

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 10, Number 10

April 2004



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



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999 and 2003 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of Second Place Award for 2000, 2001
Ladies Auxiliary Award: Best Newsletter in Virginia, 1999, 2001, 2003; Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999

VFW Post 3150 in 2004

We can trace the evolution of the VFW from the days of the Spanish-American War to today's modern soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine. This year's tally of Post 3150's membership shows that, on the whole, we are well represented across the board. While we lost our last World War One member several years ago, about one quarter of our current members have qualified since Vietnam vets came home. Considering the relative size of the different branches of the services, we are fairly well represented there, too. With some members in more than one service or war, the count of the current membership, shows that we were in the...

Army	184	Korean Service	20
Navy	113	Libya	3
USAF (including AAC,AAF)	61	Grenada	3
USMC	67	Beirut / Lebanon	10
USCG	3	El Salvador	1
		Panama	1
		Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	58
		Somalia	3
World War II	88	Bosnia / Kosovo	7
Post War Europe	15	Afghanistan / Iraq	2
Post War Asia	5	Other Expeditionary	6
Korean War	44		
Taiwan Straits	2		
Dominican Republic	2	Above includes ten women:	
Cuba	3	World War II & Occupation	3
Vietnam / Southeast Asia	196	Desert Storm / Persian Gulf	6
Korean Expeditionary	4	Korea, Bosnia, Somalia	3

“Together We Soar”

From the Commander:

Some folks say that the older we get, the faster the time goes. I hope that is not really correct because I don't want to be as old as fast as this year has gone. The Post already had nominations last month and will elect officers for the new year in April. Please note that the Post meeting moves to Tuesday night (6 April) for this month only. This will allow the maximum participation this month as the normally scheduled night begins Easter weekend and some Spring vacations. Please come and vote for your choice for the leaders for 2004-2005. And additional candidates are always invited to come forward to run for some of the positions. Installation of the new officers, for both the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary, is scheduled for Saturday, 1 May. Circle your calendars for this date next month.

The Second Annual John Lyon Memorial Game for Arlington Little League Baseball was to follow the league's opening night ceremonies. This may still occur, however, the league has been struggling with scheduling as the Barcroft sports fields are undergoing heavy duty reconstruction and appear to be unusable for a good portion of the season. The Opening Night ceremonies will be held at the Washington and Lee High School Stadium at 6:30 pm on Saturday, 17 April, and the post will provide an Honor Guard for the ceremonies which everyone is invited to attend. Check with the Post for latest information on the date and time of the John Lyon Memorial Game.



With Daylight Savings Time beginning the first Sunday of April, I urge all drivers to use extra caution in the late afternoons and watch for our children's spending more time outside and chasing that inevitable loose ball or wayward puppy into the street.

Since I tip-toed into the month of May, above, let me also mention the Arlington County Parade scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, 8 May. John Lyon will again have a unit in the parade and everyone is invited to "march" down Wilson Boulevard with us. The route is less than a mile and is an easy downhill stroll.

No doubt some of you are tired of hearing about membership. But frankly, membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We are nearing 100% of our goal --- that number which we ended last year on. Unfortunately we lost a greater number of comrades than usual to death last year, and some of our number moved out of the area and transferred to a post near their new homes. There are also a few of us who have let their reminders slip to the bottom of their mail pile and we urge them to send in their renewals. And we can always use a few new members to add a bit of spark to our rosters. Check with your neighbors, your buddies, and your families for VFW-eligible potential members. And sign them up. Let's keep John Lyon on top!

Finally, let me wish everyone a Happy Easter. And get out there and enjoy these beautiful Spring days.

J.Gary Wagner

From the President

Happy Spring everyone!!!! After months of gray overcast skies, cold temperatures, and frozen precipitation, the flowering bushes and trees are a welcome sight. There's nothing quite like the first blossoms of the year to bring on a happy mood!!

Many of us will celebrate Easter this month. If you do, Happy Easter! To others, I hope you have a good Passover celebration! Sunday April 11th is a brunch Sunday, so you can come down to the Post and enjoy our usual fantastic brunch fare in a festive atmosphere. The Auxiliary will be holding a special Easter Egg raffle, with prizes ranging from chocolates to cash!!! If you can't attend on the brunch on the 11th, there will also be a brunch on the 25th.



