

Centennial 209 Newsletter

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

MAY 2002



From the Commander
Charles Zeitvogel

OFFICERS ELECTED / APPOINTED

Congratulations to our newly elected / appointed officers and committee persons.

Election of officers was held at the general membership meeting April 18, 2002. They are:

Commander.....	Charles "Chuck" Zeitvogel
Senior Vice Commander	Norman Moyer
Junior Vice Commander	Greg Andries
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer.....	Gideon Diamon
Post Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Post Historian	Bill Marshall
Sergeant at Arms.....	Robert Rydell
Post Member Elected.....	Neal Thomas
Post Service Officer *	Thomas Morant
Judge Advocate*	Larry Johnson

Officers identified by (*) are appointed by the Post Commander, with agreement of the Executive Committee, per our current By-Laws.

POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

This committee consists of the above Officers, Past Commander, Francis Redington, and the Post Executive Committeeman, Neal Thomas.

Standing Committee and Ad Hoc Committee chairmen and members appointed are noted on page 4 of this newsletter. Members are invited to contact anyone of these offices or committee individuals with concerns and recommendations.

DOOR PRIZE Jack Eads name was drawn at the April 18th General Membership Meeting. He would have won \$40.00 by being present. In addition, he could have won \$ 50.00 from the Commander. However, he was not present. The doo door prize for the May General Membership Meeting will be \$ 45.00. Attend and you might win!

IT TAKES COMMITMENT – was the theme sounded a year ago at the installation dinner for newly elected Post officers and is once again offered to members. Many members had the commitment to serve in a variety of approximately 50 different capacities. Community programs and service activities for individuals and organizations are benefiting from work of Post members and is an on-going event. There is something for everyone to participate in. All talents, regardless of level, are welcome. Reports by officers /committee members at general membership meetings provide a window into what members are about to those who attend these meetings.

BINGO MANGER - Greg Andries has done a tremendous job as Bingo Manager this past year. We owe him a great amount of appreciation. His leadership and management skills this past year assured the success of our Bingo game fund raising efforts.

However, now is the time for another stalwart individual to except the challenges of Bingo Manager for this next year. There are many rewards. For example, the job has a starting point and a finishing point. In this regard, we are offering the individual that accepts the Bingo Manager position and challenges the opportunity that they will not have to do it forever The rewards include working with a wonderful group of dedicated workers and knowing that the funds generated from our Bingo games support this American Legion Post and the veteran and civic organization we work with! Therefore, we are asking one member to step forward and volunteer for this most important job and accept all the challenges and rewards that goes with it.

Interested members contact Chuck Zeitvogel, or Greg Andries for details. You may do this by meeting us at the Bingo Depot any Tuesday night, or at a Post General Membership Meeting the third Thursday of the month, or leave a phone message at the Post.

Post 209 Officers

Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
Senior Vice Commander	Larry Johnson
Junior Vice Commander	Norm Moyer
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Greg Andries
Historian	
Sgt-at-Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Judge Advocate	Alton Cyriaque
Service Officer	Thomas Morant
Post Exec Committeeman	Neal Thomas

Dues \$ 30.00

Auxiliary Officers

President	Dorothy Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Marcia Shellhammer
Sgt-at-Arms	Ruth Hornik

Dues \$ 15.00

Meetings

Post Executive Meeting – 1st Thursday –
6:30 P.M. at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Ste 104.

Post General Meeting – 3rd Thursday
7:00 P.M. at VFW Post 4051,
430 East Pikes Peak Avenue.

Auxiliary General Membership Meeting
1:30 P.M. at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, Ste 104.

Board of Trustees

Chairman	Neal Thomas
Secretary	Alton Cyriaque
Member	Gideon Diamon
Member	Chuck Zeitvogel
Member	Francis Redington
Member	Alton Cyriaque
Member	Larry Johnson
Member	Ann Foster

Meets on the 1st Thursday after Executive
Committee Meeting

Membership Eligibility

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
December 22, 1961 – May 7, 1975

Grenada & Lebanon
August 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984

Persian Gulf
August 2, 1990 – Until the end of Hostilities as
set by Congress



Sick Call

Dot Dassero – The last that was heard is that she slowly getting better. Keep up the work DOT we need you back.

