



Centennial 209 Newsletter

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

May 2003



From the Commander
Charles Zeitvogel

Membership Renewals.

Let's talk membership renewals. Renew your membership now if you have not already done so, it is in your own self-interest to do it. Contact the office at the phone number indicated above in the letterhead of this newsletter should you have misplaced the renewal form or otherwise need assistance.

Each and every member in the American Legion is vitally important. We strive to encourage members to renew their membership for a variety of reasons. Please call me, or one of your other officers, should you have doubts or questions about renewing. We will be more than happy to discuss the issues of concern and provide information that you might need.

Congratulate yourself, and pat yourself on the back, if you have already renewed. It was the right thing to do! If you have not received your new member card or your check has not cleared - call the office and let us know. Occasionally there may be a mix-up with the Postal Service; we need to know to correct potential problems

Member Driven Organization.

Your - Centennial Post 209 is a member driven organization. This means your ideas, interest, and participation, as well as that of all our members, ultimately determines what happens in your / our Post. Input is needed from all members to help the elected officers better serve. Attend membership meetings, call, write or send e-mail with your ideas and thoughts. All members are VIM's (Very Important Members) in Post 209.

Data Information Bank.

The need of a Data Information Bank was addressed in the April newsletter. The intent is to use the information provided to better serve members and the Post in times of need. Send your information to me at the office or by e-mail to: CZEITVOGEL@AOL.com. It is needed to get the Skills Data Bank started.

Include your level of experience i.e.:

1 = Professional, 2 = Amateur, 3 = Limited.

Following is a limited list of possible skills: Accounting, Bookkeeping, Carpentry, Carpet Installer, Computers, Electrical, Equipment Operator, Financial Planning, Food Service, Heavy Equipment Operator, Insurance, Landscaping, Law, Masonry, Mechanic, Medical, Nursing, Painting, Plumbing, Sewing, Sheet-rock installer, Welding, Woodworking.

Honor Guard.

There have been no member calls or interest, as of this writing, in the formation of an American Honor Guard. The invitation is open. Contact me if you would like to be part of an American Legion Honor Guard detail.



**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 – 1st Thursday 6:30 P.M. at
4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste 104**

**Executive Committee Meeting to follow
Post Membership Meeting – 3rd Thursday @
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 & 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 and Oratorical Contest	Bill Marshall 719-495-0088
Legislative and National Security	Neal Thomas 719-392-1510
Veterans Affairs	Tom Morant 719-570-0843
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)

Blue Star & Gold Star Banner Program.

Blue Star and Gold Star Banners are available through The American Legion Emblem Sales Catalog. Contact the office to order the banners you may need. Blue stars are for family members in the service. Gold stars are for family members killed in action. The custom of displaying these banners goes back to the World War I & II days.

Officers Elected.

The following officers were elected / appointed at the April 17th general membership meeting.

Commander	Charles Zeitvogel
Sr. Vice Cdr.	Greg Andries
Jr. Vice Cdr.	Bill Marshall
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Gideon Diamon
Sgt-at-Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Historian	W.W. Bandler
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas
*Service Officer	Tom Morant
*Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson

Thanks to the officers that served this past year. Installation of new officers will be Saturday, May 17th. Let's congratulate and support the new officers in their efforts to lead Post 209 this next year.



From the Jr. Vice
Cmdr. Greg Andries

Installation of Officers' Dinner

The installation of officers' dinner will be held at Howard's Pit BBQ located at 3350 N. Chestnut Street (the old County Line BBQ). Installation will be held in the Banquet room on May 17th. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and installation of officers will follow. Cost will be \$15.00 per person and will be collected at the banquet door. Cost includes buffet of BBQ chicken, BBQ ribs, cole slaw, baked beans, rolls with butter, tax and gratuity. Drinks are not included.

RSVP to Greg Andries at 636-3346 by May 14th.

