

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 11, Number 2

August 2004



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
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The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004 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, 2004; Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999



John Lyon
2 April 1893 – 16 October 1918

From the Commander:

I feel I have passed a milestone by completing the first month at Post 3150 as commander. I attended the 10th District planning meeting and while I was there, accepted numerous awards from both national and state for our participation in Youth Activities, Americanism, Community Services, and the Voice of Democracy programs. These awards are attributed in part to the important work of the Ladies Auxiliary, for which the post also receives credit. I extend my thanks to you ladies of the Ladies Auxiliary for contributing to the good reputation of our post.



We are gearing up for the upcoming Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy competitions. My warm thanks go to Jeannie Gibadlo of the Ladies Auxiliary for her past work on these projects and for her volunteering to continue her important work this year. I understand the local high school principals are showing more interest in promoting these competitions. We had a state level winner come out of our post two years ago during Richard Hoffman's term as commander (also due to Jeannie's work).



I would like to recognize some work by some of our members that make this post what it is today. Tom Kane and his friend Gary Graves installed a new bathroom vanity top in the ladies bathroom. Lola Kane had previously painted and decorated the ladies room. All of the women and the post appreciate their professional work.

We recently had a situation where our daytime canteen manager abruptly quit his job. This left us with a need to adjust canteen hours and shuffle volunteers into slots to keep things running. Lola Kane filled in as the daytime manager for about three weeks, but had to discontinue due of the impact on her family. As a result, we are seeking people who would be interested in helping us out with the operation of the canteen. We are adjusting canteen operating hours due to this situation. We are planning to open the post at 4:00 pm on weekdays and the weekend will stay the same as before. If anyone has a question as to what they can do to help out, please contact me or any post officer. My home telephone number is 703-524-2650.

Yours in comradeship,

Greg Moscatel

From your President

I hope everyone had a great July 4 this year. It was my privilege and pleasure to march in the Fairfax City parade with Fairfax VFW Post 8469. It was great fun representing the Ladies Auxiliary from Arlington VFW Post 3150.

We are now starting to push for the early bird renewals. The early bird dinner is set for Saturday October 2 and to be eligible for this dinner, you must renew your annual membership by that day. As an added incentive to renewing we are again having a drawing for one life membership and three annual memberships for the year 2005-2006 at the November meeting. If you have become a life member before the drawing your membership dues will be refunded. Come one, come all to help make us 100 percent as early as possible so our efforts will be focused on our programs. Make your checks for \$25 payable to Ladies Aux. VFW 3150 and mail them to Gail Hoffman, at 5679 Rayburn Ave., Alexandria, VA 22311.

Think breakfast Sundays are all work and no play? Think again. The prior breakfast, Gail started a "Doc doughnut fund" because I haven't been keeping him sufficiently supplied with doughnuts. By the time the word had circulated, there was enough funding to supply Doc and the highway clean-up crew; which fits right in to the additional highway clean-up date being added to our programming. The next one is scheduled for Saturday, 7 August. Meet at the post at 8:30 a.m. to participate. The more participation the more fun and the faster we finish.

Upcoming events include the changed date for the August meeting, so yours truly can attend the National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 14-20. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 10 at 7:30 p.m. Coast Guard birthday is on 4 August. Purple Heart day is 7 August. John Lyon cap/shirt day is 28 August. September 6 is Labor Day and we ladies are going to be providing the cooking for that holiday. Look for the announcements in the newsletter about date and times.

The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests are in full swing hopefully. The schools have been contacted and the deadline of 1 November for each program for the students is coming up at a rapid pace. Before you know it the time will be passed. In addition it is almost time to begin thinking about school being open and being more careful driving.

As a new flash, for those whose spouses died while on active duty, a new law allows the survivors to either retain or regain the death benefits they were receiving previously if they remarried after age 57. See article later in this newsletter.

A happy birthday to all those who celebrated in July and will celebrate the big day in August. Jody and Dave, congratulations on the birth of your daughter Emily.

Cathy Graham

Post Membership Renewal

Even though your annual membership card is good until December 2004, VFW members should have received their renewal notices by now. As it takes a while to get everyone renewed, the process begins early. Those of you who renew early (including those who "go Life") will qualify for the Post's Early Bird Dinner in October. You will also qualify for the Life Membership drawing done at the Early Bird Dinner. There will be seven drawings, one for each age category. Those who "go Life" and whose names are drawn will receive a refund for the Life membership payment, so you are not penalized for "going Life" when you renew. If you have not received a renewal notice, you can send or bring your dues by the Post: \$23 for VFW members. And remember that the Department's dues increase of \$5 will likely be passed on to members some time in the future. Best way to beat this increase is to renew early --- and consider that Life Membership!

