

CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

MARCH 1997



We have received all the estimates of cost for construction of the Post Home. The total estimate of cost is \$1,286,000.00, and the package has been given to a lender for its consideration.

When I was elected Commander, I stated if a Post Home could be built, I would get it built. It is my opinion that we cannot afford to build this Post Home for \$1,286,000.00. This would mean we would have an annual mortgage payment of approximately \$150,000. Based on the interest shown by the membership at this time, there is no way we could make the monthly payment required.

I will be calling a meeting of the Post and Auxiliary to discuss the future of Centennial Post #209. It is extremely important that all members attend this meeting. You will be advised by mail when and where this meeting will take place.

Our membership renewals have been O.K. We are now at about 300 which is ahead of last year but far short of our goal for the year.

March is American Legion Birthday month and we will have the Birthday dinner on the 23rd of March. Call your reservation to me at 596-9261. See article in this issue.



The loss of benefits continues. If you are at all concerned about the loss of your benefits, you need to take an interest. Come to the meetings.

Our next meeting is March 20, 1997 at DAV Post, Palmer Park and Peterson Road, 7:00 P.M. Hope to see you there.

OFFICERS

COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
SR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY McFADDEN
JR VICE COMMANDER	JEFF NEW
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	LARRY JOHNSON
HISTORIAN	
SGT AT ARMS	ROBERT MYNATT
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	
EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	NEAL THOMAS

DUES \$25.00

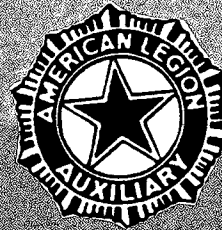
MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

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	BARBARA JOHNSON
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	
SECRETARY/TREASURER	DOT DASSERO
HISTORIAN	
CHAPLAIN	MARCIA SHELLHAMMER
SGT AT ARMS	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$15.00



AUXILIARY NEWS
BARBARA JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

MEETINGS

3RD THURSDAY - 7:00 P.M.
DAV POST #26 PALMER PARK & PETERSON RD.

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, HALPA

OFFICE

4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKY STE 104
COLORADO SPCS CO 80918-2944
719-599-8624

As you know, we decided to try having daytime meetings to see if we would have better attendance. I am sorry to say it has not been better so we will go back to our regular third Thursday of the month 7:00 P.M. meetings. We will meet at the DAV with the Post.

This month we celebrate the Legion birthday. You are invited to attend the Post dinner on March 23 at the VFW 4051, upstairs. There is no charge. The Auxiliary will furnish a large birthday cake.

The time is getting close for election of officers for 97-98. It would be nice to have some of you take an office. Hope to see you at our March 20 meeting.

Happy Easter to all!

ACTIVITIES AND OTHER SIMILAR STUFF

Coming up:

March 5: Executive meeting - 6:30 P.M.

March 9: Dept Oratorical Contest

March 20: Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

March 23: Legion Birthday Party - 5:00 VFW Post 4051

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Auxiliary membership stands at 91%. We need a few more members to send in their renewals. Come on, ladies, let's get them in.

ADJUTANT'S ANNOTATIONS - ANN FOSTER

We have 296 members, which is a little better. However, we still don't have 60% yet.

The Commander, the Finance Officer and I have been talking all the Legion year about how important membership in The American Legion is for you, for your fellow veterans, for the community service we provide, for our children and youth and a strong national defense. If none of these appeals encourage you to recruit at least one member into The American Legion, then I have to assume your membership doesn't mean as much to you as I would hope. For that I am very sorry because so many, besides yourself, stand to suffer from that apathy or whatever it is that constitutes that lack of support.

If veterans are not able to get angry enough to band together to protect their loss of benefits, then they deserve exactly what they get, which is a constant erosion of those benefits promised to us when we signed our contracts to serve. For those of us who want to fight by belonging to The American Legion and signing up new members, it is hard to understand why we can't get others to join us. How do we explain to Congress that they shouldn't take away our benefits if we can't stand together? Can anyone out there tell me what we are doing wrong? Can anyone tell me they really don't care enough about their fellow veterans, as well as themselves, to just sit and do nothing? I think that deep down, there must be some spark which just needs to be rekindled. Why else did we join The American Legion?

I joined The American Legion because I saw this organization as being a way to serve my fellow veterans. I care about people but most especially those who have served their country and those who currently serve. We have all been through something through our service that no one else can understand. I ask you to think about that, to get energy from that, and to go out and sign up at least one other veteran.

On March 7, 8 and 9, the Post will be conducting a membership drive at the Sertoma Exhibit Hall located in the old Pace building. If you would like to help and support the membership drive, come on down or call Larry for further information.

LARRY JOHNSON - FINANCE OFFICER

LEGIONNAIRES AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS: We are facing a problem and I don't know how to solve it. BUT MAYBE YOU CAN.

Those of you in business know very well that if you do not have workers

Those of you in business know very well that if you do not have workers available, you cannot make any money. This happened to us just three weeks ago, and it was very plain the next week that the players didn't appreciate that they couldn't play the small twenty five cent pulltabs because they didn't come back.

We are extremely short of bingo workers on Friday evenings. In order to operate, we need at least one or two workers who have been certified as Bingo Managers by the state of Colorado. We need two workers on the small twenty five cent jar tickets and two workers on the larger \$1.00 pulltabs. We need one person to verify checks and two to mark cards and take money, and it would be really nice if we could have two or more workers on the floor to verify the winners.

More important, we need callers. We need to have two callers on hand each evening. Right now we have one and the game rests on his shoulders every Friday. If we don't have a caller in the hall by 6:00, we will be forced to cancel the game for that evening. Too many cancellations would result in loss of players and revenue.

What does this mean to our members? Probably not much unless you consider what is accomplished with the money from the games. First of all, the proceeds from bingo pretty much provide the funds for the programs in which the Post participates, such as the cub pack, the two high school summer baseball teams, The American Legion Boys State program, the Christmas basket program we have done for the past six years aiding about twelve families each Christmas, Fort Lyon Veterans Hospital and various other veteran support.

In addition, it provides funds for the operation of the Post, the monthly newsletter, office space and donations to such activities as the Arthritis

Foundation, cancer research and our unit auxiliary.

What am I asking for? Depending on which position you would like to work at, I am asking for between 2 1/2 to 7 hours of volunteer work at least once a month. If after reading this article, you feel that you have the time to help our Post in its time of need, give me a call at 590-1369 after 4:00 P.M. I would be more than happy to work with you.

AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, March 23, at the VFW Post 4051, Centennial Post 209 will celebrate the 78th year of The American Legion and the Post's twenty first year of continuous service to veterans and the community. This celebration dinner is free to members of the Post and Unit and spouses.










A prime rib dinner will be catered by the VFW. Dinner will be served at 5:30 following the 5:00 cocktail time. Please make your reservations by March 18. Call Larry Johnson at 590-1369 or Harry Johnson at 596-9261.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Once again we are ready to elect officers to guide us through another year. These special people will be elected in the month of April. If you feel you could make a difference, that you have ideas, knowledge, experience or a specialty that would enhance the future of Post 209, please call Harry or Larry. They will be happy to give you an explanation of the duties of office and the charge given to each officer at installation.

March 1997

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			 7:00 PM EXECUTIVE MEETING			 6:00 PM BINGO 834 EMORY CIRCLE
AM LEG WASHINGTON CONFERENCE				GUN SHOW/MBRSHIP DR		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
DEPT ORATORICAL CONTEST <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 10px;">GUN SHOW/...</div>	8:00 PM 40 & 8 PROMENADE POST 5				 6:00 PM BINGO 834 EMORY CIRCLE	 12:00 PM ST PAT'S DAY PARADE
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	7:00 PM 8 & 40 MTG POST 5			 AUX GEN MBRSHIP MTG  7:00 PM GENERAL MEMBER-SHIP MEETING	 6:00 PM BINGO 834 EMORY CIRCLE	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
 LEGION BIRTHDAY PARTY					 6:00 PM BINGO 834 EMORY CIRCLE	
30	31					