For I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NV

June 19th General Membership Meeting

Sherry Brown, Vice President and West Regional Development representative of Colorado, will be the guest speaker. The purpose of National Regional Leadership is to provide support for and education about the Washington Cathedral, its goals and purpose, through the National Cathedral Association.

Time and place will be in the June newsletter.



KEEP AMERICA STRONG

What is your Presidential Knowledge??

Match the correct president to each question:

1. Who was the first U.S. President to leave the country during wartime?
2. The first to visit Canada and Alaska?
3. The first to tour the United States?
4. Which president led the United States into war with Mexico?

Choices: Warren G. Harding, James Polk, George Washington, FD (Answers found elsewhere in the newsletter.)

What are we Doing?

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.
26 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 – 4:00 PM on the Post Property
	Retiree Appreciation Day – AFA – Arnold Hall 8:00 AM
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.
7 Aug	Board of Trustees Mtg – 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy Ste 104 – 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Meeting Follows
17 Aug	209's Annual Picnic on Post Property – Corner of Austin Bluffs Pkwy and Old Farm Road – 9 AM with lunch served at 12 P.M. Come on out and enjoy
21 Aug	Membership Meeting – VFW Post 4051 – 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave – 7:00 P.M.

Retiree Appreciation Day – Air Force Academy

The Air Force Academy will once again sponsor a Retiree Appreciation Day on Saturday, 14 June 2003.

This event will be held at Arnold Hall beginning at 8:00 AM. This event is designed to present information on a variety of subjects in health care, TRICARE, and other issues that concern retiree's.

This is open to all who have retired from Active Military service.

There will be more information to follow.

Don't forget Memorial Day.

A time to be thinking of loved ones and remembering the good times.

Time to reflect upon the sacrifices that have been made on behalf of Freedom.



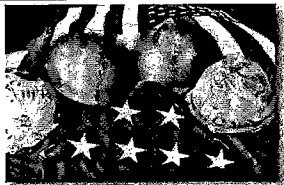
Post 209 Picnic

The Post picnic will be held on Sunday, August 17th at the post property at the corner of Austin Bluffs and Old Farm Road starting at 9 a.m. Lunch will be around noon. Please bring a favorite covered dish to serve at least ten and non-alcoholic drinks. Larry Johnson will have the grill available to anyone who wants to cook hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken or whatever.

We ask that you bring folding tables and chairs for everyone in your party. There will be a port-o-let at the site.

If you wish to bring horseshoes, badminton, volleyball, baseball or softball equipment, Frisbees, or other outdoor games, please feel free to do so.

If weather does not permit, we will reschedule.



Memorial Day 2003:

Memorial Day 2003 will be observed on Monday, 26 May 2003.

At 11:00 A.M., there will be memorial day services at "The Rock" in Memorial Park.

Come down and join with us as we remember the sacrifices that have been made by our Veteran.

Remember those who have given so much.

In case of inclement weather the ceremonies will be held at The Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emery Circle.



From the Adjutant
Ann Foster

It is 11 April, and we have 266 Legionnaires for 2003. Our goal is 292 Legionnaires for 100% and we are 26 members away from the goal of 292 Legionnaires. We are trying to reach a goal of 311 Legionnaires which when then put us at 110% of membership.

I know you are probably thinking why is this still so important know. First, we only have until 14 May 2003 to reach this goal and for recognitions that come with this membership attainment goal by the Department of Colorado.

More importantly we need membership in order to accomplish the aims and purpose of The American Legion. These purposes are continually being stated in this column, the Department publications and The American Legion Magazine. We should not have to be reminded while we are fighting a war in Iraq. However, we do owe all of our fellow veterans and all of the Servicemen and women who are on active duty now to continue the good work started by The American Legion in 1919.

Thus we need all of you to make a final push this year by ASKING YOUR NEIGHBORS, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR CO-WORKERS, AND YOUR FELLOW PARISHNERS AT CHURCH. etc., if they would like to help those who have served and are currently serving on active duty by becoming a member of the largest and best veteran's organization around!!!!

