

The JOHN LYON GAZETTE

Volume 4, Number 8

February 1998



Veterans of Foreign Wars

John Lyon Post #3150

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VFW INVADES JOHN LYON POST

Mid-Winter Conference

On Saturday evening, 28 February, VFW national, state and district officers and staff from the 50 states and various posts of the world from Europe to Asia and Central America will "invade" John Lyon Post for the annual Mid-Winter Conference Spaghetti Dinner. Begun about ten years ago, the dinner has attracted a number of VFW and Auxiliary members who have become friends of the post and who return on a yearly basis. The event provides an oasis for pilgrims to the Washington, D.C. area.

A large number of John Lyon Post and Auxiliary members swing into action to see that our guests are well-served. The warm hospitality of John Lyon Post on this day has been one of the reasons for the friendly reputation which the post has gained over the past decade. Come on down to help greet our guests and lend a hand.

The mid-winter conference differs from a "normal" convention in that this event mostly attracts the VFW community active at a level higher than the post, i.e. at district, state, and national levels. One focus is the meetings with various government leaders. One of the highlights is the annual Congressional Dinner on the Tuesday evening which includes a number of Representatives and Senators and features the VFW's legislator of the year. Additionally the state Voice of Democracy winners are special guests, with the

national winners' being introduced, and the overall winner's presentation of the winning essay.

Stoil 3150 VOD Winner

Arlingtonian Rebecca Stoil was recently named John Lyon's winner in this year's Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. Rebecca's essay went forward to compete in the Tenth District where she placed second. The John Lyon competition was called very close by the judges. Congratulations to all the entrants for a close contest. See the Auxiliary President's column for details on the upcoming awards ceremony.

John Lyon Auxiliary Turns 62!

The VFW Post 3150 Ladies Auxiliary will celebrate its 62nd birthday on Thursday 19 February. The Auxiliary was chartered only weeks after the Post charter was received in November 1934 and the VFW organizations have worked since to promote patriotism, civic pride, and assistance to veterans, their widows and children in the years since. The February 1993 newsletter reports that as recently as ten years ago, there were only 57 members of the Ladies Auxiliary. Hats off to the 3150 Auxiliary presidents and their staffs for the vibrant growth and sustained leadership throughout the years.

From the Commander

During the past two months we have made strides in our post home and in our community. The efforts of all involved, for their time, sweat and money are greatly appreciated. We all reap the benefits of these generous donations and should be appreciative. There has been so much progress made that we can be proud of, but we still have a way to go before we can relax and take a break from the fast-paced level that we have been moving.

Progress is being made to complete the clean-up and access to the lower deck. It is anticipated that by spring time the whole of the post will be on such a scale that all facilities will be available for your enjoyment and camaraderie. This being YOUR post, I look for your input on what we can do to make it better than it is.

As many of you have seen in your visits to the post home, "The Old Guard" recently presented the post with a beautifully framed portrait of the entire guard on parade at Fort Myer in appreciation of our efforts in support of service families through Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and our Children's Christmas Party. The Commanding Officer of the Guard personally expressed his thoughts on our efforts on the portrait together with those of other officers and staff NCO's, but more importantly and most poignant are the comments of appreciation on the portrait that came from those who were the actual recipients of the efforts and thoughtfulness of our post and ladies auxiliary.

On a sad note, I regret to inform you that Comrade Quartermaster Rick Bourdon has submitted his resignation. Due to increased personal obligations he feels that, in the best interests of John Lyon Post, he should step down and pass this important position to someone else who can devote the great amount of time and effort that this position requires. Nominations for the office Post Quartermaster will be solicited at the next post meeting and election for that office will be made at the March meeting. Due to the complexities and importance of this office, please give careful consideration in making your nominations.

Yours in Comradeship,



C.D. "Doc" Crouch

From the Senior Vice Commander:

The Holidays are behind us and we find ourselves deeply involved in a new year with many upcoming evolutions and functions. On the horizon are the Annual Mid-Winter Spaghetti Dinner, planning a Spring Golf Tournament, scheduling a Spring Highway Clean-Up and the VOD Awards Buffet.

Another perennial headliner event is Membership. We're still hanging in there at only about 80% of our annual goal. I can't help but wonder if many people don't know that they're eligible. Check with neighbors, relatives and local business people. I recently learned that my barber was eligible and passed a membership application on to him along with directions to the Post.

