

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 25, Number 9

May 2020



**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**John Lyon Post #3150**  
**2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street**  
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**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**

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## **VFW Cancels Reno National Convention**

*The convention was scheduled for July 18-23, 2020*

April 20, 2020

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — The Veterans of Foreign Wars announced today its 121st VFW National Convention scheduled to be held in Reno, Nevada, this July has been officially cancelled.

Thousands of VFW and Auxiliary delegates were expected to gather to represent the organization's total membership of more than 1.6 million at the weeklong event.

The decision comes as public-health concerns and social-distancing mandates are expected to span into the summer months ahead. This year will mark the first in the organization's storied 121-year history where a national convention will not be held. The VFW Auxiliary has also cancelled its convention.

"We explored every effort to move forward with the convention in its current form, and the decision was not made lightly," explained William "Doc" Schmitz, national commander of the VFW. "But, the fact is the health and well-being of our members, partners and supporters remains our priority, and we will not put them at risk."

Pursuant to the organization's bylaws, the VFW National Council of Administration is responsible for administering the affairs and transacting the business of the organization in the intervals between conventions to include conducting an election of national officers.

Despite the cancellation of convention, the VFW remains fully operational in accepting and processing applications to all of its national support programs and maintains an active role in advocating for veterans' legislation. Further, VFW Posts across the nation have mobilized to lead many initiatives to bring relief and assistance to their local communities amid the pandemic.

"As veterans, we know best how to navigate times of uncertainty," said Schmitz. "Convention or not, we have a job to do and a solemn promise to keep to America's veterans, service members, and their families. We will ensure the needs of those who rely on the vital services we provide are met without interruption."

## **From the Commander:**

Greetings All,

I hope this correspondence finds you in good health and cheer.

This past month, the Post held its first completely virtual Monthly Membership Meeting with 17 participants and we will do the same on May 18th. As a Post, we continue evolving and incorporating technology to continue, and improve, the way we do business. During this meeting, we held elections for the next batch of officers to preside over the Post.

Congratulations to our newly elected Post Commander, Nick Knowles, for the 2020-2021 VFW year. Thank you for stepping forward to serve in this honored position.

Furthermore, I heartily thank Darrel Smith (SVC), Andrew Faye (JVC), Jim Bertine (QM), CD Crouch (Chap), Chanda Choun (3-year House), and J Gary Wagner (ADJ) for stepping forward and volunteering your time for the success of the Post in the next year. We appreciate all those that step forward, serve, and help make this Post successful in its mission of helping others. Together, we will do great things for veterans. The Post still needs more volunteers to fill the appointed officer billets. These positions consist of:

- Service Officer – advocates for the care of local Veterans.
- Surgeon - provides comfort and support to local 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 are hoping to open the Post again in June, if not earlier. Of course, this milestone will depend on the state of the pandemic in our area and we want everyone to be safe and healthy.

The State Convention is June 27<sup>th</sup> in Mechanicsville, VA. The Post is allotted 20 delegates for this 1-day event and has plenty of slots still available. If you are interested in being a delegate of the Post, please contact the Post at [johnlyon3150@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150@gmail.com). Attending the State Convention is a good way to learn how the VFW works within Virginia.

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:***

The year moves on despite the pandemic keeping us practicing social distancing. We are finding new ways to keep in touch when visiting is discouraged. Our National organization has recognized that if we are to continue as a vibrant entity, we must adapt our way of conducting business. As a result, we conducted our very first virtual meeting via Skype in April to elect our officers and delegates for the 2020-2021 year. I will continue as President and many of the officers agreed to remain in their current positions for the coming year. We do need to find a new Senior Vice President and 3 Year Trustee.

District 10 has rescheduled its Convention from May 3 to June 13. The Department Convention is now going to be a one day meeting on June 27, 2020, with the final COA of 2019-2020, election of officers for the next year and the first COA of the 2020-2021 year. The Department is investigating the option of using computers and

phones to get a quorum to elect officers and conduct business so the number of members present can fit with social distancing. National cancelled the July Convention and is using the ByLaws to ensure the succession of the Senior Vice to the President and the Junior Vice to Senior Vice President. They are discussing how to elect the other positions.

