

The John Lyon Gazette

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Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
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The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and runner-up (Honorable Mention) for 2000
Ladies Auxiliary Award: Best Newsletter in Virginia, 1999, Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999



Flags for Arlington Science Focus School

John Lyon Post recently presented flags to Arlington Science Focus School during recent rededication ceremonies. Above, Commander Ken Jansen presents a large outdoor flag to Principal Mary E. Begley while President Jeanne Gibadlo and Adjutant J.Gary Wagner look on. Just prior to the flag presentation, students marched into the assembly carrying 24 classroom flags while the rest of the assembly sang "It's a Grand Old Flag". The classroom flags, and flag education materials and patriotic rulers for each student, were also donated by John Lyon Post.

FROM THE POST COMMANDER

The holidays are now behind us and the millennium year 2000 is now in the history books. We have much to look back on and be proud of here at John Lyon. Our accomplishments were many and I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the Post and our Ladies Auxiliary who went the extra distance in the closing days and hours of December to make our scheduled programs and projects successful. Holiday food baskets, our December Christmas hospital visit, the Children's Christmas party, and our continuing support of our local schools were just a few of the programs that kept us busy right up to the final days of the calendar year. All of the work that the Post and the Auxiliary did as a team throughout the year culminated in success and satisfaction for jobs well done. I'd also like to express my thanks to everyone who helped out at our first breakfast of the new year. Our community breakfasts provide an excellent opportunity to experience firsthand the camaraderie that is the foundation of our John Lyon family. Come and join us - maybe even lend a helping hand! Don't wait to be asked - new volunteers are **always** welcome.

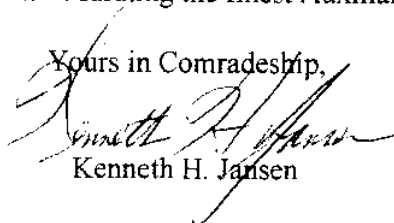
Now, as we move forward into the new year, we must not become too complacent with all of our previous accomplishments. The work of the VFW is ongoing and we have several important upcoming events in the next months that need our attention and support. This month, with the completion of our judging in the Youth Essay program, we are again planning on having the traditional Awards Ceremony and Reception for all of the students who participated in the Voice of Democracy Program as well as the Youth Essay Contest. This event is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, February 4th, at 2:00pm. I would ask that as many of you as possible take the time to show your support for our youth by either volunteering to help us out with this event or at least coming by to share in congratulating these fine youngsters who took the time to show us they really care about what veterans have contributed to our country.

Membership is and will continue to be an ongoing effort in the upcoming months. It is indisputable that our strength is in our members and it is imperative that we continue our efforts in recruiting new blood into our VFW in order to enable us to continue the fine traditions that we have established here at John Lyon. It is an extraordinary testament to the members that as of this date, John Lyon Post #3150 is only **eight** members short of achieving 100% in membership! It is a matter of principle that we not let up now. There are many men and women out there who are eligible to join our VFW family and who would be proud to lend a hand in helping us to maintain the traditions we have established to provide the level of service to our veterans, their families, and our community that they truly deserve. It is in our own best interest to continue to take a pro-active stance in recruiting. It is my fervent desire that we achieve 100% before we move into March, when the membership will focus on plans for the next year, with nominations for 2001-2002 officers scheduled.

One final note of importance: Nominations for officers will be held in March with elections scheduled for April. It is not too early to think seriously of the importance of this particular event. Your membership in this organization is not exempt from responsibility. Too few trying to do too much is not a good formula for success! The continued success of this organization will be up to you!

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to wish the Ladies Auxiliary of VFW John Lyon Post #3150 a very heartfelt Happy Birthday. Our Auxiliary will be celebrating their 66th year of dedicated support to our Post on Monday, February 19th. Please join me in saluting the finest Auxiliary in this great organization!

Yours in Comradeship,



Kenneth H. Jansen

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. For the first time this year, the Auxiliary provided each of the 120 residents of the V.A. Nursing Home with their very own "Buddy Poppy Christmas Tree" topped with a tiny red cardinal. The joy and excitement in the eyes of the patients was memorable indeed! This hospital visit was also special because the members of the Post and Auxiliary were joined by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who made it a point to visit each patient's room, helping to pass out fresh fruit and John Lyon thermal coffee mugs filled with holiday candies to our comrades and sisters. 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. Thirty children and their parents spent an afternoon with us at the Post, joining in the true spirit of the season. I also want to express a special "**thank you**" to **Red Top Cab**, who, in addition to a generous donation, provided a "Santa Van" to help transport some of the children and their parents to our Post home, to **Big Brothers of Georgetown** who also made a generous donation to our efforts, to **our Post Commander** for his support and help in preparing lunch for our guests, AND to all of you who reached into your pockets and made an extra monetary donation to help us out. It made all the difference in the world that we could conduct these projects and be extra generous with our offerings. Together, we were able to truly reflect the real spirit of the season. God bless all of you!

