

# The John Lyon Gazette

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Volume 5, Number 4

October 1998

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Veterans of Foreign Wars  
John Lyon Post #3150  
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## Arlington County Good Neighbor Day 3 October

John Lyon members will participate in the countywide Good Neighbor Day (AKA Arlington Community Day) on Saturday, 3 October by cleaning up our stretch of Lee Highway starting at 0900. Last year several county officials came by to offer encouragement and thank us for our efforts. Come join in. Meet at the Post at 0830 for coffee and doughnuts. Wear long pants and shirt sleeves, heavy shoes or boots, and gloves. At 1200, we will do a "Light a Tyke" at Key Elementary School and place illumination strips on bicycles and tricycles so they can be seen at night. Check the local papers for other events scheduled throughout the county by various organizations during this day.

### Post Nears 90%

Post membership in early September was already about 86%, second in the Tenth District. We are inching towards 90%. With your help, we can push that number to 100%

## Early Bird Dinner 17 October

The 1998 Early Bird Dinner is scheduled to begin 1600 hrs on 17 October. Price of admission for Post members and Auxiliary members is having their 1999 membership cards. The official deadline for Early Bird status is 30 September, however any renewal, including those made at the door, will be accepted. Please call the Post to reserve your place or get further information.

### Voting Registration Deadline Nears

Whatever your political leanings, you'll want to vote in November. But are you eligible to do so? This month is your last chance for getting registered if you have not done so already. It only takes a few moments to fill out the forms the next time you drive by your county courthouse! In Virginia, the registration deadline is 29 days before the election. That is Monday 5 October. Some mail-in registration forms are available in the Post.

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*From the Commander:*

The Autumnal Equinox has come and passed, leaving behind the easy days of summer. This passing of time brings us to a period that requires a large volume of introspection and volunteerism. There are a great number of events and services that will be observed in the coming months: Navy birthday, Marine Corps birthday and Veteran's Day among the observances. Highway cleanup, the Arlington Community Day, Thanksgiving baskets, Children's Christmas Party, and the Christmas baskets are just some of the activities that will need our attention and support from a time, physical and fiscal standpoint. Let us all participate in any way that we can in these and other activities such as Gold Star Mother's Day. These activities reflect not only on the introspection and participation of our membership but our willingness and desire to reach out. To do so in the few months ahead is all well and good, but our veterans, widows and orphans --- and our community --- need our constant attention. And I will reiterate that attention means more than a couple of dollars --- it means time and effort.

\* \* \*

While we know a great deal about the past, we can only speculate about the future. It is only the month of October, but we must look to the future of governmental positions and policies. It is now past time to give a great deal of consideration about how you cast your ballot. I do not wish to influence you on how to cast that ballot, but I do request that each of and every one of you exercise the franchise that others have paid so much to insure for their posterity. Republican, Democrat, Whig, Independent, No-nothing? VOTE!!

\* \* \*

A group of us were fortunate enough to attend the Fall Conference in Lynchburg last month. I had an opportunity to talk to our Tenth District Commander, Barney Marquart, at great length. These conversations were very enlightening and have brought about some new ideas that may help us propel John Lyon Post to a higher plain. The assistance and counsel of our Departmental and District officials combined with discussions with other posts has provided wonderful support. At the same time, John Lyon Post has reciprocated upon request. We all need to focus upon the fact that we are not only individuals, but also comrades and sisters of the finest organization on the face of the earth. Let us all work together: Department, Districts, and Post. We are bonded in the blood of ALL comrades to carry out a spirit of cooperation in keeping the spirit of Patriotism, Americanism, and Spirituality in our great nation.

Our prayers and best wishes to Joe Repasch and Marie Gibadlo, both recently out of the hospital.