Alice Hart– Isn't feeling all that spry these days but is doing pretty good. All who know Alice send her a card it will cheer her up a little.

If you are sick or if you know of someone who is under the weather or in the hospital, please give a call to Howard Hornik at 719-596-6345. Information needs to be in the editor's hands by the 2nd Friday of every month for inclusion in the newsletter.



Calendar Of Events



**Adjutant
Ann Foster**

ADJUTANT ANNOTATIONS:

- 3 May** Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M. Board of Trustees follows
- 17 May** General Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M. at VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave
- 18 May** Department Commander's Homecoming at Aurora Post 23
- 25 May** Installation of Officers, 6:00 P.M. Social Time: 6:45 Opening and Dinner served at 7:00 P.M. Installation to follow the dinner
- 6 June** Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M. Board of Trustees follows
- 9 14 Jun** Boys State at USC in Pueblo
- 20 June** **NO General Membership Meeting**
- 20- 23 June** Department Convention in Aurora at the Renaissance located at Quebec and I - 70 in Denver
- 4 Jul** Independence Day - Enjoy a safe holiday
- 11 Jul** Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M. Board of Trustees to follow
- 18 Jul** General Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M. at VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave
- 1 Aug** Post executive Committee Meeting 6:30 P.M. Board of Trustees to follow
- 15 Aug** General Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M. at VFW Post 4051, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave

Membership is now at 292. We only need six more members for 110%. Surely you have a neighbor or someone you know at work that you could sign up. Our Department and our District need our help to reach their goals. Come July, the recruiting for 2003 will begin. We will be in better shape to achieve whatever goals will be established for that year if we can have 110% by the time we finish 2002. Additionally, we always have to think about those who transfer from us due to moving, etc. and those who leave to join Post Everlasting.

The 42nd Annual US Air Force Academy Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet was 29 March. As a part of The American Legion Operation Reconnect program, our Post purchased memberships for the four winners. This qualified Post 209 as a community partner. We were listed in the program and introduced that evening. Past Commander Francis Redington, District 7 Chaplain Harry McFadden, and I attended the banquet. The winners are SRA Venus J. Applebury, TSgt Sara L. Dozier, MSgt Larry S. Olsen, and First Sergeant winner MSgt Daniel R. Williams. This is a wonderful event each year with one of the former Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force as the guest speaker and the Air Force Band of the Rockies as a part of the evening's entertainment. It is held in Mitchell Hall and does not cost that much for the meal. Why not think about joining those of us who will attend next year?

The National Commander's visit to Post 38 on 10 April was very well attended. Past Commander Francis Redington, Finance Officer Greg Andries, and I represented Post 209. After a very nice dinner, Commander Richard J. Santos spoke about the need to find more younger members for The American Legion. The point being, who will be take over when those WWII, Korea, and even Vietnam Veterans have gone on to Post Everlasting? He suggested that a good mentoring program could really be helpful in grooming younger members to positions in the Legion that will allow for the continued growth of the organization. I asked how we could get the younger members involved and he suggested we consider activities that will involve their children in events such as a Halloween party, having the

Easter bunny come visit, etc. I think this is an idea we will be discussing in the coming year. If you would like to see something developed in this area, please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Committee.



**Commander
Charles Zeitvogel
(continued)**

Committee Appointments,

Following are committee appointments for this next year.