Veterans of some frequently overlooked or lesser known events are eligible for membership. For instance, Navy submarine veterans who have been awarded the Navy Expeditionary Medal for special operations (SPECOPS) are eligible for the VFW.

Additional Operations where the Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medals were awarded are:

Thailand - 16 May 62 - 10 Aug 62
Cuba - 3 Jan 61 - 23 Oct 62
Iran/Yemen/I.O. - 8 Dec 78 - 6 Jun 79
or 21 Nov 79 - 20 Oct 81
Lebanon - 20 Aug 82 - 31 May 83
Libya - 20 Jan 86 - 27 Jun 86
Persian Gulf - 1 Feb 87 - 23 July 87
Panama - 1 Apr 88 - 19 Dec 89,
or 1 Feb 90 - 13 Jun 90
Liberia - 5 Aug 90 - 21 Feb 91
Rwanda - 7-18 Apr 94.

In addition to last newsletter's news about Bosnia veterans now being eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, other operations for which the AFEM was awarded (and we have members from many of them) are:

Berlin - 14 Aug 61 - 1 Jun 63
Lebanon - 1 Jul 58 - 1 Nov 58
Quemoy/Matsu - 23 Aug 58 - 1 Jun 63
Taiwan Straits - 23 Aug 58 - 1 Jan 59
Congo - 14 Jul 60 - 1 Sep 62
Laos - 19 Apr 61 - 7 Oct 62
Vietnam - 1 Jul 58 - 3 Jul 63
Cuba - 24 Oct 62 - 1 Jun 63
Dominican Rep. - 28 Apr 65 - 21 Sep 66
Korea - 1 Oct 66 - 30 Jun 74
Cambodia - 20 Mar 73 - 15 Aug 73
Thailand - 29 Mar 73 - 15 Aug 73
Cambodia Evac - 11-13 April 75
Vietnam Evac - 29-30 Apr 75
Mayaguez - 15 May 75

Grenada - 23 Oct 83 - 21 Nov 83
El Salvador - 1 Jan 81 - 1 Feb 82
Lebanon - 1 Jun 83 - 1 Dec 87
Libya - 12-17 Apr 86
Persian Gulf - 24 July 87 - 2 Aug 90
Panama - 20 Dec 89 - 31 Jan 90
Somalia - 5 Dec 92 - 31 Mar 95
Haiti - 16 Sep 94 - 31 Mar 95
Op. Southern Watch - 1 Dec 95 - TBD

And permanent party personnel in Berlin from 9 May 45 - 2 Oct 90 earned the Army of Occupation Medal thereby making them eligible.

I will be happy to answer any questions about membership eligibility as they arise. Let's give it a team effort and get our membership up to where it should. Thanks.

One last note on membership. At January's Post Meeting a lengthy discussion was held on revitalizing and renewing the Initiation Ceremonies and Oath of Obligation of new members. Since these rites have not been conducted for some time, many of our members have never partaken and received their VFW lapel pins. The Post will be renewing these events at regular Post meetings. All we ask is that those who intend to attend the meeting and take their Oath of Obligation, notify the Commander, Senior Vice, Quartermaster or Adjutant in advance so that we can ensure that we have a sufficient supply of lapel pins on hand.

Continuous service lapel pins are also available, through the Emblem and Supply Catalog, for members completing continuous service in five year increments (e.g., 5, 10, 15, etc.). They are \$3.00 each and while it is the member's responsibility to buy one if they desire it, the Post will piggy-back your order onto one of our own in order to absorb the additional cost of shipping and handling.

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Print size.

There has been more than one discussion over the size of print of the newsletter. We have gone both ways over the last months and seem, this month, to be flip-flopped from the recent issues. Is the larger print (Ladies Auxiliary, this issue) that much easier to read than the rest of the newsletter? The smaller print allows a greater amount of news. What do you think?

From the Junior Vice Commander

Dear Comrades, Sisters, and friends of our "John Lyon" Post:

We are one year closer to the year 2000 and can look back at '97 with a real sense of accomplishment and pride.

A lot has happened at John Lyon--and the results are nothing short of outstanding. My thanks go to all of you who have made it happen--and many have contributed their sweat and time in marching our Post along. I'd like to thank the following three individuals for their contributions to advancing the cause of John Lyon. Jeanne Gibadlo, for her take charge attitude and gusto in making our Voice of Democracy campaign a resounding success; Vince Cesnauskas, who while playing a delightful Santa for the third or fourth time on the occasion of our successful children's Christmas party, also contributed greatly, as did others, to the physical improvement in our Post's appearance; and Ken Jansen, whose culinary skills in our galley have contributed greatly to our increased number of Sunday brunch patrons.

