

The John Lyon Gazette

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April 2020



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
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Arlington VA 22201
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<http://www.vfw3150.org>



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 2018 and 2019 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Awards for 2010, 2011

VFW Post 3150 in 2020

Iraqi Freedom vets largest group

This issue makes the nineteenth annual look at the makeup of John Lyon Post. This year's tally of Post 3150's membership shows that, overall, we are still well represented across the board. Taken separately, Iraqi Freedom is in first place, Vietnam vets in second, Afghanistan third, and GWOTEM vets fifth. If Afghanistan and GWOTEM are counted together they go to first. Persian Gulf / Desert Storm veterans make vets for up our fourth largest block. Considering the relative size of the different branches of the services, we are fairly well represented there, too, with Army being the largest group by far. To keep our tallies comparable from year to year, those were counted who were on the membership roster last July 1st plus new members who have joined since and completed all their paperwork. Some members were in more than one service or had multiple deployments and are counted for each, so the numbers don't add up exactly. Current memberships total 596. The results show that we were in ...

World War II	11		
Post War Occupation	15	Army	339
Korean War	22	Navy	134
Korean Service	86	USAF (including AAF)	98
Taiwan Straits	1	USMC	138
Vietnam / Southeast Asia	184	USCG	7
Libya	2		
Lebanon / Beirut	11	Includes 67 women:	
Grenada / El Salvador / Panama	3	Post War Occupation	3
Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	131	Korea Service	11
Haiti	5	Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	15
Somalia / Horn of Africa / Chad	6	Haiti / Cuba	2
Bosnia / Kosovo	46	Bosnia / Kosovo	9
Afghanistan	171	Iraq	32
GWOTEM	91	Afghanistan / GWOTEM	24
Iraq	260		
Other Expeditionary	58		
CIB /CAR etc	38		

From the Commander:

Greetings, All,

I hope this message finds you happy and healthy.

During this time of the COVID-19 virus, we have all changed the way we do things. Our Post remains committed to the health and safety of our members. Hence, I encourage social distancing and have temporarily closed the Post to do our part to slow the virus and ensure none of our members and volunteers contract the virus from Post activities.

Before we put it on pause, we were at about 40% of our fundraising goal for building maintenance. We look forward to continuing the endeavor of reaching our goal once the situation improves. We will let everyone know when we are back open for business. Meanwhile, our House Committee plans to do some light work on the canteen, while it is closed. If you can, please take time to reach out to other Post members, especially the older ones, to ensure no one feels isolated and learn if they are feeling well.

We will still hold our April Post Membership Meeting on Monday, 20 April. Instructions are forthcoming for electronically accessing the meeting via an online application, such as Skype. You will still be required to present your membership ID to participate.

Nominations are currently open for all elected Post officer positions for the 2020-2021 VFW year. We have currently received one nomination each for Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Chaplain, Quartermaster, and 3-Year Trustee. In addition to elected positions, the new Post Commander will appoint other positions, such as:

- Adjutant – handles administrative affairs for the Post.
- Service Officer – advocates for the care of Veterans.
- Surgeon - provides comfort and support to Veterans.
- Judge Advocate – provides legal counsel to Post leadership.
- Guard – ensures the security and safety of the Post.
- Officer of the Day – commonly chairs the awards and discipline committee.

We need your help to ensure the success of the Post in its mission of helping our fellow veterans. If you want to fill one of these positions, please contact the Post Commander or Adjutant at johnlyon3150@gmail.com.

As we make it through these unique times, I wish you all the best. Stay Healthy!

Yours in health,
Eric Ganser
Post Commander
John Lyon VFW Post 3150

From the President of the Auxiliary:

Spring brings with it renewed hope that life recovers from the dark and cold of winter. This Spring we add the worries of the new coronavirus affecting our need to be around people. In addition, with the schools and all places to congregate being closed, adds a complication to carrying out our mission to help veterans and their families. However, we need to continue to operate in this reduced setting so we can pick up where we left off once the pandemic restrictions are lifted. One means of doing this is by having a meeting in April to elect new officers for the coming year.

National has come out with guidance if the possibility of holding a traditional type of April meeting is not possible. This includes holding a May meeting with election and installation at the same meeting. The aim is to stay safe and be able to conduct business.