Standing Committees:

Planning / Budget –	Chuck Zeitvogel
Public Relations –	Chuck Zeitvogel
Membership –	Norm Moyer
Program /Social –	Greg Andries
Americanism /Youth Scouting –	Francis Redington
Boys State –	Bill Marshall
Oratorical –	Bill Marshall
Junior Shooting –	Francis Redington
Junior ROTC –	Francis Redington
Legislative & National Security –	Neal Thomas
Veteran Affairs –	Tom Morant
Rehabilitation –	Howard Hornick
Club Land Use/Care/Development –	Greg Andries

Ad Hoc Committees:

Constitution & By-Laws Review & Update:
Neal Thomas
Ann Foster
Al Cyriaque

Property Inventory:
Office – Ann Foster;
Storage Unit – Larry Johnson
Donation Requests: Neal Thomas
Auxiliary Liaison: (Open)
Sons of the American Legion Liaison:
Larry Johnson
Bingo: Greg Andries



CENTENNIAL 209 Annual Picnic

WHEN: Sunday, August 18, 2002

TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**WHERE: Palmer Park-Meadowlands
(located at the corner of Maizeland and Academy Blvd)**

Come join us and enjoy a relaxing picnic and activities such as discussions with friends, volleyball, horseshoes, badminton, etc.

We have reserved the picnic area near the playground with space for many activities.

MENU: Post 209 will provide meats (pork ribs, hamburgers, hotdogs and brats), condiments, buns and sodas.

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE WITH AT LEAST 10 OTHERS

PLEASE CALL NORM MOYER AT (719) 392-3725 or cell (719) 332-3701 or GREG ANDRES (719) 636-3346 and let us know how many in your party and how many will be children—by August 12th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW AND PLAN TO ATTEND!!!

Attention Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members!

On Saturday, May 11, we are planning a property cleanup at the Post property located at the SE corner of Old Farm Road and Austin Bluffs. We need at least 25-35 people to help. We are also expecting help from the Cub Scout troop that we support. Cleanup will start at 9 a.m. and go until completed.

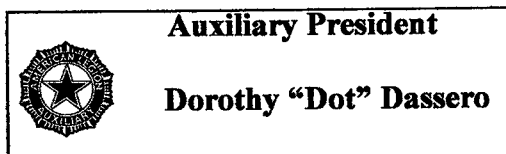
There will be a cookout of hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas. If you would like to bring a favorite dish, salad or dessert, please let me know.

Equipment needs are rakes, shovels, sledgehammers, trashcans and trash bags. Please RSVP to Greg Andries 636-3346 as soon as possible. We are looking for a good turnout so it won't take too long. All help is appreciated. Come meet some of your fellow legionnaires!

Donations Needed/ Fund Raiser

By Greg Andries

We are planning to participate at the Flea Market on Saturday, May 25th, as a fundraiser for the Post. We will sell donations received from Legionnaires and friends to help support the Legions activities and programs. A list of possible items to donate for sale are clothes, radios, dishes, records, toys, tools, books, fishing/camping equipment, games, CDs, tapes, stuffed toy animals, puzzles, electronic games, small appliances, anything working, clean and appropriate. We also ask that you price these items with tape or stickers for value, as we won't have time to do this before setting up. Volunteers are also needed for this day if only for a couple of hours. It makes it easier on everyone involved if we all share the responsibility and support of our Post. For donation contributions, information, or any questions, please call Greg Andries at 636-3346. We need this information as soon as possible so we can have a successful fundraiser. Thanks for all of your support. (Our only other fundraiser is the Bingo games at Bingo Depot every Tuesday evening. If you would like to help, please give me a call for detail. We need the help if only for one night a month.)



The Auxiliary officers for the year 2002-2003 will remain the same as they were last year. The Officers are:

President	Dorothy Dassero
Secretary/Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Marcia Shellhammer
Sgt-at-Arms	Ruth Hornik

As the year continues we will be putting out further information on the Auxiliary and Unit 209 in the newsletter.

Legislative Update

By Neal Thomas

We constantly hear complaints about the lack of benefits for Veterans who have given so much for their country. Yes, it is true that the Department of Veterans Affairs or VA is continuously denying Veterans benefits.

A few days ago, we were pleasantly surprised to read headlines that stated "Vets win on Agent Orange".

Over the years, the government added a host of diseases associated with Agent Orange entitling Veterans to disability benefits. Those include several cancers, including cancer of the lung, larynx and trachea. Last year, the government recognized adult onset Diabetes. The ruling puts prostate cancer and adult onset diabetes in line with the other diseases acknowledged by the government to have links to Agent Orange. This means disability benefits would be paid from when a claim was first filed.