As for the future, your Post and Auxiliary are looking at different ways to maintain our presence in the community. Moving forward, if we want to keep our physical presence in the form of a building, we need to investigate a way to make some money. The Post home has some needed repairs to make as well as pay the monthly bills. Being closed as long as the Governor mandated social distancing and nonessential businesses stopped the revenue stream from the John Lyon Live! Series of entertainments. Any support you as an Auxiliary member can provide to either the Post or the Auxiliary will be gladly welcomed. We do not stop supporting our veterans because we cannot meet.

There are several commemorations in May besides Memorial Day. We have Loyalty Day on May 1, Mother's Day on May 10, Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, and Armed Forces Day on May 16. Each of these days provide one with a reason to celebrate family and friends, and the benefit of being a citizen of our great nation. Although large gatherings are not possible, phone calls and other methods of communication are still possible to remember those who have died.

As always check on the sick and elderly especially during these trying times. Happy Anniversary and Birthday to those celebrating in May.

Cathy Graham  
President, VFW Auxiliary 3150



**NFPA has created Prep Day to raise awareness of wildfire risk, to share information and knowledge, and to help residents make changes to improve the survival of their homes and neighborhoods. For more information, go to <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>**

## **Knowles Elected Post Commander, Graham, Auxiliary President Installation TBD**

Nicholas Knowles was elected as Post 3150 Commander for the coming year during April elections. And Cathy Graham the Auxiliary President. Installation of Officers will be held at a time to be determined. All new officers assume their duties when the new State Commander is installed at the state convention in Mechanicville, 27 June. See below for more new officers.

### **Post Officers for 2020-2021**

Commander – Nicholas Knowles  
Senior Vice Commander - Darrel Smith  
Junior Vice Commander – Andrew Faye  
Quartermaster – Jim Bertine  
Chaplain – C.D. “Doc” Crouch  
Adjutant - J Gary Wagner  
1 Year Trustee – Wayne Bertino  
2 Year Trustee – Sam Wolfe  
3 Year Trustee – Eric Ganser  
3 Year House Committee –Chanda Choun

### **Auxiliary Officers for 2020-2021**

The new Auxiliary officers are as follows.

President: Cathy Graham  
SV President: TBD  
JV President: Wauleah Ellison  
Treasurer: Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc  
Chaplain: Gail Hoffman  
Secretary: Cathy Graham  
3 YR Trustee: TBD  
2 YR Trustee: Gail Hoffman  
1 YR Trustee: Dennis Gerrity

**The Post will likely remain closed until 10 June due to Corona Virus precautions. We hope everyone is doing well during this time. Any changes to the date will be announced on Facebook, the Post website, and in our weekly email.**

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

Welcome to new Post members Jeffrey Bazydlo (Army – IraqX2 / CAB) (Life), Michael Emery, Kelly Field (Navy – GWOTEM / IDP), Frank Kuczynski (Army – Iraq / Afghanistan) (transfer), Zachary Matthews (USCG - IDP)(transfer), William Mckenna (Army - AfghanistanX2 (transfer), Travis Smith (Army – Iraq / CIB), all who were elected at the April meeting, some needing to provide further documentation for their membership to be processed.

### **Post Holds First Skype Meeting**

VFW 3150 held its first month of all-virtual meetings via teleconferencing using Skype due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The latest regular meeting hosted 17 members where we conducted all standards of the VFW charter including holding annual elections. In this time of crisis, the post adapted to these unusual conditions. We continue Post business as much as possible, albeit in a slightly modified manner to meet social distancing requirements. Anyone who wishes to attend our virtual meeting may send an email to Senior Vice Commander Smith ([smithusaf@hotmail.com](mailto:smithusaf@hotmail.com)). In return, your membership will be validated and you will receive an email link to our Skype conference room. You must also download the Skype app for your device.

### **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](mailto: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.



Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers and wives!  
Wherever you are, you are close to our hearts.

## Convention Time?

### District Convention

The Tenth District Convention, scheduled for Sunday, 3 May at VFW Dale City Post 1503, will be postponed. Possible date is 14 June.

### State Convention

The Department of Virginia's state convention has been rescheduled to VFW Post 9808 in Mechanicsville near Richmond on 27 June. One day only. Awards will be presented at following District meetings.