The primary event for the month of January was the culmination of our **Youth Essay contest**. Swanson Middle School again participated in this year's program and our **First Place** winner is **Ms. Ellen M. Ferrante**, an 8th grader at Swanson. You may recall that Ellen was also our winner in the 1999-2000 competition. It is gratifying indeed to see that when we make the effort to reach out to the youth of our community, we actually can make a difference.

Despite the rain and snow that hit us here in Northern Virginia, six of us attended the Department's Winter Council and Conference in Williamsburg, VA on the weekend of January 19th through the 21st. Our annual Winter conferences trips are always very informative and productive. This is the time your officers and program chairmen have the opportunity to actually sit down one-on-one with the department officers and program chairmen to exchange information, get new ideas, and get more personalized assistance if we are having any problems. This particular conference is the one most beneficial to our day-to-day functioning and makes the trip worth taking.

As we move ahead into the month of February, we can take pride in knowing that we have successfully completed **ALL** of our programs for this year! We are still looking for just **four more members** to be **100% in our membership**. There are still a few of you out there who have not yet renewed. You are part of our family and we hope that not sending us your renewal has just been an oversight. Remember, as of December 31st, you are no longer eligible for the cancer insurance or the cancer grant program, and your Auxiliary magazine will be discontinued as of February 8th unless National receives notice that your dues have been paid. Do you really want to let these benefits lapse? Please send your dues to Joy Van Horn, our Auxiliary Treasurer, today. There is strength in numbers and each member of this Auxiliary is an integral part of what makes Auxiliary #3150 one of the most active and dynamic auxiliaries in the state of

Virginia. Also, Joy 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.

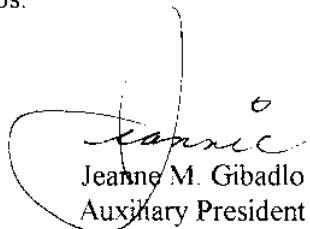
Besides our regular monthly activities, which include our Sunday Brunches on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, on **Sunday, February 4th**, the Post and the Auxiliary will hold a combined **Awards Ceremony** and reception for all of the students, their families, and school officials who participated in this year's **VOD and Youth Essay Programs**. The activities will begin at **2:00pm** and we will serve hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Please come and join us in recognizing these outstanding young citizens.

We've been working very hard this year with our various fund raisers and have found that our Sunday Brunch Bake Sales have proven to be very popular indeed. Bake Sale Chairman J.C. Hotter is eager to have another one so on **Sunday, February 11th**, during our regularly scheduled Sunday Brunch, we will again conduct a **Valentine's Holiday Bake Sale**. These are always fun and the array of goodies make the indulgence worth it!

The National VFW will again sponsor two conferences here in Arlington in the upcoming months. The Legislative Conference is scheduled to begin at the end of this month on February 24th, extending through March 3rd, and the Community Services Conference will be held from April 5th through April 6th. Please keep these dates in mind. Both conferences will be held at the Hyatt in Crystal City and you might seriously consider attending some of the sessions. Keep your eyes and ears open as we are going to try to plan to do something special for our visiting comrades and sisters when they come to the Washington area. I'll keep you posted and have more information for you in next month's newsletter.

I have been asked by our Sisters from Auxiliary #1503 in Dale City to let you know that on Saturday, February 10th, the Ladies from Auxiliary #1503 are sponsoring an all night Bingo fest to raise money exclusively for Cancer Aid and Research. This is a massive undertaking and there will be wonderful door prizes and many opportunities to win \$1000.00 jackpots. The doors open at 4:00pm and the fun starts at 5:00pm. The games will continue all through the night! There will be plenty of food and beverage and all proceeds will be donated to the Department of Virginia Cancer Aid and Research program. This is a most worthwhile venture and I would encourage each of you to do what you can to help our Sisters in Dale City.