A federal appeals court ruled the Department of Veterans Affairs must pay retroactive disability payments to thousands of Vietnam veterans. If you are a Vietnam veteran and feel that you might be eligible for benefits due to Agent Orange, you are still eligible to register and file a claim with the VA. However, you should be aware that it will be quite a wait before you can be evaluated and the reason for this is that there is a considerable backlog at the present, so plan on being patient.

Currently, there are thousands of veterans enrolling with the VA. This is due to the fact that most HMO's are denying benefits and not paying for expensive drugs needed by these elderly veterans. In many cases the HMO's actually dropped these elderly veterans as clients. This is a serious problem and it is currently being addressed in Congress. Contact your Congressman and Senators regarding this deplorable situation.

While you are contacting your Congressional delegation, also congratulate them on the job they have done in getting passage of the concurrent pay bill. They did pass this bill that would correct an outstanding injustice that has been long overdue. As I am sure many of you are aware, if you are a military retiree with a disability, you cannot draw both disability pay and your retired pay. This concurrent pay bill would correct this inequity if and when it is funded. That brings us to the point of getting funded passed in this session of congress. Presently there is legislation pending that would fund this bill. We must insure that our legislators are aware of our need to have this bill funded to correct this situation. After all, only the military retiree is penalized in this fashion. All other federal employees can draw their disability compensation and full retirement pay.

While we are in contact with our legislators, also thank them for enacting the TRICARE and TRICARE FOR LIFE legislation. It seems to be working quite well. It was long overdue but it did finally get passed.

There is another area of concern that is presently being debated in congressional committees. The president's budget request deleted the funding for Veterans Employment in the Department of Labor and requested funding in the Department of Veterans Affairs. This is utterly ridiculous to assume that the Department of Veterans Affairs can operate Veterans Employment and training services in any reasonable fashion.

The plan following transfer of this funding would put the service up to bids and relegate it to a private employment agency operation. It would also cause the current veteran employment staff to become unemployed, as they would not be transferred along with the funding to VA. Recommend that our legislators oppose this transfer.

Memorial Day Services

Memorial Day Services will once again be conducted at "The Rock" in Memorial Park. Services will held on 26 May and begin at 11:00 A.M. and usually last for an hour to an hour and a half.

It is a time to remember our loved ones that have gone before us to pave the way so to speak. It is also a time to remember our friends and personnel we served with during a period of conflict or war who did not come back.

Other Veterans Issues Making News

Hot information received 4-25-02 that might help veterans.

This could affect a few veterans. If you need help you can go to the County Veterans Affairs Office located across from the VA Clinic on Spruce Street and talk with James Tackett, or Bud Sailor.

Subject: Allen vs. Principi, 237 F.3d 1368
Date: Thu, 18 Apr 2002 17:53:30 -0400

This just in! Decision handed down today by the federal courts.

Paul Sutton

"Success is a journey, not a destination."

April 18, 2002

In Reply Refer To: 211B Director (00/21)

Fast Letter 02-11

VA Regional Office

SUBJ: Lifting the stay of secondary claims for alcohol and drug abuse disabilities under Allen v. Principi.

What the Federal Circuit held in Allen In Allen vs. Principi, 237 F.3d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2001), rehearing en banc denied, 268 F.3d 1340 (2001), the Federal Circuit found that 38 U.S.C. § 1110 permits a veteran to receive compensation for an alcohol-abuse or drug-abuse disability acquired as secondary to, or as a symptom of, a veteran's service-connected disability. According to the Federal Circuit, section 1110 precludes compensation only in two situations: 1) for primary alcohol abuse disabilities; and 2) for secondary disabilities (such as cirrhosis of the liver) that result from primary alcohol abuse. The Federal Circuit defined "primary" as meaning an alcohol abuse disability arising during service from voluntary and willful drinking to excess.