While we all have Tax Day, April 15th, looming over us, it is also the night of the Auxiliary meeting at which we will elect the officer corps for next year. I find it hard to believe that we are already at this point, for this year has been an exciting new challenge for me; however, it is time for me to turn my thoughts and energy to different endeavors. All positions, from President through Historian will be nominated and elected at the April 15th meeting, which starts at 7:30 pm. If it is possible to get away from the last minute tax filing, please, please make plans and attend this meeting! If you cannot attend the meeting, yet wish to run for an office, you must submit, in writing, your expression of interest and acceptance of any nomination for the office.

Spring is a season of cleaning and renewal. The Post and Auxiliary will be doing their part to clean and beautify our community. On April 24th, we will hold a Highway Cleanup along Lee Highway near the Post home, as well as a spring cleaning session at the Post, starting with a wake-up coffee at 8:30 am. Volunteers are requested. Additionally, our Auxiliary will be rejuvenated for 2004-2005 as May 1st will bring the installation of the officer corps who will take over in June.

As I will have plenty to write in this column during the next couple of months, I wanted to take a couple of moments to extend my grateful appreciation to all who have helped this year be so successful. There are so many people who deserve recognition—the entire VFW and Auxiliary officer corps, the volunteers who step forward for every event to make sure it goes smoothly, the people who help the Auxiliary by participating in each and every fundraiser we hold, and so, so many more. Usually I would not single out people by name, yet there are a few individuals who have been so generous with their time, energy, and creativity that I feel they deserve special recognition. Liz Allen and Ashley, thank you for your fantastic help with the children's Christmas Party; Peggy Stoll, thank you for the beautiful quilt we raffled for cancer aid and research; Ceilia Ortiz, thank you for the flag afghan we raffled for Alzheimer's; "Doc" Crouch thank you for your professorship on the art of cheesecake making; and finally Dave Dajc, who has been so willing to do whatever we needed him to do--be it bus tables, make coffee, clean, etc. but most importantly has provided me with encouragement and a positive attitude. To everyone who is reading this, thank you for taking the time and energy to listen to me each month. As you can tell, the success of this Auxiliary is dependent upon so many people, both Auxiliary members and supporters. It does truly take everyone one in order to succeed, so **THANK YOU** everyone!!!

Jodie

April Post Meeting Moves to Tuesday, 6 April

Due to the beginning of the Easter and spring holidays on Thursday, the important Post meeting scheduled for Thursday, 8 April, has been moved forward to Tuesday, 6 April. The meeting will begin, as usual, at 8 pm and will include elections for the next year.

Post Officer Nominations

The 14 March meeting of the Post included the following nominations for officer positions for the next year:

Commander: Gregory E. Moscatel
Senior Vice Commander: Stephen H. Cobb
Junior Vice Commander: Thomas R. Kane
Quartermaster: TBA
Chaplain: Ralph Huston
Advocate: Michael C. Agresti
Surgeon: Mark M. Pando
3 Year Trustee: J.Gary Wagner
3 Year House Committee: John Lundquist

Post nominations remain open and several shifts may be expected. Further nominations may be made at the **April meeting --- Tuesday, 6 April ---** when elections will be held.

The Ladies Auxiliary will nominate and elect in April. All new officers assume their duties when the new state officers are installed at the end of the state convention in Richmond in June.

Post Membership Card Not Yet Received?

Several Post members have reported that they have not received their membership cards after sending their renewals. Once they notified us, we requested a new card be sent to them. If YOU have not received your card after sending your renewal, please call the Post and let us know and we will get one for you. (You can also request a duplicate card at the VFW website at www.vrg.org, then click on Member Services and follow the directions.)

Second Annual John Lyon Memorial Game to open Arlington Little League

The Second Annual John Lyon Memorial Game will open Arlington Little League season, likely on Saturday 17 April, following opening ceremonies at 6:30 pm. Due to reconstruction of the Barcoft fields, the game site is undetermined as we go to press. The opening ceremonies are scheduled for Washington and Lee High School Stadium, at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Quincy Street at 6:30 pm. The opening night game was dedicated last year to honor John Lyon, an Arlingtonian who was killed in World War I. All members are invited to attend the ceremonies and game. Check with the Post for final date and time of the game.