### National Convention

The National Convention scheduled for 18 - 23 July 2020, in Reno NV has been cancelled. Hotel reservations made through the VFW Convention site have been cancelled. Current officer positions will be declared vacant at the end of the term year Officers in line to move up will do so. Other officer positions will be elected by the National Council of Administration. By this policy, Virginia's Hal Roach will advance to become Commander in Chief.

## Schedule Updates

For the frequently updated openings, hours, and events, go to [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org) and click on Calendar. Event updates can also be found on our Facebook page at JohnLyonVFWPost3150, the Post webpage, or in the weekly email. For info on activities, email to [johnlyon3150@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150@gmail.com).

## 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](http://www.vfw3150.org), then click on -BECOME A MEMBER, then RENEW or go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and click Renew in upper right corner for VFW members For Auxiliary, go to (<https://vfwauxiliary.org/>, then Malta for Auxiliary). Or send check for \$40 (\$25 for Auxiliary) to Post address on page 1.

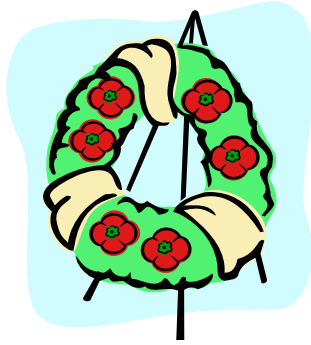


**Drive safe:  
Spring means  
longer days  
and  
more kids  
outside.**

## Post Closed 6 Weeks

The Post has been closed for about six weeks now without any income for maintenance and programs, etc. If you are able, consider sending a tax deductible donation to the Post at [www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org), then DONATE, or by sending a check to VFW Post 3150, 2116 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Arlington VA 22201. The VFW --- and Post 3150 --- are IRS Code 501(c)19 tax exempt organizations and your donation is tax deductible. All donations to the Post are restricted to Post projects and expenses. The post could use the assistance to resupply its accounts and you may designate your choice of projects.





## Memorial Day

Pending changes in the Social Distancing rules, Post 3150 and the Auxiliary will conduct a ceremony at “John Lyon Memorial”, on Memorial Day. Also known as the Cherrydale War Memorial, it stands on the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Highway, i.e., Lee Highway / Route 29, as it passes through Cherrydale. It is across the street from the Safeway at 3713 Lee Highway and on the grounds of the Cherrydale Healthcare Center, about a half a mile west of I-66. John Lyon Post will also join American Legion posts in ceremonies at the Clarendon War Memorial, just west of the Clarendon Metro Station. Check Facebook or the Post webpage for times and confirmation of these events. A complete proposed weekend schedule can be found on the back page.

## Memorial Day Grave Decorations

John Lyon members hope to place floral decorations on the graves of members and their families at three local cemeteries over Memorial Day weekend. Meet at the Post by 1 pm on Friday, 22 May to go first to National Memorial Cemetery and then Columbia Gardens Cemetery. Meet at the Post by 9 am to go to Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, 23 May. If you have an auto permit for Arlington, please bring it with you. **NOTE: Arlington National Cemetery currently is closed except to family members. We are waiting information on Memorial Day visits. Watch for developments in our Facebook page, our website, and in the Weekly email.**

## VE Day Flyover

The Arsenal of Democracy VE Day flyover on the Washington Mall has been rescheduled for 25 September.

## Moved?

Post members, if you are not receiving the VFW magazine, please go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and update your address or send an email with your new address to the Adjutant at [adjpost3150@vfwva.org](mailto:adjpost3150@vfwva.org) Also notify the Adjutant of a new email address



## Loyalty Day May 1<sup>st</sup>

Loyalty Day originally began as "Americanization Day" in 1921 as a counter to the Communists' May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution. On May 1, 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day. Observances began in 1950 on April 28 and climaxed May 1 when more than five million people across the nation held rallies. In New York City, more than 100,000 people rallied for America. In 1958 Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation's calendar.