In order to have an Auxiliary, we must elect a President at our meeting. I touched on the role of each officer in last month's column. In addition to running the meeting, the President writes this column each month, attends the House Committee meeting or appoints a member to attend. The President will also attend the District meeting or ask for a volunteer to represent the Auxiliary at the meeting. The President has access to the Auxiliary's roster on the National level through Membership Auxiliary Leadership Technology Access (MALTA). They will receive the Department's Communications via emails and is the face of the Auxiliary at all levels of the organization.

The Senior and Junior Vice Presidents assist the President in carrying out the above functions and will preside over the meeting if the President is not present. The Secretary is an appointed position who maintains the minutes for the Auxiliary. The Secretary prepares any correspondence required by the organization, receives the Department Communications and the appropriate chairmen receive the pages they need for their use in carrying out our programs. In addition to being the membership chairman, the Treasurer maintains the books and is the keeper of the bank account. The President and the Treasurer are the only two persons with access to the bank account and can write checks. The Treasurer is the person who processes the dues from existing and new members. The Treasurer also has access to MALTA and can print out dues cards for those who need them. As previously stated, all positions are open for election at our April meeting. If you want to run for an office, please attend and indicate your desire.

Annual membership dues are now being accepted. If you did not renew before December 31, 2019 you are not a member in good standing and are not eligible for the \$550 Cancer grants. You must be a member for 1 year for this valuable membership perk. You can pay our treasurer, Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc, at the post address by \$25 check or go to the National Auxiliary website and pay by credit card. If you have not received your card within two months let Jodie or myself know. You can email me at cg12dc12@outlook.com. Also, if you have a neighbor or friend who is eligible, the application is on the National website or send me an email with their contact information. Our new member dues are \$30 for the 1st year.

As always check on the sick and elderly especially during this time. Happy Anniversary and Birthday to those celebrating in April.

Cathy Graham
President, VFW Auxiliary 3150

**VFW Post Elections &
Corporate Meeting
Mon, 20 Apr 20
7:30 pm**

**VFW Auxiliary Elections
Tues, 21 Apr 20
7:30 pm**



Loyalty Day?

You will notice elsewhere in this newsletter that May 1st is Loyalty Day. “What is Loyalty Day?” some of our newer members may ask.

In April 1965, Post Commander Ned Allred explained in the *Northern Virginia Sun*: “The Veterans of Foreign War created Loyalty Day to counteract Communist demonstrations against our American way of life...The Reds were using May Day for special celebration of their revolutionary drive against all freedom principles. It was their number one day on which to shout hatred for our ideals and to wave their hammer and sickle flag under our noses.”

According to *History - Department of Virginia - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States - 1919 – 1969* (page 219): “Designed to stimulate and promote nationwide expression of Americanism and Patriotism, May 1st was established by the National V.F.W. in 1947 as ‘Loyalty Day’; as an

occasion for general observance and reaffirmation of our country’s basic concepts of Freedom...Gaining in significance and recognition yearly, it has within two decades developed into the Nation’s most outstanding observance of its character, to become declared by Congress as ‘a special day for public reaffirmation and demonstration of strong loyalty to country by all true citizens.’ Recent events in the Ukraine, the Middle East and elsewhere around the world continue to make Loyalty Day as appropriate for the Twenty-first Century as for the previous one.

New Officers to be Selected

Post officers for the Year 2020-2021 were nominated during the March meeting and will be elected in April. All members are urged to consider one of the positions. Contact the Commander or one of the other current officers for more information on the positions. All positions are open to be filled. The elected positions and some of their areas of prime interest are commander, senior vice commander (membership), junior vice commander (activities), quartermaster (accounting), chaplain, three-year trustee (oversight), and three-year house committee member (post home). Additionally, there are appointed positions such as adjutant (admin), advocate (legal/parliamentarian), surgeon (welfare and hospital), officer of the day, guard, historian, and publicity chairman to be filled. For more info, email to johnlyon3150@gmail.com

The VFW Auxiliary will both nominate and elect new officers during their April meetings. Contact the President or one of the other officers for further information

The Post will remain closed until at least 15 April (likely 30 April) due to Corona Virus precautions. We hope everyone is doing well during this time.

Corporate Meeting

The annual meeting of the John Lyon Corporation will be held in connection with the Post meeting on Monday, 13 April. Corporation officers will be elected to match Post officers.