I salute EVERYONE who stood up when they were called. With this kind of volunteerism, we are on the right path to building something special. Thanks! We need to maintain our forward momentum in realizing outstanding building projects necessary for maintaining our viability as a Post home. With people pitching in to contribute their share, we shall prevail!

As usual, our children's Christmas party was a rousing success with many a young and happy smile that left our post home with a gift in hand that December day. Our visit to the VA Hospital center was well received with over 100 vets receiving their "diddy" bags; courtesy of our "White Socks" campaign, initiated by Kathy Kerns two years ago.

Our Voice of Democracy winner, Ms. Rebecca Stoil, and the other participants will be honored at a Post ceremony to be held Saturday, 7 February.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 1998!

Yours in comradeship,

Mark M. Pando, JVC
(703) 418-3477

Marching off.

Recently reported deaths include Comrade Jim Hunter and Sister Ann Stains.

Welcome!

Welcome to new Post members accepted by the Post since the last report: Peter Haralampus, Jules Hurst, J.Gregory Orsmy, Lawrence Riley, Eugene Simpson, and Joseph Weyraugh (Several new applications will be acted on at the February meeting.) and new Auxiliary members Christina Bilyea, Danielle Bilyea, Marcia A. Clausen, Elizabeth Davic, Margaret E. Graham, Margaret H. Graham, Jessica Hines, Ann Jansen, Joann Jansen, Theresa Kuch, Patricia Longhitano, Elizabeth Metz, and Clair Thomason.

Lost Members.

Still looking for the following "lost" life members. We have received some hints but need confirmation for:

Steve Boston
Ray Galles
David Scott
William E York

If you know the where abouts of one of these individuals, please have them contact the Post at the address on the first page or one of the officers via phone or email. Thanks.



Presidents' Day --- 16 February 1998

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

It seems I start each one of these newsletters with a commentary on the time that has come and gone but it really is hard to believe that it is already February and we are fast approaching the end of another Auxiliary year. December was a particularly busy month as we all juggled the demands of the holiday season with our desire to remember our veterans and those less fortunate than ourselves. The hospital visit in December was a great success with the delivery of the "Gift Bags;" the Post and Auxiliary joined forces once again and coordinated with Ft. Myer to provide "Christmas baskets" to needy military families; and the Children's Christmas Party was the best ever! I can't thank each of you enough for the time and the extra effort you made to make everything so special. And while I am on the subject of gratitude, I must express my heartfelt "**thank you**" to each and every one of you. All along it was my desire that our Auxiliary reach the goal of 100% in our membership by November 30th. In my last newsletter I indicated that we were only two short of our goal as of November 23rd. Ladies, not only did we reach 100% by November 30th, but we achieved 102% by December 15th and are now assured of our Banner for 1997-1998. This is an honor for which I am extremely proud and I must reiterate that it is because of each of you and your continued support of our Auxiliary that together we have achieved this goal. God bless each of you!

We have two significant events coming up this month. The first one will be on Saturday, February 7th, when the Post and the Auxiliary will hold a combined awards ceremony and reception for all of the students, their families, and school officials who participated in this year's Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. This year, John Lyon had seven students submit entries for the program. This is the first time we have ever had such a positive response and all of the students' entries were exceptional! Our first place winner, Ms. Rebecca Stoil, went on to place second in the 10th District competition. The activities will begin at 2:00pm and we will serve hor d'oeuvres and beverages. Please come and join us in recognizing these outstanding young citizens.

As you may already know from previous years, February is when the VFW holds their annual National Mid-Winter Council Meeting at the Sheridan Hotel in Washington, D.C.. In conjunction with this the Post and Auxiliary traditionally hosts an annual "Spaghetti Dinner." We will be doing this on Saturday, February 28th. All of the details have yet to be finalized but I do know that we will need as many Ladies as possible to come and help us out. In the past, we've usually started to serve up dinners to our visitors and friends around 4:00pm but there is a lot of prep work involved so I would expect that we might need to start coordinating sometime shortly after noon. If you have a couple of hours to spare at any time on Saturday, please come and lend a helping hand. For the past two years we have managed to serve over 200 dinners to our guests so every little bit will help. Please call me and let me know if you will be available. This is a big undertaking and it involves a lot of work but it is also a lot of fun and the perfect opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones.

