs in this area. One of the best gifts you can give your family is to insure all of your military and other important papers are filed away, but available to your surviving family members. If you need to file for a VA claim and have put it off, don't!! Maybe you think you don't need it. However, you need to think about the surviving members of your family. They may need the extra compensation that might come to them upon your passing.

Social Security and the Survivor's Benefit Plan income is not enough. Some may say my life insurance will take care of that. For some that may be close to accurate, but for others it may only pay the funeral costs.

You can actually purchase a prepaid funeral plan and by making the decisions that would accompany that, you can save your family a lot of heartache when you pass.

Contrary to popular belief by some, the military does not take care of everything. But, they will do quite a lot. They can work in concert with the funeral home, if military honors are desired. They will most definitely help the surviving spouse to file for benefits as appropriate. If the surviving spouse has a military ID card, a new one will need to be issued.

This is a good time for me to remind those of you who have not sent in a copy of your DD Form 214 or discharge paperwork showing your service dates, etc., to please do so now! In Francis's case his copy on file here in the office was the only one to go by for making sure all of his ribbons were put on his uniform for burial. Additionally, extra copies were made that were used in filing for his benefits claims.

Please know that I am available to discuss this topic with you and/or your family members at any time. I worked in Casualty Services during my time in the Air Force, so I know how important this is for your surviving family members. I would be honored to be of any assistance to those who may desire it. Just call the Post, phone (719) 599-8624, leave a message with your name, phone number, and when would be the best time to call you back

As of this writing we have 245 members for the Legion year 2004. This is better than 85% of our goal. We are only 12 away from 90 %. Many thanks to those listed below who have renewed or transferred in since the last newsletter.

Ernest Brown  
Earl Burrell  
Haim Calderon  
Robert Crisp  
Dale Deniston

Harold Holmes  
Theodore Kilmeyer  
Herminio Maldonado  
Herman Meinert  
Daniel Mestas

Curtis Payne  
Jack Roberts (Transfer)  
Russell Stott (Transfer)  
Cyrstal Weller (Transfer)  
Robert Wherley (New)

**Service Officer Comments-Tom Morant**

Number of calls received for assistance: None

**Other Items of Interest**

**Location for Membership Meetings**

Members who have ideas of where to hold General Membership meetings that might attract better attendance are urged to contact the Adjutant Ann Foster. Call (719) 599-8624

**Board of Trusttes & Executive Committee Meetings for January Change**

The Board of Trustees and Executive Committee Meetings for January 2004 are changed from meeting January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Mid Year Conference**

The Annual Mid-Year Conference for The American Legion Department of Colorado will be held from Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Grand Junction. All legionnaires are invited. Look in the January 2004 Observer for details.

### **“TEN FOR TOM” CAMPAIGN”**

“As Colorado continues to Proudly Present Tom Bock for National Commander, we need your support. The *Ten for Tom* program is underway. Theoretically, if every member in the Colorado American Legion donated \$10.00 to the campaign, we would have all we need to fund necessary campaign expenses and events. The November issue of your Observer had a full page spread on Tom’s campaign.” Quoted from the December 2003, Colorado Legionnaire Bulletin. Questions regarding funding for the *Ten for Tom* program may be directed to Ralph Bozella at (303) 589-3170 (days) or (303) 776-3890 (evenings).

### **Skills Bank**

A Skills Bank is being maintained in the office. Anyone who needs assistance with a work related skill may contact the office to access the Skills Bank for the names and phone numbers of legionnaires who have their names and skills listed in the Skills Bank”.

A few examples of skills listed are - accounting, carpentry, computers, electrical work, painting, sheet rocking and texturing.

Contact Post Commander Chuck Zeitvogel should you like to have your name and skill/profession input to the Skills Bank

### **American Legion Catalog**

The American Legion Emblem Sales Catalogue is available in the office for members to look through and to order items. Call the office (719) 599-8624 to make an appointment to look through the catalogue.

### **Blue & Gold Star Banners**

Blue & Gold Star banners are available for sale in the office. The banners are a way to recognize families who have members serving in the military. Call the office for information to obtain one of these banners.

### **Field / Bush Mower For Sale**

Post 209’s Field & Bush Mower is for sale. Cost was approximately \$1,800 new. Check it out and make an offer. Call the office at (719) 599-8624, if interested and the Adjutant will help arrange an appointment for you to see it.

### **Van for the Handicapped**

A call was received from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) Professor Jeff Rodgers requesting assistance in locating a van to transport handicapped persons. Please contact Professor Rodgers at (719) 641-1005 should you know of someone who may have access to a van that might be used for transporting handicapped persons about UCCS. Your help in this will be appreciated.