The Post 3150 is expected to again sponsor a Majors 2 team; this year our team will likely be the Rangers. The schedule of games has not been released as we go to press. It will be available in the Post and you can also check the Little League website at www.arlingtonlittleleague.org/

Installation 1 May

Installation of new officers of the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary will be held at 2 pm on the afternoon of Saturday, 1 May. Please come by and offer your support for the team elected to lead our organizations through the next year. A buffet supper will follow the ceremonies.

Marching off...

Past Commander Andre A. Receveur, 84, on 6 March 2004. "Andy" was a member of the 7th Infantry Division in the Asiatic Pacific Theater during World War II. He received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart among other awards. He was buried in Columbia Gardens alongside his second wife, Margaret. Along with other members of John Lyon Post, the two of them were quite involved with the Arlington County Parade in the 1980s. Andy was Post Commander in 1972-73 and 1975-76 while Margaret was Ladies Auxiliary President 1975-76.

From the John Lyon Past...

“Virginia Posts Win in First Community Service Contest

“Engaging in a hitherto undeveloped area of activity, the Department had participated in the first National V.F.W. Community Service Contest from April, 1947, to March, 1948. In the competition, three Virginia Posts were among the winning entrants of some 40 different Departments. These were Arlington Post 3150, Fairfax Post 8469 and Falls Church Post 9274. In recognition of their ratings, they were awarded plaques by Commander-in-Chief Brannaman.

“The Community Service Program rapidly gained both Post and public favor, growing yearly in importance and dimensions as National and Department projects. In addition to serving as a stimulating force among the individual units, it steadily advanced the V.F.W.’s position and prestige in the thousands of Communities benefiting from the Program. Fast rising in their range, stature and excellence, the projects sponsored by the several Virginia Posts soon began repeatedly leading the Nation in Community Service Contest standing and Awards.” (*The History of the Department of Virginia - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 1919 - 1969: A Half-Century of Veteran Service*, p. 234).

Crab Cake Supper

The 3150 Ladies Auxiliary will again hold its annual Crab Cake dinner this spring. The dinner will be April 2nd, from 5pm to 8 pm at the Post. There are three dinner packages available: a crab cake sandwich and 1 side dish for \$7, one crab cake and two sides for \$9, or two crab cakes and two sides for \$11. Reservations must be made in advance, by calling or stopping by the Post. In order to ensure that we have an adequate number of crab cakes available, please specify your meal choice at the time of your reservation.

Post / Highway Cleanup Scheduled

Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, 26 April. Meet at the Post at 8:30 am for coffee and doughnuts. Wear long pants and hard-soled shoes. The Post has gloves, new safety vests, and levered pick-up sticks for those of us who find bending over a lot is a sure way to some stiff joints and a sore back. With a good turnout, we can be done in about 90 minutes. Come help us earn those “Adopt-a-Highway” signs on Lee Highway. If you don’t want to walk the roads and fields, drop by the Post for Post Cleanup that same day.

“VFW Commander Testifies Before Veterans’ Committees

“VFW Commander-in-Chief Edward S. Banas, Sr. testified before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. He presented the legislative goals of VFW to let Congress know where we stand on the issues. Central to his testimony was the VA budget situation. Banas noted the access problems VA has faced: ‘Since 1996, the number of enrolled veterans has increased nearly 150%, yet funding has lagged far behind with only a 50% increase. An increasing demand that would delight any Wall Street investor has instead brought VA to the brink of disaster.’ He called on Congress to improve upon the President's budget request and to provide full funding for VA health care. ‘Veterans have earned timely, high-quality health care, and we demand a budget that recognizes that all veterans, even those Category 8 veterans who are locked out of VA health care, must have access. The President's budget takes care of some while leaving others behind, and we look to you, the Congress, to ensure that the promises this nation made to its sons and daughters when it sent them to war are kept. We cannot leave any veteran behind.’

“His testimony covered many important issues including an improved GI Bill, changes to the Survivor Benefits Program, equitable treatment for Reservists and National Guard and Concurrent Receipt. To read the Command-in-Chief's testimony:

<http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=news.newsDtl&id=1630>” (From March 16, 2004 edition of VFW Washington Weekly)

World War II Memorial

The World War II memorial will be dedicated on Saturday, May 29, 2004 at 2pm. As all tickets have been requested, there will only be some distant standing places available on the National Mall. However, The History Channel and C-SPAN will each be carrying the two-hour dedication ceremony "live". starting at 2 p.m. ET.