Yours in Comradeship,

C.D. "Doc" Crouch

## **FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

As the month of October brings the cooler, crisp days and nights of the Fall season, it also signals the dramatic increase in the activities and projects of our Auxiliary. Several of us attended both the first meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> District held at the Springfield VFW on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and the annual Fall Conference that was held in Lynchburg during the weekend of September 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. As you may well know these respective "first" meetings of the VFW year give us the guidelines that we need to assist us throughout the year with our programs. Once again, the primary focus is on membership. I promised you I would not badger you regarding membership but this is the most critical time of the entire year for membership. It is during the month of October that we conduct our major push. If you recall, I mentioned in our August newsletter that we were once again going to designate November 30<sup>th</sup> as the date to achieve our 100% membership goal. By now, those of you who are annual members (as opposed to Life members) should have received your renewal notice that Joy sent out. Please take a moment to send Joy your 1998-1999 dues. First, and foremost, we want you to continue to be a member of our family! Secondly, and just as important, you don't want to let your cancer insurance lapse. Many of you have already sent in your twenty dollars and I am tickled to share with you that at this time last year I had reported that we were at a renewal rate of 66% but as I prepare this newsletter for print we have surpassed that figure and are currently at 69%. And once again, our Auxiliary is currently standing **SECOND** in the District in membership. **THANK YOU. PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!** Finally, one last bit of information to share with you regarding membership... On **Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00pm**, the Post will be hosting an "**EARLY BIRD DINNER**" for those members of the Post and Auxiliary who have renewed their membership prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>. However, if you are interested in attending and haven't renewed by the time you get this letter, if you send Joy your renewal or drop it off at the Post, I promise you we'll be sure to set a place for you at the table!!!

We have lots of other activities going on this month. Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, is Arlington Community Day. In conjunction with that, the Post and Auxiliary will conduct their first "Highway Cleanup." Anyone who can help out should meet at the Post Home at 8:30am where we will serve up coffee and doughnuts. If we have enough volunteers, we should be finished around 11:00am. The Post has also planned a "Lite-a-Tike" program with Key Elementary School at noon. I think they may appreciate some assistance from the Ladies Auxiliary so you may want to join in their efforts!

On Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the U.S. Navy Birthday. There will be a cake cutting ceremony at 7:00pm at the Post. Please stop by and join in extending our best wishes to all of our Navy comrades.

I would also like to remind all of the Ladies that the Auxiliary will be having its annual inspection at our meeting this month on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Ginny Dinsmore, who is the 10<sup>th</sup> District President, will be visiting us at our meeting. She will inspect the books of the Secretary and the Treasurer, and let us know how we are doing. I am taking this opportunity to extend a special invitation to each of you who is able to attend to join us. I think it would mean a lot to show our guest that we continue to be a strong, healthy, and cohesive unit. I already know **we are the BEST Auxiliary in the State** and I would be so proud for Madam District President to have the opportunity to meet so many fine Ladies that do so much for our organization. Our meeting will start promptly at 8:00pm and I promise I will do my best to keep it as short as possible.

Our big event for the month of October will be this year's first "**TACO NIGHT.**" This is scheduled for Friday evening, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The festivities will begin at 5:00pm, when the tacos start rolling out of the

kitchen. We'll have music to "cha-cha" to, if that suits you and because Halloween is the next day, you're all invited to attend the festivities dressed to "scare or snare." This function is our first major fundraiser of the year so we are looking for everyone's support to make it as successful as the ones we have held in the past. Remember, as we move closer to the holiday season, we'll have our big projects to work on. Thanksgiving baskets, Christmas baskets, our "White Socks" project for the veterans in the V.A. Nursing home, and the Children's Christmas party are all on the calendar. Our fundraising efforts will support these endeavors so we really need your support. Besides the good food, it's a lot of fun so I hope that as many of you as possible will stop by and say hello and share a good time with us.

Before I close, Ladies, I am sorry to have to share with you the sad news that we have recently lost two of our dear Sisters. Grace Bourdon, mother of Post member Rick Bourdon and Auxiliary member Eleanor Ehlert, and herself a Life Member, passed away the last weekend in August. Although Gracie resided in California, she started a tradition of coming to visit us each year during the holiday season and she was a shining star in our Christmas tree. We will miss her sparkle and humor. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Margaret Receveur passed away. Margaret, also a Life Member, was one of our spunkiest members, as well as having been a Past President of our Auxiliary (1975-1976). During my first year as your President I could always count on Margaret to provide me with insight and information to assist me in my duties, and Margaret and her husband, Andy, came to brighten up many a Sunday breakfast, bringing with them family and friends. I know I speak for all of us when I express our sympathies to Rick, Eleanor, Andy and the families and friends of both Gracie and Margaret. I know our Auxiliary will miss them dearly.