Nominees for Post Officers, 2020 - 2021

Commander: Nick Knowles
 Senior Vice Commander: Darrell Smith
 Junior Vice Commander: Andrew Faye
 Quartermaster: Jim Bertine
 Chaplain: C.D. “Doc” Crouch.
 Three Year Trustee: Eric Ganser
 Nominations remain open and will close at the April meeting. 20 April at 7:30 pm

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members John Bartrum (USAF – Iraq), Daniel Devito (USMC – GWOTEM / Korea Service), Nathan Johnson (USAF - Afghanistan / Korea Service) (Transfer), Herbert “Bud” Smitley (Army - IraqX2 / Afghanistan) (transfer), all who were elected at the March meeting.

To Skype for the Post meeting

(You will need to show your membership during the meeting, so have it handy.)

For computer users

Download the Skype app.

Open the Skype app

Go to Groups tab

Type in “VFW 3150” in search box in top left corner

Click “VFW 3150” to open the group

For mobile device users:

Download the Skype app.

Open the Skype app

Type in “VFW 3150” in search box in top left corner

Click “VFW 3150” to open the group

Moved? New Email?

Please notify us when you move or change your email! Send an email with your new address or email to johnlyon3150@gmail.com.



Spring Days.
Watch out for children playing outdoors.

Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is currently closed. Hours after we reopen are expected to be as follows:

Every Friday from 6-10 pm

Every Saturday from 6-10 pm

Every Sunday from 1-6 pm

Post may extend hours for various events.

Convention Time!

District Convention

The Tenth District Convention, scheduled for Sunday, 3 May at VFW Dale City Post 1503, will go electronic or be postponed.

State Convention

The Department of Virginia’s state convention scheduled to be held 11 – 14 June in Portsmouth VA, will be rescheduled.

National Convention

The National Convention is still scheduled for 18 - 23 July 2020, in Reno NV. The assigned hotel for Virginia is Grand Sierra Resort. Special Room rates are available until mid-June. For info or to reserve, go to <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/121st-vfw-national-convention>



Opening Day Ceremonies for Arlington Little League, ordinarily scheduled for 19 Apr, have been cancelled.

Schedule Updates

When we reopen, openings, hours, end events will be posted to www.vfw3150.org. Click on Calendar. Event updates can also be found on our Facebook page: “John Lyon VFW Post 3150”.

Many Members Set to Expire

Many memberships are set to expire during the next months. Check your membership card for your expiration date and renew if necessary. Go to www.vfw3150.org, then click on -BECOME A MEMBER, then RENEW or go to www.vfw.org and click Renew in upper right corner for VFW members (<https://vfwauxiliary.org/>, then Malta for Auxiliary). Or send check for \$40 (\$25 for Auxiliary) to Post address on page 1.

Need something for your homebound students to do?

Deadlines extended to 30 April:

VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest: grades 9,



10, 11 or 12. Deadline extended to 30 April 2020. Go to <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org>, then Scholarships, then Young American Creative Patriotic Art Brochure.

Follow above link to see winners since 1979, including last year,

New Art Contest for Grades K - 8

A new VFW Auxiliary program this year is an art contest for children in Grades K-8 called **Illustrating America**. Rules are must be 2-Dimensional on canvas or paper. It can be any media but not coloring sheets, digital art nor photography. The artwork should be larger than 8X10 and smaller than 18X24. Three different divisions or grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8. **Deadline extended to 30 April 2020. Send entries for both programs to Auxiliary 3150.**

Facebook / Instagram

Join us on Facebook to get the latest Post info:

John Lyon VFW Post 3150

We are on Instagram! Follow us @vfwpost3150

Happy Easter and Best Wishes for your Observance of Passover



Commander in Chief on Corona Virus

“I’m asking all VFW members to check on your battle buddies, check on your friends and family who may be isolated during this time,” said Schmitz. “As many of us know, a simple phone call and show of support could make all the difference.”

