



Centennial 209 Newsletter

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

April 2003



From the Commander
Charles Zeitvogel

Nomination Committee Completes Work

Many thanks to Bill Marshall, Chairman of the Nomination Committee, and Norm Moyer and Robert Rydell for their work in submitting nominations for individuals to serve in officer positions for Post 209 this coming year. Nominations for the different positions are:

Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
Sr, Vice Commander	Greg Andries
Jr. Vice commander	Bill Marshall
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Finance Officer	Gideon Diamon
Historian	W. W. Bandler

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the April 17th General Membership meeting. Voting for new officers will then take place after receiving nominations from the floor. Members should try to attend this very important meeting.

Blue Star Banner Program

The Blue Star Banner program allows families that have a member serving in the military to display this fact by displaying a banner in a window of their home or other appropriate location. Banners have a red border with a blue star on a white field. Banners are available with one, two or three stars. Each star represents a family member in the military service. The Blue Star Banner Program was popular during World Wars I & II. They recognized families that had members serving in the military during wartime and helped bring home to the neighborhoods how those wars affected families in the neighborhood. Gold stars indicated a family member killed while serving in wartime.

These banners can be ordered from the American Legion catalogue at cost plus shipping and handling. Should you want one or more please contact the Post.

American Legion Birthday Dinner

The dinner was held Saturday, March 15th at Post 5, Colorado Springs. The food was excellent. The atmosphere was outstanding and the table settings with their centerpieces added a touch of class. Induction of two members into the American Legion was part of the program followed by a fun auction. Many thanks to those that attended, Larry Johnson and Greg Andries for doing the cooking, and the Auxiliary members who did the table arrangements and settings.

Honor Guard

Families who mourn the loss of a loved one appreciate the presence of Honor Guards and the services they provide. Current military requirements limit the availability of military service members to serve as honor guards for funerals. With sufficient interest and commitment by Legion members, we can develop an honor guard detail from members within this Post. There is no question that the need exists. We have a volunteer who will provide training for those willing to commit to serving on an Honor Guard detail. Ten or more volunteers are needed to make an Honor Guard detail work. If there is enough interest we can do it. Otherwise those in need of an Honor Guard may well be disappointed. Please contact the Post if you are willing to be part of this effort.

Happy Easter



**Post 209
2002-2003 Officers**

Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
Sr. Vice Cdr.	Norman Moyer
Jr. Vice Cdr.	Greg Andries
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Gideon Diamon
Historian	Bill Marshall
Sergeant at Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson
Service Officer	Tom Morant
Post Exec Committeeman	Neal Thomas
Dues	\$ 30.00

**Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers
2002-2003**

President	Dot Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Marcia Shellhammer
Sergeant at Arms	Ruth Hornik
Dues	\$ 15.00

Meetings

Board of Trustees – 1 st Thursday 6:30 P.M. at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste 104
Executive Committee Meeting to follow
Post Membership Meeting – 3 rd Thursday at 7:00 P.M. VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave

Board of Trustees

Chairman (3 yr)	Neal Thomas
Secretary (2 yr)	Alton Cyriaque
Finance Officer (1 yr)	Gideon Diamon
Commander (1 yr)	Charles Zeitvogel
Member (3 yr)	Larry Johnson
Member (2 yr)	Francis Redington
Member (1 yr)	Ann Foster
Meets on the 1 st Thursday before the Post Executive Committee Meeting at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste 104.	

Membership Eligibility Dates

World War I April 6, 1917 – 11 November 1918
World War II December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946
Korean War June 25, 1950 – January 31, 1955
Vietnam War February 28, 1961 – May 7 1975
Grenada and Lebanon August 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984
Panama December 20, 1989 -- January 31, 1990
Persian Gulf August 2, 1990 – Until the end of hostilities as set by Congress

Committees

Planning/Budget and Public Relations	Chuck Zeitvogel 719-531-0546
Membership	Norman Moyer 719-392-3725
Program and Social Activities	Greg Andries 719-636-3346
Americanism/Youth/Scouting/Jr. ROTC and Marksmanship	Francis Redington 719-471-3925
Boys State & Oratorical Contest	Bill Marshall 719-495-0088
Legislative & National Security	Neal Thomas 719-392-1510
Veterans Affairs	Tom Morant
Rehabilitation	Howard Hornik 719-596-6345
(Club) Land Use, Care and Development	Greg Andries 719-636-3346
ADHOC	COMMITTEES
Constitution and By-Laws	Neal Thomas 719-392-1510
Property Inventory Office Storage	Ann Foster 719-599-8624 Larry Johnson 719-622-0344
Donation Request	Neal Thomas 719-392-1510
Auxiliary Liaison	
Sons of The American Legion	Larry Johnson 719-622-0344



From the Commander
Charles Zeitvogel
(continued)

Retirees Appreciation Day

Plans are to have a Retirees Appreciation Day, Saturday morning, June 14th at Arnold Hall at the Air Force Academy. This event is for retirees of all branches of the military services and their spouses. It behooves those who desire current information regarding retiree affairs to attend this event.