On behalf of all of us, I want to extend our thoughts and prayers to those who have recently been ill or hospitalized or who have recently lost a loved one, and to wish all of you who will celebrate a birthday or anniversary this month our heartfelt congratulations!

  
Cathy Kerns  
President



### ***Ladies Auxiliary Undertakes Special "Cancer Project" for VFW Year 1998-1999***

President Cathy Kerns and the Ladies of Auxiliary #3150 have announced that this year the Auxiliary is going to focus special attention to raise funds for Cancer Aid and Research. This has always been an ongoing program within the National Ladies Auxiliary organization and has supported not only the Grant Program that is sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary but research to combat the ravages caused by this horrible disease. Throughout the current VFW year, the Ladies of John Lyon will earmark proceeds from their various fundraisers to be directed to a special fund set up within their treasury to be applied toward "Cancer Aid and Research." At the end of the VFW year, at the June Department Convention, Madam President Cathy Kerns will present a check to the Department Cancer Aid and Research Chairman of all monies collected throughout this year. The Ladies invite you to join them in their efforts. If you are interested in making a donation toward this worthy cause, you may forward a check made out to "Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post #3150," directly to Joy Neher, Auxiliary Treasurer, 2304 North Florida Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Please be sure to mark it "Ladies Auxiliary Cancer Project."

## *From the Senior Vice Commander:*

By the time you will have read this, the Early Bird period will have ended and plans for our dinner will be underway. The Early Bird Dinner will be conducted at the Post at 1600 (4:00 PM) on Saturday, October 17. The dinner is free of charge to all Life Members and Annual Members who renewed their membership for the 1998 - 99 year on or before 30 September 1998. Please make it a point to sign up for the meal on the special Early Bird Registration form at the Post. This is extremely important so that we know how much money to allocate for food and how many meals to prepare.

While the Early Bird period has ended, we are still just over 80% towards our goal for the year of 346 members. Therefore, new and renewed membership continues to be a priority. A number of relatively new (going back to 1995) military operations in the Persian Gulf region have recently been recognized with the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) thereby making those participants eligible for VFW membership (see capsule elsewhere in this newsletter). Remember, no amount of money can buy the privilege of VFW eligibility.

If you encounter a membership eligibility question which you can't answer, please contact me.

Happy 223<sup>rd</sup> Birthday United States Navy – Oct. 13.

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## **Marching Off...**

Sister **Grace Bourdon**, member of our Ladies Auxiliary, and mother of Comrade Rick Bourdon and Sister Eleanor Ehlert. And Sister **Margaret Receveur**, Past President of the Post 3150 Ladies Auxiliary (1975 – 1976) and wife of Past Commander Andre Receveur. The Receveurs resided in Falls Church, VA.

## **Recently-Approved Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Eligible Campaigns**

The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) was recently approved for award to members of the US Armed Forces who have participated in Southwest Asia Operations Maritime Intercept Operations (MIO), Vigilant Sentinel (VS) and Northern Watch (ONW).

Effective dates for the MIO is December 1, 1995 through a date to be determined, VS is December 1, 1995 to February 15, 1997, and ONW is January 1, 1997 through a date to be determined.

To be eligible, a member of the Armed Forces would have served on land or airspace of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq and the waters and airspace above the Persian Gulf. Individuals serving aboard ships in the Red Sea in direct support of MIO are also eligible. (Source: VFW News Release)

## **Don't Drive at Night? Try the Canteen Lunch Specials**

Members who hesitate to drive at night are some of those who appreciate visiting their VFW Post Home for lunches, served Monday – Friday from 1130 – 1500. Among the selections are roast beef, ham, turkey, etc., deli sandwiches or subs from the menu. And you can start your lunch with the soup of the day. Everyday prices start at \$1.25 for soup or hotdog. Occasional specials offer additional items. An upcoming special featuring chicken, biscuit, gravy, and vegetable for \$4.00, will be offered, until it's gone, starting at 1130, on Tuesday, 20 October. Forty-three meals were served last month when the meatloaf special was featured.