Prospects for further litigation on Allen. A petition was filed at the Federal Circuit to request that the full court (en banc) rehear the Allen case. This rehearing request was denied. General Counsel has since worked with Compensation and Pension Service and the Department of Justice to determine the feasibility of appealing this case to the Supreme Court. The Department of Justice ultimately decided not to pursue further litigation. The effect of this decision on the stay Since the Allen litigation is now complete, the stay of these claims, imposed in Fast Letter 01-35, is immediately lifted. Adjudicating cases under the Allen decision means that veterans can obtain compensation for alcohol or drug-abuse related disabilities where the substance abuse is secondary to a service connected condition, such as a mental disorder. In addition, substance abuse may be a symptom of worsening of a service-connected condition resulting in a higher rating for that condition.

As noted in Fast letter 01-35, it is up to the decision maker to determine whether an alcohol or drug abuse disability is actually caused by a service-connected disability. Effective immediately, Fast Letter 01-35 is rescinded. If you have any questions about how to

process these types of claims, you may contact the Judicial Review Staff of the C&P Service.

/s/

Ronald J. Henke, Director
Compensation and Pension Service

Installation of Officers 2002

The Installation of Officers will be conducted American Legion Post 5, 15 E. Platte Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO. on Saturday, 25 May, 2002.

We will start the evening at 6:00 P.M. with a social gathering. At 6:45 P.M. the Commander will open the meeting. At 7:00 P.M. or upon completion of the opening ceremony, dinner will be served.

The menu consists of steak, veggies, salad, baked potato, and dessert. The cost of this evening will be \$ 10.00 per person.

Please call Larry Johnson at 719-622-0344 and leave a message indicating how many will be in your party by 23 May 2002. You can pay at the door



**Senior Vice Cdr
Larry Johnson**

The American Legion year 2001-2002 is about over and I would like to thank all the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of Centennial 209 for renewing your membership for 2003 and helping recruit new members.

In our history the year 2001-2002 will read very well in the future of our Post and Unit. We set and exceeded many goals for the year. This is due to the hard work of all Legionnaires and Auxiliary members, especially to those Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who have, without complaint, given so much of their time and talents. I am sure the Post, as well as the Commander, is going to recognize these Legionnaires and Auxiliary members at the Installation of Officers on 25 May.

We are coming into a part of the year that our children and grandchildren enjoy so much. THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. Yep, it's that time of the year when they don't have to worry about school or homework. They can stay up late and run around all the next day. That means that, for a

while, they will be forgetting some of the things that are important and will be running in and out of traffic with abandonment. We as Legionnaires and Auxiliary members, as well as members in our communities, need to pay special attention when we are driving around the country and our communities. Please be careful when driving and remember that these kids are the future of this nation. Give them a chance to lead.

I hope that you all have a wonderful and SAFE summer. Hope to see you at one of our meetings/activities soon.

BOYS STATE BY FRANCIS REDINGTON

Boys State is just one of many Americanism Programs. They are all important, but unlike the other programs, Boys State is an opportunity to produce excellent government leaders in a program compressed into four days of building a 51st state. In this short period, they develop leadership and instill a sense of pride in the American way of life. They elect city, county, and state officials including Governor, Lt. Governor, two Senators and alternates. The alternates would take the place of a Senator not able to attend Boys Nation. The two elected Senators will proceed to Washington, D.C. to attend Boys Nation, visiting with President Bush and attending the Senate and House of Representatives to observe and participate in the Governmental process. Each state sends two young men to Boys Nation from the thousands of hopefuls who attend Boys State each year. They carry with them bills they passed while forming the State Government.

The qualifications for a young man to attend Boys State are very explicit. The student must be a Junior and in the upper third of his class. He must have the characteristics of leadership ability, enthusiasm, honest, cooperation and the desire to achieve a goal. He must write a short essay on "Why I want to Attend Boys State". This will be followed by an interview with the designated counselors concerning current events, what he expects to gain from attending, etc. Based on all of the above, the student is either certified or rejected for attendance to Boys State by the team of counselors.

The American Legion Colorado Boys State will be held June 9-14th in Pueblo. It is their 53rd Anniversary. Post 209 has a goal of sending ten young men to Boys State this year.