Post Finances

The Post belongs to the members. How to meet future financial needs of this Post is of extreme importance. This Post has a long history of service to its members and the community at large. Member input is now needed more than ever to chart the future direction that this Post should take. The financing of basic Post needs is something of major consideration at this time. Members are urged to attend the April 17th General Membership meeting where these concerns will be addressed. Please, contact the Post for one-on-one information prior to the April 17th meeting.

Veterans Day Parade

The Veterans Day Parade this year is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th, in downtown Colorado Springs. This is an event we ask you to start planning to be part of and to attend. Details will be provided, as we get closer to November. Please plan to be there and, if at all possible, march, walk or ride in this parade. Your being there will help determine its success.

Committee Formed

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed at the General Membership Meeting 3/27/03 to find solutions to meet future financial needs of your American Legion Centennial Post 209. Serving on this committee are Chairman, Bill Marshal 1- 495-0088, Greg Andries -636-3346, Larry Johnson-622-0344 William Daugherty, Gideon Diamon, Anna Foster, and Harry Johnson - 596-9261. Contact any of these individuals or the Post with your suggestions.

The American Legion, and this your Centennial Post 209, is a member driven organization. What does this mean?

It means that members determine what will and what will not be accomplished. The Commander and elected officers, as well as those appointed, are here to serve "you", the membership. The Officers of this Post are guided by what the membership wants to do, not the other way around. Therefore, it is imperative that you let your Commander and officers know what you want from this organization. The lines of communication are open. The office phone number and address are in the letterhead of this newsletter. Please keep us informed of your desires for this Post.

Skills / Needs Data Bank

The suggestion was made at the 3/27/03 General Membership meeting that a Skills / Needs Data Bank for this Post be established and maintained.

There are many benefits to having a Skills / Needs Data Bank to include: facilitating networking among members and when calls are received for "this or that" service referrals can be made to members. Also, when various services and tasks are needed members will have the first opportunity to meet those needs.

To establish this Skills Bank, we need all Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of the American Legion, to participate. Please contact the Commander with the following brief information: Your name, address & telephone number, your profession or other technical skill, i.e.: attorney, accountant, physician, construction contractor, electrical, plumbing, craftsman, family planner, insurance, real estate, tax planner, etc. I envision having this information alphabetized for quick referral. This is a win - win program for those that participate. Please contact me via e-mail at CZEITVOGEL@AOL.com or send the information to the office address: Attention Commander. I will reply to let you know that your information has been received. Let me hear from you soon.

Department Convention

The Department (State) Convention will be in Colorado Springs on June 26-29th this year. Location will be at the Sheraton Inn, at I-25 and South Circle Dr. Details are provided in the Observer and other Department publications. Legionnaires in this area should make every effort to attend this Convention.

Thought for the Day. At the signing of the Declaration of Independence: "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." –Benjamin Franklin

Boys State - Bill Marshall

The 54th Anniversary of Colorado Boys State is scheduled for June 8-13, 2003 at the University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo. The deadline for submission is May 24, 2003. If you have any candidates in mind, please contact me at the Post 209 office. Last year we sponsored 13 young men to Boys State and one, John Deniston, was elected to attend Boys Nation, an experience he said he will never forget.

This year we would like to sponsor at least 10 young men and this is where the problem lies; the cost is \$215 per candidate. I realize there are a lot of organizations looking for a piece of your billfold and in these times there is only so much we have to give. However, this is one of those that fall in the category of making a big difference in someone's life and in the future of our country. I am asking for your donation of only what you feel you can donate. Also, If you know of any organization that would be willing to help, please let me know and I will contact them and ensure they receive the necessary information concerning Boys State. We have had sponsors in the past, but with times being what they are, we cannot be assured they will participate again this year.