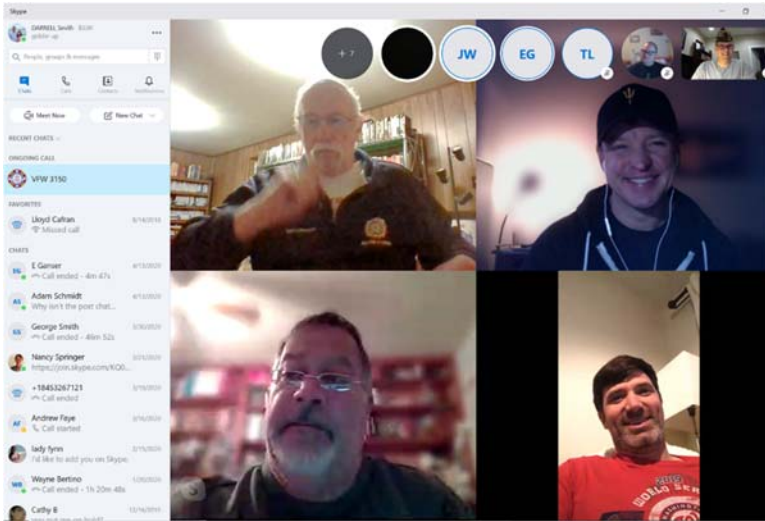


**Wash your hands;  
Stay 6 feet apart;  
Wear a mask when  
out with others.**

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2020–21 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Harold J. “Hal” Roesch, II. The Voice of Democracy theme (High School (9-12) will be “Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?” and the Patriot’s Pen theme (Middle School (6 – 8) will be “What is Patriotism to Me?” For more info: Voice of Democracy: go to [vfw.org/VOD/](http://vfw.org/VOD/) Patriot’s Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](http://vfw.org/PatriotsPen/) (below VoD)

# Recent Events Around the Post

## First Skype meetings, 20 – 4 - 20 and 21 – 4 - 20



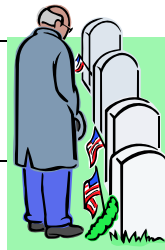
<<< A screen shot of the Post's first all-Skype meeting on 20 April shows some of the 17 attendees, mostly from the Arlington area, but one from as far away as Virginia Beach... The meeting followed normal procedures and featured election of officers for the next year. The next night, the Auxiliary also Skyped their meeting and had one join in from Oklahoma.

## Claire McQuillen: VFW Post 3150 Scout of the Year

Claire McQuillen of Mclean, Virginia was named as Post 3150's Scout of the Year. She is a member of Girl Scouts of America Troop #2946 and has been a Scout (at various levels) since Kindergarten. Her Gold Award Level Project was to found a Kindness Club at her all girls high school in order to combat feelings of stress, anxiety and depression often experienced by high school girls. She has been active in many Scout, school, and community activities in recent years. She is a Spring 2020 graduate of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School and expects to attend Vanderbilt University with an Engineering major.



# VFW 3150



## May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 LOYALTY DAY	2
3 Yoga via Zoom, 11 am	4	5	6 (tentative) GRIST mtg, 7 pm	7	8 VE DAY	9
10 MOTHERS DAY Yoga via Zoom, 11 am	11 Skype: House Committee / Post O Call 7 pm	12	13	14	15 NAT'L-PEACE OFFCRS MEMORIAL DAY	16 ARMED FORCES DAY
17 Yoga via Zoom, 11 am	18 Skype: Post Mtg 7:30 pm	19 Skype: Auxiliary Mtg 7:30 pm	20	21	22 Columbia Gardens & Natl Meml Cemetery Graves Dec 1 pm (tent)	23 Arlington Natl Cemetery Graves Dec 9 am (tentative)
24 Yoga via Zoom, 11 am 31 Yoga via Zoom, 11 am	25 (tentative) Clarendon – 11 am John Lyon Mem – 1pm	26 ←---- MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30

[www.vfw3150.org](http://www.vfw3150.org), [johnlyon3150@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyon3150@gmail.com), or 703-525-0108 for information





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

**Dated Material Please Do Not Delay**  
May 2020

**VFW Post 3150**

**Tentative Memorial Day Weekend Schedule 22 - 25 May Tentative**

**Fri: 1pm: Meet at Post for Columbia Gardens and National Memorial Cemetery graves decoration.**

**Sat: 9 am: Meet at Post for Arlington National Cemetery graves decoration.**

**Mon: 11 am: Clarendon War Memorial**

**1 pm: “John Lyon Memorial”, Cherrydale**

**Tentative Memorial Day Weekend Schedule 22 - 25 May Tentative**