He also asks that any veteran experiencing mental stress contact the Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, [online chat](#), or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1.800.273.8255 and press 1, [chat online](#), or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Veterans who use services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs are encouraged to contact their local facility directly with any questions regarding access and care. (Excerpted from VFW Release, 20 March 2020, “VFW Mobilizing, Combating Effects of Invisible “

Coronavirus Scams

Along with tax scams, a new “industry” has arisen with Coronavirus. A number of emails and phone calls has arisen promising pills and devices to alleviate or prohibit the dangers from the pandemic. Do NOT respond to phone or email requests for your bank account, social security number and other similar info. Check out any company’s promises and be wary of providing your personal information until you have done so. And look at their products with a skeptical eye.

Current VA Debt?

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, VA's Debt Management Center (DMC) has implemented the following protocols to ease the burden of our veterans and their dependents which have been impacted by COVID-19. This is not limited to being infected or diagnosed with the virus but for issues related to that scenario which impacts your financial status such as reductions in income, layoffs, changes in work status, etc.

Any claimant impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic can request that their DMC Payments are suspended until 05/31/2020. Those impacted may also be eligible for up to a 5-year payment plan without the need to submit a financial status report. Payments are still required to be a minimum of \$25.

Please note these provisions apply to any claimant impacted by COVID-19 such as those whose work/income has been negatively affected by COVID-19 protocols.

Requests to have payments suspended or up to a 5-year payment plan must specifically request such by contacting the DMC via phone by calling 1-800-827-0648.

Bobbiejo Lazo - U.S. Army Veteran
Department Service Officer
Department of Virginia VFW

Myer-Henderson Hall

This not official news but an observation on Tuesday, 31 March:

The Rader Health Clinic seems to be offering drive through prescription pickup. Don't know how that works but there was a sign for it.

The Commissary is restricting shoppers to 50 at a time. At 9 am this morning there was about a 45 minute wait to get in. On the way out, about 10 minutes before 11 am, the line seemed to have dropped 1/3 to about 30 minutes. The line is outdoors so be mindful of the weather when you go and dress accordingly. There were some bare shelves in some areas (TP, paper towels, etc.) but most all other items were available if not your specific brand. You have to show an authorized ID to get in the door.

From the John Lyon Past...

From the John Lyon Gazette, August 2000:

The picture below has hung in the Post home off and on for a number of years. The Post Color Guard appears to pose near the amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. The caption reads "Color Guard Post 3150 * VFW November 11, 1946 G.Dalby J.Alexander W.Robinson E. Speakman W.Burnett".

The May 26, 1956 program (courtesy of Peggy Bassford) from a John Lyon Post dance contains the following story and a copy of the picture:

"History of Post Colors

"The colors of John Lyon Post No. 3150 were purchased by the Post during the administration of Commander Charles A. Musselman, and installed on the 10th day of January, 1936. They made their first public appearance at Mt. Vernon, February 22, 1936, at the George Washington Memorial exercises. The next appearance was at the Department Encampment at Newport News, Virginia, of the same year, and at each subsequent Department Encampment, and Three National Encampments. Since the day of installation, the history of these colors has been one of great pageantry and service at all affairs of the country, including Memorial, Armistice and Mother's Day exercises. The colors were retired with fitting ceremonies on September 19, 1946.



Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Leah S Kane, winner of the Post Voice of Democracy high school essay contest, also won the Tenth District Contest and advanced to the State Contest. Here she presents her essay to the combined Tenth District audience of VFW and Auxiliary members just prior to receiving her award.

Valerie M Castillo accepts her First Place >>> Tenth District Patriot's Pen award from Post Commander Ganser at a recent ceremony in the Post. Valerie could not attend the district ceremony and her award was accepted by Commander Ganser who in turn presented the award to her at the Post. A finalist in the Post contest, Valerie won the District and then advanced the State contest where she placed second, tying the highest advancement by a Post 3150 candidate in the Patriot's Pen contest the Post's history.



VFW 3150

April 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 John Lyon born 2 April 1893	3	4
5	6 House Committee / Post O Call 7:00 pm,	7	8 PASSOVER BEGINS	9	10	11
12 HAPPY EASTER	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Post meeting 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	21 Auxiliary meeting, 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1 LOYALTY DAY	



JOHN LYON POST # 3150
“All American Post”
Veterans of Foreign Wars
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22201-3514

Dated Material Please Do Not Delay

April 2020



Happy 127th Birthday, Lt John Lyon

2 April 1893 – 16 October 1918

Killed in action, World War I