

# CENTENNIAL POST 209

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

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SEPTEMBER 1998

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On Sunday, August 23, 31 Legionnaires and families attended the picnic at Sky Sox Stadium. Other than problems with the catering service and the sun, we had a pretty good time. The Sky Sox lost the game but it was a change from our normal picnic and the members had fun. I surely did miss the rest of you and hope we can have more attending next year.

I have had a few phone calls regarding membership cards. We have had some personnel problems but are getting the cards out very soon. I hope you understand and will be patient. Thank you.

This last week I received a letter from Wally Lonsinger who stated that because of medical reasons he would be unable to continue as the Post's Judge Advocate and member of the Board of Trustees.

Wally is a charter member of Centennial Post 209 and during his years has served in many positions, including Post

Commander and Adjutant. Wally has been instrumental in helping to hold the Post together for more years than anyone cares to remember. He has been active in fund raising activities. In addition, Wally has been and will continue to be a Legionnaire who listens to ideas and gives more than he receives. Wally put together the membership booth that we use at gun shows. He has always been willing to listen to ideas and give advice and guidance.

Wally, I know that you are reading this and I accept your decision, knowing it was hard to make. I know how much you love The American Legion and what it stands for. I know that we will still be able to talk with you and that you will be there at the gun shows to serve as a sounding board, and be the great company you are. I do wish the Post had ten Wallys to help with the programs and the many projects we are involved with.

In actuality, we do have ten Wallys, plus about 305 Legionnaires who have renewed their membership for 1998 and 173 who have renewed for 1999. The only thing we need is for all to become more active.

### OFFICERS

COMMANDER	LARRY JOHNSON
SR VICE COMMANDER	FRANCIS REDINGTON
JR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	AL CYRIAQUE
HISTORIAN	NORMAN MOYER
SGT AT ARMS	NORM HARPOLE
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	TOM MORANT
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	DOROTHY DASSERO
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	
SECRETARY	ANITA MCFADDEN
TREASURER	BARBARA JOHNSON
HISTORIAN	
CHAPLAIN	JUDITH MCFADDEN
SGT-AT-ARMS	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$15.00

### MEETINGS

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

### EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

### OFFICE

4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKWY STE 104  
COLORADO SPRS CO 80918-2944  
719-599-8624

(cont'd from the Commander)

I know that not everyone can become as involved as others are, especially when you consider medical problems, raising families, work schedules and those who do not live locally. I know because I have received letters giving me encouragement and some ideas on activities which we could become involved with. And I have received letters giving me all kinds of heck.

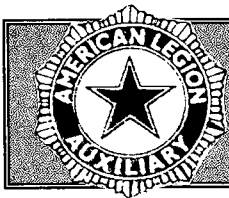
The one thing I will close with is: There are many things that we can't do without..."U." We cannot spell US without "U"...we can't spell success without "U"...we can't support the programs of The American Legion without "U." "U" are very important to US. Please get involved with US.

**EARLY  
BIRDS**



## ELECTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER

There will be an election to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees at the General Meeting, September 17. If you are interested in moving this Post forward, please come out to the meeting. The one requirement is that you must have been a member of the Post for a period of five (5) continuous years.



DOT DASSERO  
PRESIDENT

I missed seeing you at the picnic because of a District 7 Executive Board Meeting that same Sunday. Hope you all enjoyed it and didn't get sunburned. Too bad the Sky Sox lost though, a win would have been an ending to a nice day.

Our membership is half way to our goal. Please send your dues in as soon as possible. We would like to meet goal early in December. Mid-Year Conference is here in Colorado Springs in January and it would be nice to 100% before then.

## FORT LYON ALL PATIENTS DAY ACTIVITIES

On Saturday, September 12, the VA Medical Center at Fort Lyon will host its annual All Patient Activities Day. This year, we will be car pooling to Ft Lyon. If you would like to attend, please call Larry Johnson at 550-1369. If you can drive and wouldn't mind taking

someone with you, please let us know.

We will be leaving from the Post's office between 6:30 and 7:00 A.M. We should be at Fort Lyon by about 11:00 in time to enjoy a lunch of B-B-Q beef and more than likely a generous serving of Rocky Ford cantaloupe. The actual Patient Day activities begin at 1:00 and last about two hours. Then we lower and fold all the flags posted on the Avenue of Flags.

Following this, there is usually a picnic to say thank you to the volunteers. We get back to the Springs between 7 and 8:00.

## THOMAS N. MORDANT, SERVICE OFFICER

As the new Service Officer of Centennial Post 209, I need your assistance. I want to serve all veterans and need the help of each Legion member and each Auxiliary member. Please call me at 719-570-1716. I plan to enjoy my job and need your help.