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Robert C. Molls (Navy - Vietnam), Jeff Sabatos (Afghanistan), Life member Timothy Shindelar (USMC - Desert Storm), and Life Transfer Leonard Lee (Navy - Vietnam) and to new Ladies Auxiliary members Carol Campana and Mary Straub, all elected at the July meetings, and to MIP-to-post transfer Carl Simons (USMC - Panama).

We also welcome new MIP members to the VFW: Salvador Beltran-Soto, Joseph Diebold, Robert Kefler, Timothy Kraft, David Proulx, and Causby Shirley Jr. (all Iraq or Afghanistan).

Marching off...

We have been informed of the death of Post 3150 Life Member, Marvin Pierpoint, last October. He was an Army veteran who saw action in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater in World War II. He had been living in Jefferson, NC and had been a member of Post 3150 since March 1946. He was 83.

Presidential Baby

We don't know when, if ever, a Ladies Auxiliary President gave birth while in office. We still don't have one, but it was close. 2003-2004 President Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc had a baby girl at 12:18 am on 7 July, only 2-1/2 weeks after her year ended on 20 June. Daughter Emilie Raluca weighed six pounds, three ounces and was 18-1/4 inches long. Congratulations to Jodie and David!

New Hours for the Post Canteen

The Post canteen is without a manager for the present time and lunch has been suspended. For the time being the Post is expected to open weekdays at 4 pm for limited services. Full services will be available following 5:30 pm and the post will remain open until 9 pm Monday - Thursday and 10 pm on Friday. Weekend hours remain unchanged, with the Post's being open on Saturdays from noon until 10 pm and on Sunday from noon until 9 pm. On the second and fourth Sundays, the post will open at 9 am for Sunday brunch. Special functions and the discretion of the shift manager may extend the closing time on any given day. Anyone interested in working for the canteen is invited to contact the commander, the quartermaster, or the Chairman of the House Committee.

John Lyon Shirt and Cap Day

John Lyon Shirt and Cap Day will be repeated this summer on Saturday, 28 August. All 3150 members are urged to wear their John Lyon shirts and caps wherever they go in Arlington that day in an effort to show the people of Arlington that we are here. Last year's effort prompted townfolk to ask about the Post and Auxiliary. All participants are asked to stop by the Post for a group photo at 5pm. Be prepared by digging your tee-shirts and caps out of the closet or getting a new one at the post home if you need one. The Post has a new supply of both caps and tee-shirts.

U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

The U.S. Coast Guard will mark its 214th birthday on Wednesday, 4 August. A cake cutting ceremony is scheduled for 7 pm.

National VFW Convention

The National VFW Convention --- called an "encampment" in former times --- will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio from August 14-20, 2004. Information can be obtained from the national VFW website (www.vfw.org), from the Post, and recent issues of the VFW magazine.

From the John Lyon Past...

From *The Sun* --- Arlington, VA, 30 August 1946:

"V.F.W. Delegation Is Leaving Today

"Delegates from the John Lyon Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will leave today for Boston to attend the 47th annual National V.F.W. encampment, opening September 1.

"The delegation from the local post includes H.M. Haney, A.J. Matthews, Daniel A. Dugan, James C. Buchanan, Joseph G. Robertson, George C. Dalby, Webster H. Spear, Alfred A. Paradise, and Ralph D. Reeves.

"Alternates are Walter T. Clements, C.H. McCarthy, Joseph Alexander, E.G. Speakman, Morton Levy, Joseph G. Lynott, D.V. Smith, J.T. Robinson, and H.S. Eversole.

"The first post-war national encampment of the V.F.W. will be attended by some 50,000 delegates and members from more than 8,000 posts, with World War II veterans in the majority."

A John Lyon Hello ...

To post member Sean Carney who completes his 20 years and retires from the U.S. Navy during August.

**Moved Lately?
Are you Registered to Vote?
Check your new county
for registration deadline!**

Purple Heart Day

Saturday, 7 August is Purple Heart Day. John Lyon Post will mark this day with ceremonies at 6 pm. There will also be a cookout from 3 - 6 pm on that afternoon.

