



# Centennial Post 209

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**DATE:** October 20, 1997

**TO:** Post 209 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL

**FROM:** Centennial Post 209

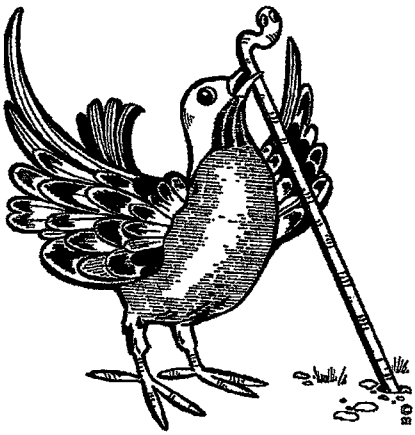
**RE:** Verification of Membership Eligibility, Early Bird Dinner Information, and Retiree Information on Proposed Dental Plan and New Allotment Policy

In order to provide you with the above information before the next edition of the Newsletter, we have elected to do this extra mailing. We hope that you find parts of it beneficial, if not all of it. Please use what applies to you and disregard what does not. Thank you for your attention.

Membership in The American Legion is extended to any person who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at sometime during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990, and August 2, 1990 to Cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States Government. We have no doubt about our members being eligible, but we now find ourselves in the position of needing to have proof of that for an upcoming IRS audit of our Bingo operation.

The IRS says 75% of the members must be eligible, because we are chartered by Congress. The best way to prove that is to have A COPY of your Discharge Form in our file folder for you. This form is more recently called DD Form 214, but earlier veterans will have one with a different number. As long as it is the form that shows your period of service, it will be the right one. Some of you have provided that to us, but a good many have not. We will take the blame for not asking for it sooner, but we do need to ask you for it now. Please help us to accomplish this as soon as possible, so that we may be able to prove our membership status for the IRS.

If you need help in making a copy or obtaining a copy, please advise us and we will assist in any way we can. As a practical matter it is a good idea to have a copy of this form somewhere outside your home in the event of damage that could occur to your copy at home.



## **EARLY BIRD DINNER AND INITIATION**

**1 NOVEMBER 1997**

**WESTERN SIZZLING (CORNER OF  
HIGHWAY 24 AND 8TH STREET)**

**THE POST WILL PAY FOR THE SALAD BAR WHICH  
CONSISTS OF THE MENU LISTED BELOW FOR ALL  
MEMBERS OF THE POST AND AUXILIARY WHO  
HAVE RENEWED OR JOINED BY 31 OCTOBER  
1997.**

**THE COST FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED  
OR JOINED THE POST/AUXILIARY IS 8.00**

**MENU: FRIED AND BAKED CHICKEN, FRIED AND  
BAKED FISH, BBQ RIBS, RICE, POTATOES, SALAD BAR,  
AND DESSERT BAR COFFEE, SODAS, AND TEA.**

**ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS COME TO THE WESTERN  
SIZZILIN AND SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR  
1998.**

**PLEASE BE THERE BY 6:30 P.M...**

**INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS WILL FOLLOW THE DINNER**

**COME ON OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN**

## RETIREE DENTAL PLAN ON HOLD

Military retirees and families are on line to receive low cost dental insurance. The insurance was scheduled to start as early as October 1 when the retiree dental plan would begin offering retirees, spouses and dependent children coverage. It may be after the first of the year before the plan is effective. Also, no cost has been determined and that seems to be the cause of the delay.

The 1997 Defense Authorization Act directed DoD to establish the program and have it operating by October 1. It appears now that the program is delayed because of Congressional concerns over DoD's intent to have a single national premium. They want separate premiums for different geographic regions, to protect retirees living in low cost regions from subsidizing those in higher cost areas.

Premiums will be withdrawn from monthly retiree paychecks and member cost shares will fund it according to Air Force Col Marvin Bennett, senior DoD dental consultant. The plan will offer three enrollment rates: single, two party and family. Unremarried spouses of deceased retirees will also be offered. The plan will not deny care received from non-network dentists, Bennett said.

"Because of the range of ages the program covers, it will offer a broad spectrum of services," he said, "but it may not be as desirable for some older folks because of work the plan doesn't cover. Before enrolling, people should carefully weigh the plan's benefits against their dental needs."

The contractor will send information and enrollment forms to prospective members. Advisers at military hospitals and clinics will offer assistance, he said.

"The dental program will give many retirees access to low cost dental work they haven't had before," Bennett said. "It will take care of a large portion of our retiree population."

## NEW ALLOTMENT POLICY READY

A new allotment system which becomes effective October 1 will give retirees greater flexibility in handling financial matters, something sought for years and for which councils of the services have long fought.

The Voluntary Allotment System will be replaced by the Discretionary/Non-Discretionary Allotment System which gives retirees the authorization to start and change discretionary allotments.

This new system, mandated by Section 651 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 104-201, will allow up to six discretionary allotments.

According to Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland Center officials, retirees wishing to start or change an allotment should fax their request after October 1 to 1-800-469-6559. They may also be mailed to DFAS-CL, Box 99191, Cleveland, OH 44199-1126. Retirees are reminded that it may take 30 to 45 days to process an allotment.

Officials also explain that the policy for non-discretionary allotments has not changed. There remains a policy of a maximum of 15 allotments (non-discretionary and discretionary).