## **A fond farewell to...**

Dave Bennett, a VFW member from Littlerock, CA who has been TDY to the Washington area for the last several months and who has made John Lyon his home away from home. We shall miss you, Dave. Come back and see us again soon!

## Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post member and Life transfer, William B. "Burt" Sutton, elected at the September meeting.

## Taco Night Returns!

The very popular Taco Night will return Friday 30 October, starting at 1700 hrs. This is completely handled by the Ladies Auxiliary and is one of the main fund-raising events of the year. Coming at the end of the month, a goblin or two can be expected to be seen crunching on some of the corn chips.

## Grocery Chains Kickoff Tape Collections

As usual Post 3150 has a collection box for cash register tapes from Giant, Safeway, and Superfresh local grocery chains. The drive began several weeks ago and is scheduled to last until the end of February. Last year Post 3150 collected over \$16,000 of the tapes to benefit local schools with computers and other equipment.

## Navy Birthday Celebration

The U.S. Navy birthday celebration will be held on Tuesday, 13 October, with cake cutting at the Post at 1900 hrs.

## Campbell's, Swanson's labels

We're still collecting labels from Campbell's, Swanson's and related products to benefit the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. There is a box in the Post Home for you to drop your labels. If you live farther away, you can still help out: place them in an envelope and mail them to the Post.

## World War II Conference Scheduled for Washington, D.C.

The World War II Veterans Committee will hold its Second National Conference November 5 – 7 at the Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C. The organization, a non-profit veterans service organization dedicated to preserving the heroic legacy of World War II veterans, also aims to foster an interest in World War II history among the new generation. Notable speakers will be featured along with a dinner cruise, awards banquet, and 1940s swing dance. For information, call Suzanna Marosi at 202-408-0944

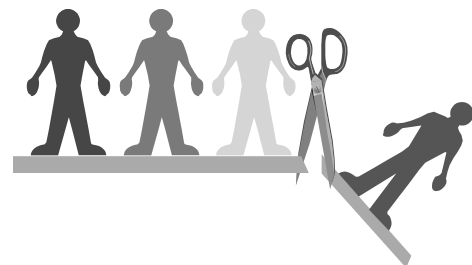
## Been to a Post Brunch?

If you haven't been to a Post brunch on the second or fourth Sunday, you're missing out. Order your choice of pancakes, French toast, eggs, omelets, grits, sausage, bacon, potatoes, toast, and chipped beef from the menu. Still all you can eat for only \$4.50. Coffee and tea included. Children under six are free. Hours 0900 – 1300. Remember to adjust your clocks on the 25<sup>th</sup>, so you don't miss out on brunch that day.



## Don't Cut Them Off

Now that school has started, look for that blinking speed limit light near your local school crosswalk. Watch out for the many students near schools and playgrounds. And don't cut them off.



# October 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>DON'T FORGET!</b></p> <p><b>LADIES AUXILIARY "TACO NIGHT"</b></p> <p><b>OCTOBER 30, 1998 - 5:00PM til ???</b></p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p><b>DAILY LUNCHESES SERVED 11:30AM-3:00PM</b></p>				1	2	3 ARLINGTON COMMUNITY DAY  HWY CLEANUP 8:30AM LITE-A-TIKE NOON
4	5 HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:00PM-???	6 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	7	8 POST MEETING 8:00PM 	9	10
11 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	12 COLUMBUS DAY MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL 	13 U.S. NAVY BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING 7:00PM 	14	15 AUXILIARY MEETING AND INSPECTION 8:00PM 	16	17 EARLY BIRD DINNER 4:00PM 
18	19 MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL 	20 VFW MOVIE NIGHT	21	22	23	24 "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" DAY  UNITED NATIONS DAY
25 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM 	26 MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL 	27 NAVY DAY VFW MOVIE NIGHT	28	29	30 LADIES AUXILIARY "TACO NIGHT" 5:00PM-???	31 HALLOWEEN 