Before I forget I wanted to let you know that I have just received a notice that the "Spinoza Bear" that our Ladies Auxiliary purchased for an ill child has been designated for a young girl of eleven, who is from Reston, VA. Based on the information provided, I feel that this child will benefit greatly from our donation. I will keep you posted if I hear anything more.

Joy Neher, our Auxiliary Treasurer, has asked that I remind each of our Life Members who have not yet sent in their cancer insurance to please do so as soon as possible. Remember, cancer is an evil that we can beat, but in the interim, we need to protect ourselves. \$9.90 is a small price to pay for the coverage your policy provides. If any of you have any questions regarding the policy that our Auxiliary has, please feel free to call Joy. She will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Finally, in closing, I want to take a moment, on behalf of the Auxiliary, to say a special "**Thank You**" to the Commander and the members of the Post who have taken so much of their own time in improving the physical

facilities of our Post Home. Everywhere you turn, you can see the time and effort that was expended to make John Lyon Post #3150 truly a home for all of us. Your efforts are really appreciated and the Ladies Auxiliary wants you to know it.

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to all of you who celebrate your special day this month and to also wish an extra special Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

Cathy Kerns
President

From the Adjutant

The Red Tape Part of Membership

One renewing member recently asked for an explanation of the membership year, e.g., when does our membership expire, and such similar questions. We shall try to cover some of those questions here.

The VFW installs its new officers at the end of June and the "activities year" roughly coincides with the officers' year. But your VFW membership goes from January to December. If you have not renewed for 1998, your membership has elapsed. Look at your membership card: it should say "1998". What adds confusion is that the national VFW starts sending out renewal notices in July of the preceding year, in order to get everyone back in the fold by the end of December. It is quite an effort some years to keep everyone current. As an example, about 95 members have responded since July 1997 and another 75 or so have yet to be heard from. Part of this can be attributed to the above confusion, another part is a group which never renews until the year is about up in December (Hey! Guys and gals: you're now LATE!). Another part waits until their "anniversary month" every year. Still another group have told me they have not received a renewal notice. Be assured: no matter when you joined, your membership is good until December of the year printed on the card, but you should receive a renewal notice in July. If you don't receive a notice, send in a check anyway. With 400 members and a staff of only volunteers, we can't wait until December, we need your renewals early to try and keep things in order and avoid errors.

We have pretty much succeeded in getting renewal and membership records on one desk here at the post. We have mostly succeeded in turning around the renewed membership cards in three days or less --- and spending 32 cents in getting them back out to you quickly.

National sends out renewal notices in July and every several months thereafter. Inevitably, they send out a new batch just as we have sent the renewals forward to state enroute to national. As a result you may have renewed and then get another renewal notice. (The fabled checks crossing bills in the mail!) If you received your new card from us, then you can relax and toss the new renewal notice. No need to respond to us again unless you get two or three more renewal notices. If you send in your check and don't receive your card in, say, two weeks, give us a call.

SO: hopefully some of your questions have been answered. If you have not yet renewed for these or other reasons, do so today. If you haven't received a renewal notice, write out a check for \$20.00, add "1998 dues" in the lower corner, and mail to address on the front page of the newsletter.

(If your puzzling over my math above: We started with about 225 Life members; the 95 new life members, renewals, and new members gives about 320 so far for the year for the year. We need the remaining 75 or so!)

Life Member Update

Twenty-four of you have responded by "going Life" since July. THANK YOU! You'll never have to renew again! We now have 253 Life members. We have life member card numbers on all 253 of you and made sure everyone has his/her life card (I think!). (By the time you read this, every Life member should have received his/her metal card. If you haven't, PUHL-LEESE let me know (See below)). And thanks to those who responded that they have received their life card.

To communicate with the Adjutant, call 703-528-1416 and leave a message or send email to 103636.1543@compuserve.com.

February 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 VFW RECEPTION AND AWARD CERMONY 2:00PM 
8 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	9	10 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	11	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY POST MEETING 8:00PM 	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY 
15	16 PRESIDENT'S DAY  	17 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	18	19 63RD ANNIVERSARY JOHN LYON LADIES AUX. AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 	20	21
22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	23	24 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	25 ASH WEDNESDAY	26	27	28 NATIONAL MID-WINTER COUNCIL MTG. ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER 