

CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

APRIL 1999



The weekend of 26-28 March, I was involved in a membership drive and information passing on the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. This was done during the gun show at the old K-Mart on Circle and Airport Rd.

Judging by the number of people who said they were Legionnaires and who stated their Post was 209 (there were 10), I should have conducted the general membership meeting at the gun show.

I really enjoyed talking with the members of the Post and enjoyed the interest displayed but I couldn't help wondering if there is that much interest on "what are we doing? where are we going? and when are we going to be there?"... why isn't there more participation at the Post meetings and activities. I can say that if there was that much interest in what we are doing, where we are going and when we will be there displayed in the Post, at the

meeting and in the activities, we might have been there.

I would like to challenge each and every Legionnaire and Auxiliary member to be at the General Membership meeting on 15 April, 1999.

'Tis the time of the year (no, it's not Christmas) to once again elect officers to lead into the millenium.

We are looking for YOU to lead us. We need new people with new ideas to give us a boost.

Are you the one who every time a Newsletter comes out says "If I were Commander" or "If I were on the Board/Committee" I would do this? If so, it is time to come out from behind the Newsletter and the protection of your home and **GET INVOLVED! WE NEED YOU!!**

The election of new officers will be conducted at the General Membership Meeting at the DAV Post 26, Palmer Park and Peter Road, Thursday April 15, at 7:00 P.M.

It is past time for all Legionnaires to become active in the programs and activities of The American Legion and Centennial Post 209.

OFFICERS

COMMANDER	LARRY JOHNSON
SR VICE COMMANDER	FRANCIS REDINGTON
JR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	AL CYRIAQUE
HISTORIAN	NORM MOYER
SGT-AT-ARMS	NORM HARPOLE
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	TOM MORANT

DUES \$25.00

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DOROTHY DASSERO
SECRETARY	ANITA MCFADDEN
TREASURER	BARBARA JOHNSON
CHAPLAIN	JUDITH MCFADDEN
SGT-AT-ARM	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$15.00

MEETINGS

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

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

OFFICE

4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKY STE 104
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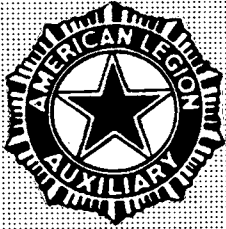
MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

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

ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee has provided the following slate of officers. As you can see, there are a few vacancies. If you would like to be an officer, please come to the April 15 meeting and make your wishes known.

Commander	Francis Redington
Sr. Vice Commander	
Jr. Vice Commander	Harry Johnson
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance	Al Cyriaque
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Historian	Norm Moyer
Service Officer	Tom Morant
Sgt-at-Arms	
Post Exec Committeeman	Neal Thomas
Past Commander	Larry Johnson



**AUXILIARY NEWS
DOT DASSERO
PRESIDENT**

Well, darn, sometimes no news is good news but in this case it's bad news. Since we do not have enough Auxiliary members attending our meetings, the same old slate of officers is going to be presented at the next meeting.

Talk about punishment???!!! Give us a rest! Let me say that Barbara, Ruth, Anita and Judy and myself would be happy to have volunteers to fill these officer positions. We want you to become active in this organization that does so much for veterans and the children and youth of our city.

DISTRICT 7 BALL

The District 7 Ball will be held again this year at the Security Post 38. It will be April 17 with cocktails at 6:00 P.M. and dinner at 6:30. I have tickets (598-2377) as does the Commander (590-1369).

Your meat choice will be Roast Beef or Chicken Cordon Bleu. Reservations must be made by April 14. (Your menu choice must be given to the Ball Chairman by that date.) Price of tickets is \$10.00. Music will be in the bar for dancing or listening.

The Ball honors the Past District Commanders and Past District Presidents.

55 AND ALIVE

The Post has been approached about sponsoring a "55 and Alive" program.

The program is designed to provide tips on driving. Most of all, insurance companies will give you a break on rates if you complete the class.

In view of the request and the potential benefit to our members, we are trying to find out who would be interested in attending the class. I believe that there is a slight charge of \$5.00 or \$10.00. If you would be interested in attending this class, please give Larry Johnson a call at 590-1369 or call the Post and leave a message.

**FRANCIS M. REDINGTON
SR VICE COMMANDER**

I would encourage everyone to attend the membership meeting April 15 and vote for the officers you would like to see managing Post 209 into the year 2000. If nothing else, come out and visit with members and see just how much all of us have in common. If you have a close friend, bring them along. If the majority decides to elect the Board of Officers for this special year, we are all going to need your support to move our Post in a positive direction. Whatever you do, if you need help of any kind, please contact US and

let US help. WE need your input to make good decisions for OUR POST.

Again, please try to make the membership meeting. If you need a ride, call me at 471-3925 and arrangements will be made to assist anyone who needs it.

**ADJUTANT ANNOTATIONS
ANN FOSTER**

As The American Legion Deputy to the VA Satellite Clinic, I attended a special meeting February 26 which brought everyone up to date on the Southern Colorado Healthcare System which includes the Satellite Clinic. We also heard from the Vet Center downtown. I want to share some insight from that meeting which I think you may find interesting.

At the Fort Lyon facility, veterans with 50% or higher service-connected disability rating may now receive nursing home care as an indefinite contract. Those with a 0 - 40% rating may get a six month contract and after that may be able to continue with Medicaid and/or other types of funding for the same care.

Substance abuse is not an outpatient treatment program. There is a Task Force working on this issue for our community and they would welcome help.

Tom Clifford is the Coordinator for Homeless Veterans for the Southern Colorado Healthcare System. His office is at the Clinic. He is assisted by Philip

von Steinmann. Dr Jeff Harizon of the Clinic staff is the Clinic representative to the El Paso County Homeless Coalition. These are the key players working on the Homeless Veterans issue in our community and they can definitely use our help this summer. The plans now are for a Stand Down in August in the parking area by the Clinic. The Denver area has been doing this for about six or seven years. Some of you may have read about Stand Downs in other cities. For those who are not aware of this type of event, it is a time that homeless veterans can be assisted with their needs in a non-threatening environment. They can receive food, clothing, sleeping bags, etc. They can be registered with VA. They can receive some primary health care screenings. Our help will be needed during the actual Stand Down and also financially. As I go to more meetings, I will keep you informed. Just keep in mind, this is something we can do in our community as veterans helping veterans and that is what The American Legion is all about!

For those not familiar with the Vet Center. It is located at 416 E. Colorado Avenue and it provides readjustment counseling from military to civilian life. It also provides counseling for those who have been sexually harassed while in the military. It is also a part of the VA. If you would like some help from them, please call 471-9992 to see if you are eligible and if they can address your concerns. The eligibility criteria is broad so please don't hesitate to call if needed.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

At the last General Membership Meeting attended by only those on the Executive Committee, the timeliness of the Newsletter was discussed. One of the concerns expressed is that with the 25th of the month as a deadline for articles to be in to the Editor has often hit too close to weekends near the end of the month. This has meant delays for the whole process, which also involves two and a half days for the printing, as well as time to print labels, put them on and get the Newsletter to Bulk Mail within their hours of being open.

A motion was made to up the deadline for articles to the same night as our General Meeting. This should help with the time problem and may also make it easier for those doing articles to just bring them the night of the meeting. One of our valued members once said we need to remember we are all volunteers and we do the best we can. I would add to that we can always look at another way to do something whenever it looks like that is what is indicated. - From the Adjutant