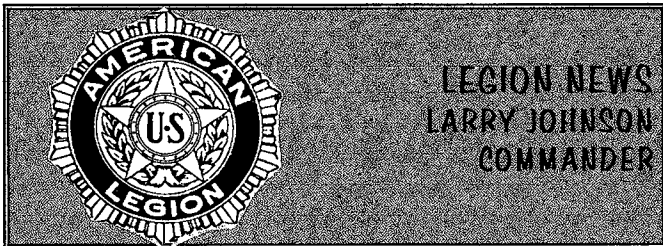


CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

NOVEMBER 1998



November 26 is Thanksgiving and marks the beginning of the Holiday Season. I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving Day and I truly hope that it and the holiday season are not marred in anyway for us all.

I know that on Thanksgiving day we pause and reflect on what we have to be thankful for: our continued health, our families and friends, and the opportunity to reflect/celebrate this day the way that we choose.

But one of the things which I feel sometimes gets pushed to the back is what The American Legion has meant and could mean to veterans and the children and youth of this great nation.

I sometimes feel that there any many children (now adults) who are thankful for the opportunity to make a career in baseball because of The American Legion baseball program, or a career in politics because of their exposure to Boys

State and Boys Nation programs of The American Legion, or because of The American Legion sponsorship of Cub and Boy Scout programs.

I also feel that there are many veterans who are thankful for The American Legion and its members, as without the Legion there would be no GI Bill of Rights or Veterans' benefits, such as the Home Mortgage Program, Education Benefits or Vocational Rehabilitation or VA hospitals, as well as a host of other programs designed to insure that veterans received the care and help they needed in order to get a start when they were released from service.

I know that there have been many ways that the American Legion and the Auxiliary have served Veterans' needs as well as needs of the community in which we reside.

The American Legion is asked every day in some way to provide assistance and help, and we do meet or exceed these requests.



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

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.
DAV POST #26 PALMER PARK & PETERSON RD

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

OFFICE

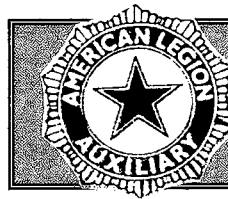
4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKWY STE 104
COLORADO SPRS CO 80918-2944
719-599-8624

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
Granada & Lebanon
Aug 24, 1982 - Jul 31, 1984
Panama
Dec 20, 1989 - Jan 31, 1990
Persian Gulf
Aug 2, 1990 until the
END OF HOSTILITIES

I hope you take some time during this day of thanks and give thought to thanking The American Legion and Auxiliary for the programs and activities which we have supported throughout the years.

Again HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



**DOT DASSERO
PRESIDENT**

Only half of our Auxiliary members have sent in their dues renewals. Please, please, please, ladies, let's get these checks in the mail. You also are invited to the Early Bird Dinner and unless you want to pay \$7.00 for your dinner, be an Early Bird and get it free!

You will also want to attend the Christmas Party which the Post has scheduled. It sounds like a lot of fun. The dinner promises to be delicious and Square Dancing is a great mixer and a whole bunch of fun.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Post's annual Christmas Party will be held December 19. The menu is turkey or ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable medley, dressing, rolls and dessert.

There is no cost for this meal to members of Centennial Post and Unit 209. The cost for non-members will be \$6.00 for the meal and \$6.00 for the dance.

The Christmas Party will be held at VFW Post 4051 located at 430 E. Pikes Peak Avenue. We will have entertainment and dancing.

Please make plans to attend. When you know you will make this event, please call either Harry Johnson at 596-9621 or Commander Larry Johnson at 590-1369 and tell us how many will be attending.

FRANCIS M. REDINGTON SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

There are many American Legion Americanism Programs, one of which is Junior Shooting Sports. It is a three position match, Prone, Standing and Kneeling.