Additionally, the future of this Post may be dependant upon your willingness to help us grow, so please go the extra mile!! Thanks for listening.

Answers to President questions:

1. FDR, 2. Warren G. Harding, 3. George Washington, 4. James Polk



From the Post Executive
Committeeman
Neal Thomas

Comrade Legionnaires:

Today we are facing a crisis in the continued existence of this American Legion Post.

Over the 27 years we have gone from a novel, new, unknown Post to one of the most recognized Post's within the western region of The United States.

Over the years I have personally served with, recruited and helped to serve the needs of others with many of you. I can recall when I first joined in 1977 there were many senior members who were actively employed and unable to assist with Post projects. Furthermore, there were many others who joined who were also unable to get involved due to employment. Nevertheless, all wanted to be Legionnaires and paid their dues regularly over the years. Today, this situation has changed for many of us and we need your help. Many of us are now retired and available to assist.

Today, we are a far cry from the little Post of 1976 in assets. In 1976 we had assets of 32 members, \$ 58.00 in cash, and all Post physical assets were kept in one briefcase. Today, we have approximately 300 members, \$.5 million in assets and little or no cash flow. Of course, you ask, what's the problem? The problem is that we have a lack of displayed concerned and dedicated Legionnaires to fill the various positions within this Post and perform the myriad duties to maintain the Post as a viable entity.

We must have dedicated Legionnaires who are willing to devote time, energy and resources to make this Post the proud organization it once was. We have a history that is the envy of many of the small Posts in this organization. We have served this

community well in many areas including Temporary Family Assistance, Family Support Network Activity, Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets, The American Legion Boy's State Program. The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest and summer Baseball programs. We have won many awards and have had two Department Commanders elected from our little Post along with selections to many National Boards and Councils.

We are currently at a crossroad and need the help of each and every one of you to insure that we continue on the road of service to the Community, State and Nation.

We can, with your help, rebuild the stature of this Post to one of prominence. I am fully aware that everyone can't work bingo, sell raffle tickets, or build a Post home physically. But, there is something each of us can do assist in this effort. I know that each and everyone of you "Care Enough to Make a Difference". Otherwise, why would you have signed on as a Legionnaire following the completion of your military obligation? You chose to assist your fellow veterans and their family and that need still exists today. This organization was established to provide for those who had borne the battle, were wounded, ill, widowed and orphaned. That need is ongoing today, as we fight a war in Iraq. Will we be there for them (veterans) when they return? Or, will they return to someplace where "No one Cares Enough to Care"?

Will The American Legion Post 209's Banner still be flying high to welcome them home and help them through their trials and tribulations? I hope so!!

I am counting on each of you to at least offer a suggestion as to how we can get this Post moving again. If you would like to speak with me personally call me at (719) 392-1510 or e-mail me at nealthomas3@msn.com. In any case get on board and lend a hand. You can also contact the Post (719) 599-8624 with your response.

Maybe this picture of a soldier in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson saying good bye to his daughter and telling her that everything will be okay will help associate what The American Legion and Post 209 stands for and who we support.



(Picture courtesy of Public Affairs, Fort Carson Mountaineer)

For God and Country
Neal Thomas

**Learn to help people with more than just
their jobs; help them with their lives.**

John F. Kennedy



From Past Commander
Francis Redington

Flag Retirement Ceremony:

On June 14, 2003 "Flag Day", The American Legion Post 209 and American Legion Post 38 will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony According to the Manual of Ceremonies for The American Legion.

This ceremony will take place on the property of Post 209 located on the corner of Austin Bluffs Parkway and Old Farm Road at 4:00 P.M.

If you have any torn, tattered or otherwise unserviceable flags, please contact Past Commander Francis Redington at 719-471-3925 to arrange a time and place for turn in.

This ceremony will be open to the public.