In the meantime, the memorial opens for visits sometime mid-April, 2004. (Parts of it are currently visible from various places behind some fences and along side some adjacent walkways. Ed.) The memorial will be open during the four-day "Tribute to a Generation" except on the 29th until about two hours after the dedication ends.

The National World War II Reunion will be an open-air, tented activity on the National Mall between the Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum and the National Gallery of Art. It will run Thursday through Sunday, May 27-30, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. This free event is open to the public and requires no tickets.

Some activities include a Reunion Hall, performance pavilions featuring music from the WWII era, a Wartime Stories Tent, a Veterans History Project Tent, Military Equipment Display, an exhibit on the planning and building of the memorial, family activities, and representatives from Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies and veterans service organizations. There will also be a pavilion dedicated to ways to preserve documents, scrapbooks, photos, medals and memorabilia from WWII.

In addition, there will be a 100 day *America Celebrates the Greatest Generation* in Washington featuring displays, exhibits, walking tours, and hotel packages This will run from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

For more information, see
<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

Website of Interest

Korean War vets: <http://www.koreanwar.org/>

Post Membership 97%

Post membership is about 97% --- still short of our goal of 100%. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2004, yours may just be the one to push us over the top. Please send your renewal TODAY and help us reach that 100% mark! And thanks to all those who earlier sent theirs in! We can also use a few new members. Is your buddy or brother qualified to become a VFW member?

Fort Myer Gate Closings

Access to nearby Fort Myer via the Wright Gate --- the one near the Iwo Jima Memorial --- will be limited for the next nine months. From 5 am to 2 pm, the gate will be open to in-bound traffic for cars only with DOD stickers and with drivers with DOD identification. From 2 - 5 pm, the gate will be open to out-bound traffic only. The closings, due to construction at the gate, are for the purpose of improving traffic flow and security. Traffic at other gates is expected to back up even more than usual due to these closings and extra time may be required for entrance to the fort.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Eric Bach, Ray Champion (MIP transfer), Orson Trueworthy (life) and life transfers Bill Chism, Donald Christie, and Mike Lister, and to new Ladies Auxiliary members Debra Breesman, Marie Lister, and Paulette Young, all elected at recent meetings.

And to former 3150 member John D "Jack" Falcone Jr who reinstated his membership after a long absence.

Jack writes: "Being affiliated with John Lyon Post during my assignment in the Pentagon is one of my fondest memories of my time in Washington. I hope this letter finds all my 'Brothers in Arms' in good health and still doing their good work. Take care of the Post and pass my well wishes on to any who knew me then."

Canteen Corner

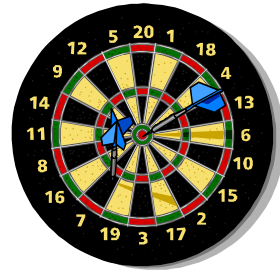
Hello VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Members. For those of you who don't already know it, my name is Scotty and I am the Club Manager at Post 3150. In the last several months, I've been able to meet a number of the members, but I would like to meet and better serve more of you. Since last month's update, there are a few new additions to the menu, including pasta, and roasted meatloaf. During the month of April, mention this column and receive a free soda with your purchase of lunch. Outside of the kitchen, there is a new dart area. This is only the beginning of my time with the club and with your support and helpful suggestions, we will continue to better serve the members who serve our community so well. So thank you for your support and I hope to see you soon.

Scotty Wood



**18 - 24 April
National Volunteer Week**

**Be a Volunteer!
Joins us for
Highway Cleanup
on Saturday, 24 April**



Darts, Anyone?

The Post dartboard has been dusted off and moved upstairs to the back room. Dust off your darts or try some of ours.