### **Cancer**

A letter recently received from the National Foundation for Cancer Research stated:

“Cancer poses a great risk to us all.

“In fact, if you are a woman, you have a 1 in 3 chance of developing cancer.

“If you are a man, your chances are even worse; you have a 1 in 2 chance.

“You may be able to lower your chances of developing cancer. Eat healthy food. Exercise. Have regular medical examinations. And if you smoke...quit. Even so ... your chances of being diagnosed with cancer is still very high ... and the odds increase as you get older.”

These are pretty sobering comments. And, are restated here to urge members to take care of themselves health wise. It may be prudent for members to check with healthcare professionals for detailed information concerning cancer prevention and treatment.

### **Sons of the American Legion**

A Sons of The American Legion Squadron for Post 209 is not active at this time.

Eligibility requirements to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion are as follows: All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the specified periods of conflict for membership in The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. Contact Legionnaire Larry Johnson at (719) 622-0344 or leave a message at the Post 209’s phone (719) 599-8624 should you learn of some one who meets these eligibility requirements.

Follow-up to try and get our Sons of The American Legion Squadron reactivated for Post 209 will be attempted.

**Cub Pack 24**

Cub Pack 24 is sponsored by Post 209. The Pack continues to be active. They are looking forward to doing fun activities in 2004.

**Candidates for Officer Positions NEEDED**

**Nominate a member you know to Serve Post 209 in Legion Year 2004-2005**

**Positions Open for Nominations:**

Commander	Elected Position
Senior Vice Commander	Elected Position
Junior Vice Commander	Elected Position
Adjutant	Elected Position
Finance Officer	Elected Position
Sergeant at Arms	Elected Position
Chaplain	Elected Position
Historian	Elected Position
Post Executive Committeeman	Elected Position
Judge Advocate	Appointed by Commander
Service Officer	Appointed by Commander

Send your nominations to Post 209's office or call the office (719) 599-8642 and leave a message.

**Post 209 Executive Committee**

Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
Senior Vice. Commander	Greg Andries
Junior Vice. Commander	Bill Marshall
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Position Open
Historian	W.W. Bandler
Sergeant at Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson
Service Officer	Tom Morant
Past Commander	

**Board of Trustees**

Neal Thomas	Chairman (2yr)
Alton Cyriaque	Secretary (1yr)
<i>Position Open</i>	Finance Officer
Chuck Zeitvogel	Commander
Larry Johnson	Member (2yr)
Vacant	Member (1yr)
Ann Foster	Member (3yr)

**Committees**

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

**Ad Hoc Committees**

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

**Post 209 Normal Meeting Times**

**Board of Trustees** at 6:30 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of Month

**Executive Committee** at 7:00 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of Month following the Board of Trustees Meeting

Above meetings are at Post 209's office, 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., Suite 104., C/S

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**General Membership Meetings**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thur. of Month, Location: VFW Post 4051 at 430 East Pikes Peak Ave., C/S.

Meetings in the upper level, start at 7:00 P.M.

**Auxiliary Unit Officers**

President	Dot Dassero
Sec. Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Vacant
Sgt. at Arms	Ruth Hornick

*No Comments provided for this Newsletter*

**Post 209 Calendar of Coming Events**

- Jan 1 - New Year's Day
- Jan 8 - Board of Trustees Mtg.
- Jan 8 - Executive Committee Mtg.
- Jan 16 - Article for Feb Newsletter due
- Jan 15 - General Membership Mtg.**
- Jan 30 - Mail Feb Newsletter
- Feb 5 - Board of Trustees Meeting
- Feb 5 - Executive Committee Meeting
- Feb 13 - Articles for March Newsletter due
- Feb 19 - General Membership Meeting**
- Feb 27 - Mail March Newsletter

Articles/Comments for publication in Post 209's Newsletter are due by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month to be in the next month's newsletter.

Send your articles/comments to the Post's Office: Attention Post Commander. Questions? Call (719) 599-8624.

**January 2004**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Board of Trustees Meeting Executive Committee Meeting	9 Articles for Feb Newsletter due	10
11	12	13	14	15 General Membership Meeting	16	17 Desert Storm begins, 1991
18	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Paris peace accords signed, ending Vietnam War, 1973	28	29	30 Mail Feb Newsletter	31

**February 2004**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Board of Trustees Meeting Executive Committee Meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Articles for March Newsletter due	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day	17	18	19 General Membership Meeting	20	21
22	23	24	25 Ash Wednesday	26	27 Mail March Newsletter	28 Desert Storm ends, 1991
29						