The sport came to the National level in 1991, and was held at the Olympic Training Center Shooting Facility. In 1991 there were only a few hundred competitors for the 24 positions of the National Championships, 12

in Precision Class and 12 in the Sporter Class. In 1998 there were 2,500 to 3,000 competing for the twenty four positions in the National Championships. Each year the numbers increase making it more competitive to qualify for the Nationals. Ever since the initial National records were set, these youngsters keep setting new records. The Junior Shooting Sports, like all other Americanism Programs, builds character and makes better citizens for this country of ours. If any members are interested in more information about the Shooting Sports, contact me at (719) 471-3925 or through Post 209's office.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

I know you have all received renewal notices in the mail (because I have received phone calls) and some of you have already renewed for 1999.

Please understand that because of some health problems on our end and the time frame in which the National organization pulls information for printing of renewal notices, there was a time lapse.

Please, if you have renewed your dues and you have received your cards, throw those notices in the trash. But if you have NOT renewed, take a moment and send your dues in.

If you have a problem or would like to yell, please feel free to call the Commander at 719-590-1369 after 4:00 P.M. I will do my best to resolve whatever the problem.

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At the last General Membership meeting, it was reported that 201 Legionnaires had renewed their membership with the Post and for that I thank you. We are 115 away from making goal. I know that we can count on your help to achieve this goal by December 31.

FROM THE FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN

It has been awhile since I have requested your help. I know that I informed you that I would like to get out of the Games Manager business, and I know that I gave you some reasons. What I am sorry for is that I have not heard from anyone interested in helping Centennial Post continue to support the programs and this Post's activities.

When I joined this Post in 1984 (ask Legionnaires Neal Thomas and Wally Lonsinger), our only fund raiser at that time was a fifty-fifty drawing, or raffling a bottle of Scotch or bourbon to those present (the winner would generally donate it back to the Post for the next meeting).

But even then, we had the idea that we wanted a Post Home from which we could direct and participate in the programs of The American Legion and serve our community. We have come a long way towards this idea and we have had some setbacks, but have prevailed, and each time I would like to think that we came through it a little bit smarter and more determined.

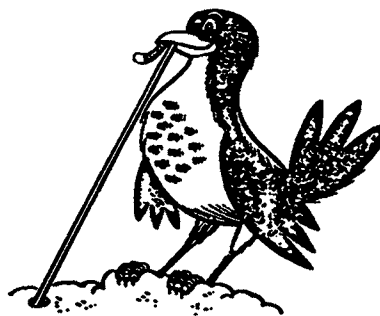
Today the Post owns of piece of property on which we can put this Post Home. We also put into the bank about \$1,200 to \$2,000 a week versus the \$10.00 to \$25.00 we were doing.

We have done this because of a few dedicated Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who donated their time and talents to this Post and its programs and activities. They have come and gone for a variety of reasons but we have always benefited from their presence. Now, I am asking for that someone special to come forward and help this Post a goal which we can all be proud of. We need your help. Please give this some thought and come out. Let us benefit from our expertise and ideas.

VETERAN'S DAY ACTIVITIES

November 11th is very special to all Americans as this is the day the Armistice was signed. There will be many ceremonies throughout the nation in memory of this day.

Locally, on November 7, there will be an "IN THEIR HONOR" PARADE and the Post will be represented in the parade.



The evening of the 7th will be the Post's Early Bird Dinner. Dinner will be at 6:30. After dinner, we will have an initiation of new members.

This initiation is a formal one designed to acquaint you with the symbols of The American Legion flag and what each part stands for. Following the initiation we have a square dance demonstration/lessons followed by some actual time to put those lessons to use. If you have renewed your membership for 1999, the meal is free to you.

There will be a charge for those who are not members of The American Legion or the Auxiliary, \$6.00 per person. The festivities will be held at VFW Post 4051, located at 430 E Pikes Peak Avenue. When you are making your plans, please remember to call Harry Johnson at 596-9261 or Larry Johnson at 590-1369 and inform us of how many will attend. It surely would be nice to see you all at this function.

Following, on the 11th, will be the Veterans' Day Ceremony conducted at "The Rock" in Memorial Park. The ceremony will start at 11:00 A.M. and usually lasts about 45 minutes. I ask that all who can come and represent the Post and remember our Comrades who cannot be there.



**STOP
THE
PRESSES!**



**DO IT YOUR WAY
THE AMERICAN WAY
VOTE**