Sunday Brunch

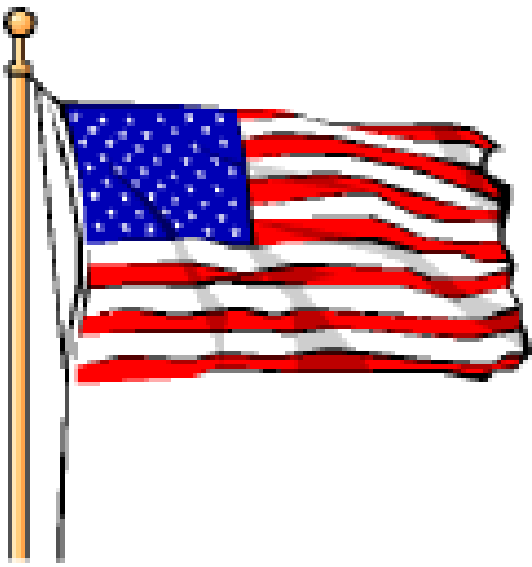
Sunday Brunch continues into the Spring on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, from 9 am to 1 pm. All you can eat from our menu for \$5.00. Children under 10 eat free. The next Brunch is on Easter Sunday.

A John Lyon Hello ...

To all Post and Ladies Auxiliary members who work long hours feeding our members and guests. During the last month, this has included the great kitchen and dining room staffs who worked the spaghetti dinner, St Patrick's Day dinner, and two Sunday Brunches. Thanks to you for all you do!



Commander J.Gary Wagner recently presented classroom flags to Assistant Principal Donna Honeywell --- and several students --- at the Arlington Traditional School. An outside U.S. flag was also presented to Drew Model School.



Loyalty Day
1 May 2004

VFW Post 3150
and
Ladies Auxiliary 3150



Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Robert Guerin, center, was named High School Teacher of the Year by VFW Post 3150. Mr Guerin is a history teacher at Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School. He is seen above accepting the award from Post Commander, J.Gary Wagner, left, and 3150 Ladies Auxiliary President, Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc, right, during recent ceremonies held at the Post.

The Voice of Democracy Awards were >>> recently presented during ceremonies at the Post. The winners of the contest, Bush B. Hamdan, O'Connell High School, (second place), Cara V. Caputy, O'Connell (honorable mention), Jessica L. Ocasio, O'Connell, (first place), and Renee M. Shear, home schooled, third place), are seen with Commander Wagner and President LaFreniere-Dajc. Danny Soto and Jaclyn M. Tinsley of O'Connell were also awarded Honorable Mention but were unable to attend the ceremonies.



<<< Home Schooler Stephen P. Dronfield was the first place winner in the John Lyon Patriot's Pen Essay Contest for Middle School students. He is seen receiving his award from Commander Wagner and President LaFreniere-Dajc. Stephen also took first place in the Tenth District contest. H. Michael Ipsan, likewise a home schooler, won the post's second place but was unable to attend the ceremony.

Recent Events Around the Post



<<< A number of the students who entered the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest for high schoolers attended the recent Awards Ceremonies. Here they are shown with Commander Wagner and President LaFreniere-Dajc before the reception's food buffet was opened.

The 3150 Ladies Auxiliary recently >>> celebrated its 69th Anniversary at the Post Home. Waiting to cut the cake, from the left are Catherine Graham, Juanita Diggs, Jeanne Gibadlo, President Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc, Marian MacIntyre, Elsie Weeks, Nancy Weeks, Cathy Kerns, Lola Kane, Ginny LePage, and Ruth Rodier.



<<< Margaret and Daniel Ohr and Claude and Jean Beane enjoy their corned beef and cabbage at the Post Home during the recent St Patrick's Day Dinner.

April 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Don't Forget</i> National Volunteer Week <i>April 18th - April 24th</i> Please Volunteer!</p>				1	 2 LADIES AUXILIARY CRAB CAKE SUPPER 5:00PM - 8:00PM	3
 4 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS PALM SUNDAY	5	 6 POST MEETING AND ELECTIONS	7	8	 9 HOLY THURSDAY GOOD FRIDAY	10
 11 EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM	12	13	14	 15 AUXILIARY MEETING AND ELECTIONS 7:30PM TAX DAY	16	17 M.O.P.H. MEETING 12:00 NOON OPENING DAY ARLINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE 6:00PM
18 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK THROUGH APRIL 24TH	19	20	21 ADMIN PROFESSIONALS' DAY 	22	23	 24 POST AND HIGHWAY CLEAN UP DAY 8:30AM
 25 SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM - 1:00PM ANZAC DAY	26	27	28	29	30	



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

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Post Elections
Tues, 6 Apr 04
8 pm



Ladies Auxiliary
Elections
Thurs, 15 Apr 04
7:30 pm