## ANNUAL NAVAL BALL

It has been announced by Commander Ben Miller of the Colorado Springs Naval Reserve that the Annual Naval Ball will be held October 9 at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. Festivities begin at 6:00. Dress is formal mess or black tie. Cost is \$20.00 for E6 or below, for E7 and up it's \$35.00. You must RSVP to Commander Ben Miller by September 28 at 599-8948.

Congratulations are in order to Ben (a member of Post 209) for his promotion to Commander of the Naval Reserve.

ANN FOSTER, ADJUTANT

Congratulations to Lyle Dickason, a member of Post 209, for the award he received at Department Convention for his work on the veterans' side of the Job Service Corp. An award well deserved.

Some excerpts from an editorial printed in The Space Observer, by Master Sgt James D. Runnels. The article is titled "Professional Organizations." Sgt Runnels says "A very close friend once told me a decision not to act is still a decision. Standing around the coffee maker in the morning preaching to the choir about the terrible things that are happening to us is just one example. Complaining to someone who agrees with you does nothing to solve the problem." This is where professional organizations come in. Professional organizations exist to protect our benefits. These organizations work diligently to prevent the erosion or outright loss of services we've grown accustomed to.

These organizations (Sgt Runels refers to the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, and the Air Force Association) have a spectacular record of preventing bad things from happening to us but over the years their ability to persuade Congress to protect many of our promised benefits has

decreased. With the drawdown of our fighting forces and the decreased emphasis for years on the whole person concept, membership in these organizations has plummeted. The once powerful voice of our nation's warriors has become a whisper.

If you were to walk into your congressman's or senator's office and voice your opinion, how far do you think that would go in persuading them one way or another? Now walk into that same office with the voices of 300,000 plus Air Force members, or better yet, 1 million-plus military members. How much listening would that senator or congressman do then?

These organizations are out there in the local and national communities trying every day to better our world. Whether it's rebuilding, repainting, supplying volunteers or funds, these people walk the walk. They not only exist to protect your security in the form of political action, but also your individual sense of well being and the betterment of our communities. ....We can either get involved to affect the direction of change or we can simply accept what's given to us. Remember it's your choice and choosing not to act is still a choice.

Become involved in your own life and events that affect it, or stand on the shoulder of the road and watch as the world passes you by."

Doesn't this article sound familiar to the inducements given for membership in The American Legion?

FROM FRANCIS REDINGTON -  
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Be it ever so humble, there is no place like HOME, or as Legionnaires would say a Post Home!! It seems like everyone thinks or feels there should be one, but, very few are willing to do what they can to see it really takes place. Building or buying a place to meet is everyone's responsibility. This Post has had plans drawn up and the Board of Trustees sought financing. As usual the monthly obligations were greater than the Post's ability to pay over a long period of time. We try to get input from everyone on the methods of raising funds or support in obtaining funds for this endeavor. Although we realize there are many members in our organization who are unable to be a physical, we are in need of support from the members who are able.

As everyone should know, BINGO is our only fundraising activity and with the help of a few more members, we could increase our income activity. With that help our ability to obtain a place to call our own would become a reality.

The facility would allow us another source of income plus being able to have our meetings, patriotic days of observance, parties, dances, and rent our

meeting rooms to other organizations for their functions. Your American Legion Post 209 officers are your elected representatives. As such we can accomplish only to the limit of our physical and mental capabilities. We CANNOT do it alone, we need your SUPPORT. DO NOT HESITATE CONTACTING THOSE LISTED BELOW. YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Commander Larry  
Johnson: 590-1369  
Sr Vice Comdr Francis  
Redington: 471-3925  
Jr Vice Comdr Harry  
Johnson: 596-9261  
Finance Officer: Al  
Cyriaque: 495-4032  
Sgt-At-Arms Norm  
Harpole: 596-2649  
Chaplain Howard  
Hornik: 596-6345  
Historian Norm Moyer:  
392-3725  
Service Officer Tom  
Morant: 570-1716  
Post Executive  
Committeeman Neal Thomas:  
392-1510  
Past Comdr Harry  
McFadden: 591-7606

LATE MEMBERSHIP REPORT -  
ADJUTANT ANN FOSTER

We have 174 members for 1999. That is 55% of our goal of 318. That is a first for this Post! Congratulations! My apologies for the delay in getting the cards out. Personal family and health problems are to blame, but I am better now.

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
CENTENNIAL POST 209  
4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKY STE 104  
COLORADO SPGS CO 80918-2944

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*For God and Country*