I sincerely appreciate your help in this endeavor and know that again you and Post 209 will send the very best to Boys State.

Court Decides Tinnitus Compensation Eligibility

The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has announced a decision in the case of Wanner vs. Principi.

At issue was whether service connection or compensation for tinnitus should be allowed only for "head injury, concussion or acoustic trauma." The Court held that persistent tinnitus, no matter how it was acquired during service, entitles a veteran to compensation under the rating schedule. Accordingly, in claims for service connection for tinnitus filed before June 10, 1999, including those now on appeal, claimants will now be entitled to service connection without regard to how the tinnitus was acquired. The court did not decide whether veterans are entitled to separate ratings for service-connected bilateral tinnitus (tinnitus in each ear).

Recent VA News Releases

VA To Grant Benefits To More Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (Jan. 23, 2003) - Based upon a recently released review of scientific studies, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi has decided to extend benefits to Vietnam veterans with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

"Compelling evidence has emerged within the scientific community that exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange is associated with CLL," Principi said. "I'm exercising my legal authority to ensure the full range of VA benefits is available to Vietnam veterans with CLL."

The ruling means that veterans with CLL who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War don't have to prove that illness is related to their military service to qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation. Additionally, for more than 20 years, VA has offered special access to medical care to Vietnam veterans with any health problems that may have resulted from Agent Orange exposure, and this decision will ensure higher-priority access to care in the future.

The decision to provide compensation was based upon a recent report by the Institute of Medicine

(IOM) that found among scientific studies "sufficient evidence of an association" between exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War and CLL.

The IOM review, conducted at VA's request, was the latest in a series spanning the period since 1993 when the independent, non-governmental agency first published a report for VA that examined thousands of relevant scientific studies on the health effects of various substances to which American service members may have been exposed in Vietnam.

"On the modern battlefield, not all injuries are caused by shrapnel and bullets," Principi said. "This latest IOM study and my decision to act upon it are the latest examples of VA's continuing efforts to care for the needs of our combat veterans."

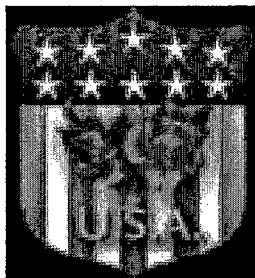
VA requested the IOM panel of experts to focus on CLL in their report because of veterans' concerns that CLL shares some similarities with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which the IOM had previously connected to Agent Orange exposure.

Principi ordered the development of regulations to enable VA to begin paying compensation benefits once a final rule takes effect.

Publication of that regulation is expected in the near future. VA will publish further details, when available, on its Web site at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/>.

In the meantime, veterans with questions about health-care, compensation and survivor benefits may call a toll-free help line at 1-800-749-8387 for information. VA also encourages Vietnam veterans who have not done so to request a subscription to Agent Orange Review, VA's free newsletter that will keep them abreast of developments on this issue and other policies and scientific findings in the future.

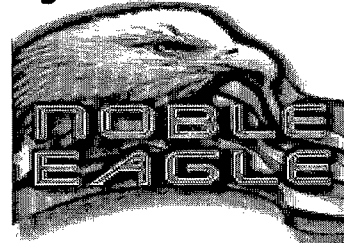
Newsletter subscription information is available from the help line number above.



Dates That Might Interest You

3 Apr	Board of Trustees Mtg – 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste 104 – 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Meeting Follows
17 Apr	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M. Election of officers for 2003-2004
1 May	Board of Trustees Mtg – 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste 104 – 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Meeting Follows
15 May	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M.
17 May	Installation of Officers – More Information to follow
18 May	District 7 Convention – Elks Lodge Cripple Creek – 1:00 P.M.
30 May	Memorial Day – Time to Remember – Be Safe and Have Fun
1 Jun	American Legion Post 1980 Woodland Park – PIG ROAST – Thunderhead Inn – 2:00 P.M. \$7.00 per person
5 Jun	Board of Trustees Mtg – 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste 104 – 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Meeting Follows
14 Jun	Flag Day – Flag Retirement Services – More information to follow
19 Jun	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M.
26-29 Jun	Department Convention – Sheraton Hotel, South Circle Dr. and I-25
4 Jul	Independence Day – Have Fun and Be Safe
3 Jul	Board of Trustees Mtg – 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste 104 – 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Meeting Follows
17 Jul	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M.

Pray for our Soldiers



For Their Safe Return