As I wrap this up I want to take a moment to extend a very special **Happy Birthday to Auxiliary #3150**. On Monday, **February 19th**, our Auxiliary will commemorate our **66th anniversary** with a cake-cutting ceremony at 7:30pm. I'd like to extend a special invitation to all Past Presidents of Auxiliary #3150 to join us on this special occasion. I would also 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. Our prayers and best wishes are with each of you who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one or are under the weather with illness or trying hardships.



Jeanne M. Gibadlo
Auxiliary President

From the Senior Vice Commander:

My congratulations and thanks to all who helped push John Lyon towards that 100% mark in membership again this year. I join Commander Ken Jansen in expressing my pride in such a fine collection of men and women who having once served their country in uniform, continue to serve their community through the VFW. Let's not rest on our laurels though because each member over 100% gives us additional points towards All-State and All-American consideration.

The nation has a new President and John Lyon will soon have new leadership. Next month (March) we will open nominations for all elected offices of the Post. Elections will be held in April. The elected positions include Commander, Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, Quartermaster, Surgeon, Chaplain, Trustees, and Judge Advocate. There also exist a variety of appointed offices. The duties of each office are enumerated in the VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

All members in good standing are eligible for a post office. The demands are not as strenuous as one might think and with just a few hours a month, you can serve a rewarding function helping your comrades. Please consider becoming/remaining active in the Post "chairs." If you're interested, please contact Ken or myself or attend the February Post meeting.

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Ladies Auxiliary 3150: First Place in Poppy Contest

Congratulations to the John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary who won the first place ribbon in the Buddy Poppy Contest in the Artistic/Decorative category at the Williamsburg Winter Council / Conference in January.

Marching Off...

Burt Sutton, formerly a member of Falls Church post, transferred to Arlington several years ago. On 17 Dec. He was buried in Bowling Green, VA. And Thomas J. Sullivan, on 31 Dec. "Sully" was buried at Arlington National.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Donald Campbell, James Harvey, Sam Lane, Thomas Riisager, and Robert Schroeder, elected in December, and Pete Diegel elected at the January meeting, and new Ladies Auxiliary members, Carolyn M. Gibadlo, Jennifer Holiday, Mak Tong Lavelle, and Martha Skrzypczak, elected at the January meeting.

Citizens

"I ask you to be citizens. Citizens, not spectators. Citizens, not subjects. Responsible citizens, building communities of service and a nation of character."

--- Inaugural Address,
President George W. Bush

Heed the words of our new President and become a citizen. Join in the works of your VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. Help out with community, school, and patriotic programs. If every member participated in only one event per year, we could do wonders. Be a citizen!

VOD / Youth Essay Awards Ceremony Set for 4 Feb

The winners of the recent John Lyon Voice of Democracy and Youth Essay contests will be presented with awards on Sunday, 4 February at 2pm. A reception will follow the awards ceremony. Come by at meet these great young people who think and write intelligently on themes we veterans care about.

From the John Lyon Past

From the archives of The Northern Virginia Sun, 27 February 1936:

“Lyon Post Auxiliary Observes Birthday

“More than 100 persons attended the recent banquet at Lee Tavern, Glebe Road and Lee Boulevard, in celebration of the first anniversary of the founding of the Ladies Auxiliary of the John Lyon Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“The banquet program included speeches by members of the post and the auxiliary. Post Commander C.A. Musselman announced the appointment of Howard C. Duckson as Post employment officer. A resolution was adopted urging the County Civic Federation to take steps to prevent overloading of busses in the county.”

3150 Ladies Auxiliary Birthday

This year the John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary will mark its 66th Birthday on Monday, 19 February. Cake cutting is scheduled for 7:30pm .

Big Boo-Boo for Boeing

Accidentally omitted from last issue’s list of sponsors for last years' golf tournament was Boeing Aircraft, a valuable and frequent sponsor of the 3150 Golf Tournament. We apologize for this omission and thank them for their consistent support. And remind you to consider them when you next place an order for a B-2 bomber or one of their other fine products or services.

A John Lyon Hello ...

To “Citizen” Liz Allen, who as one of Santa’s chief helpers, once again insured the success of the Post 3150’s Children’s Christmas Party by checking Santa’s toy shops and wrapping all the just-right selections.

Tenth District Meeting

The next meeting of the Tenth District of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary will be held Sunday, 18 February at 1 pm at Post 8241, 1051 Springhill Road, McLean. All VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend. Awards to District VOD and Youth Essay Contests will begin the Joint Meeting at 1 o’clock.

Chaplain Vacant

The position of Chaplain in the Post has become vacant. Anyone interested in this position for the remainder of the year, should contact one of the officers or come to the February meeting.

Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale 11 Feb with Brunch

The John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary will bring back their very popular bake sale on Sunday, 11 February in connection with the Sunday Brunch. In addition to a table full of goodies, they expect to offer a special edition (empty) Jim Beam decanter marking the 75th Anniversary of the VFW. This 25 year old souvenir will be presented to some lucky winner.



The Post Christmas tree was again adorned with ornaments made of Buddy Poppies and it was topped by two bright red cardinals.

Recent Activities Around the Post



Jeanne Gibadlo, and Marcia and Eric Anderson put finishing touches on the Buddy Poppy Christmas trees prepared for each of the residents of the V.A. Nursing Home. Each tree was made of 40 Buddy Poppies and also had a red cardinal at the top.



Cathy Kerns and Elsie Weeks fill VFW coffee mugs with dietetic candies. Each resident of the V.A. Nursing Home was given a coffee mug as well as several pieces of fresh fruit and a Buddy Poppy Christmas tree.

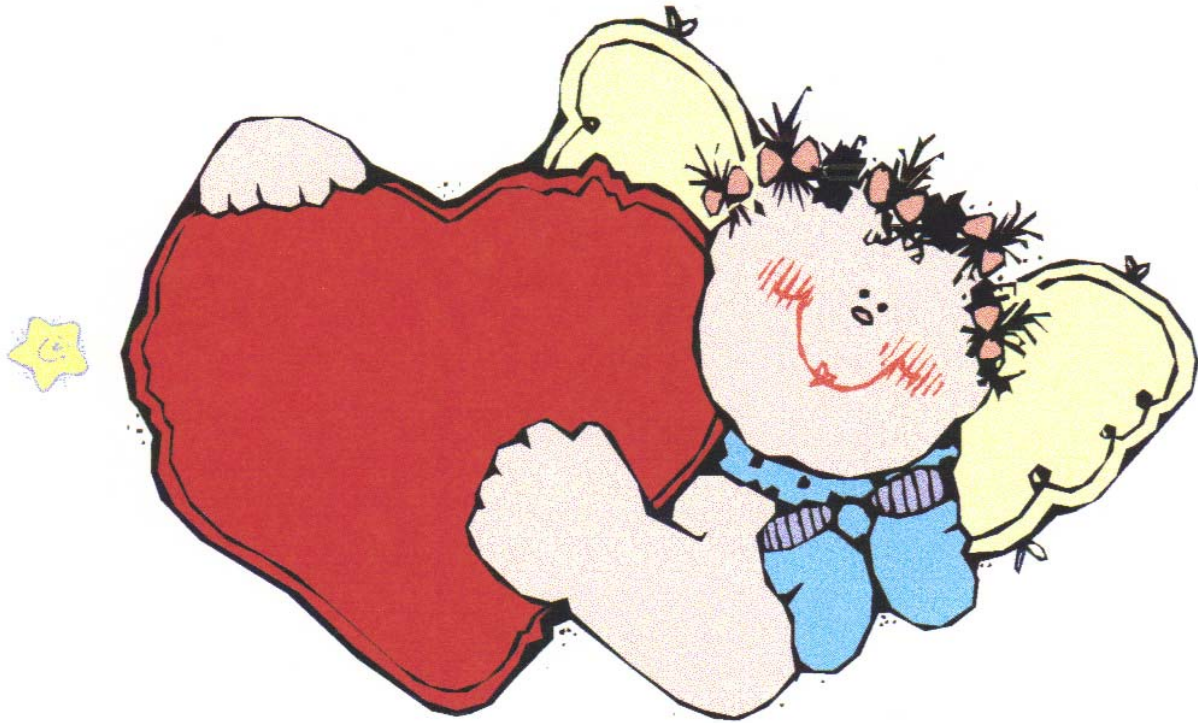


Santa and Mrs Claus (Vince Cesnauskas and Jeanne Gibadlo) are joined at the V.A. Nursing Home by (left to right) Ken Jansen, Mark Pando, J.Gary Wagner, Marcia Anderson, Eric Anderson, and Cathy Kerns, and (not pictured) Juanita Diggs. They wait for the elevator with some of the fresh fruit, coffee mugs, and Buddy Poppy Christmas trees distributed to the residents.

Right, President Jeanne Gibadlo and Commander Ken Jansen present Light-a-Tike materials to Key Elementary School Principal Marjorie Meyers.



HOLIDAY



BAKE SALE

Sponsored by

VFW Ladies Auxiliary #3150

Sunday, February 11th

During Sunday Brunch





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

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