"Lodging & Travel Sources:

"Active duty and military retirees can check on the availability of billeting at military facilities anywhere in the world through one toll-free call at: Army: Call (800) 462-7691. Connects callers with a central reservation system that can provide information on availability and making reservations. Navy: Call (800) 628-9466. Navy Lodge guests can also reserve rooms by logging onto NEXCOM's Website www.navy-nex.com. Guests can reserve a room or change, cancel, or confirm a reservation by accessing the Navy Lodge online registration link on the Website. The request is sent to the Navy Lodge Program's Central Reservation Center (CRC) in Jacksonville, Fla., for processing. Guests should receive an e-mail confirmation on any change made within 24 hours. Internet reservations cannot be made, changed, or canceled later than two days prior to the arrival date. Air Force: Call (888) 235-6343. Personnel can also check on the availability of billeting and make reservations at Air Force facilities worldwide." RAO Bulletin Update 30 June 2004 [vfw + vso]

John Lyon Members Named to State Positions

Three Post 3150 members have been named to Department positions in the state of Virginia for the Year 2004 - 2005. The appointments appear in the July General Orders. C.D. "Doc" Crouch, as Department Junior Vice Commander, was named Chairman of the By-Laws and SOP Committee and the Redistricting Committee. He will also serve as a member of the Resolutions Committee. M.C. "Connie" Agresti was reappointed Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee and Vice Chairman for the Military Assistance "MAP" Committee. J.Gary Wagner was again named to head Americanism, titled Vice Chairman for Americanism under the Community Service Committee.

Locker Fees Due

Locker fees for the next twelve months are now due. Please submit \$10 to the Quartermaster by 1 September or the locker will be considered abandoned and emptied.

DFC "V" Device for Heroism

“Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche has authorized use of the "V" device, to represent valor, on Distinguished Flying Crosses awarded for heroism. The decision is intended to clearly distinguish and denote a DFC awarded for heroism. It allows any Reserve, Guard or active-duty Air Force DFC recipient honored for heroism on or after Sept. 18, 1947, to wear the "V" device. Airmen previously awarded the DFC for heroism, as indicated on the citation, certificate or order, are authorized to wear the "V" device immediately. The Air Force Personnel Center chief of the recognition programs branch has stated there is no requirement to have a personnel office verify entitlement to wear the 'V' device. Later this year the active-duty military personnel data system will be updated to reflect the change. [Source: Armed Forces News 9 JUL 04]”. From the RAO Bulletin Update 15 July 2004

Remarried Widows May be Eligible for Benefits

Widows who received or who were eligible to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the VA but who remarried may be eligible to have DIC restored. DIC can be restored if the remarriage ended in death, divorce or annulment. Also, a surviving spouse who remarries *on or after* attaining age 57, and *on or after* December 16, 2003, can continue to receive DIC. *However*, a surviving spouse who remarried *before* December 16, 2003, and *on or after* attaining age 57, must apply no later than December 15, 2004, to have DIC restored. VA must deny applications received after that date. For additional information, call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000 or visit VA's Web Site at www.va.gov.

Purple Heart Day Cookout 3 - 6 pm Ceremonies 6 pm Saturday, 7 August 2004

Highway Cleanup 7 Aug

A special Highway Cleanup has been scheduled for Saturday morning, 7 August. Participants are invited to the Post at 8:30 am for coffee and doughnuts before going out to our stretch of nearby Lee Highway.



**Be safe when swimming
Know the depth of the water
when diving
Wait ½ hour after eating**

Injured Returning Soldiers Need Clothing Items

The need for some clothing items for patients being treated at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Navy Hospital continues from last year. Many of those injured during Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle are being treated at the local hospitals. The most-needed clothing items are new men's and women's clothing in all sizes, particularly T-shirts, shorts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, athletic socks, men's boxer shorts, and new toiletry items. These articles are being taken to Andrews AFB and to the hospitals as needed. A box has been set up the Post for any donations you would like to make. Cash donations (made to VFW 3150 and noted for returning soldiers) are also welcome for needed items.

Independence Day



<<< After rain chased the group inside, Post Commander Greg Moscatel rang the Post bell thirteen times on Independence Day during the Let Freedom Ring National Bell Ringing Ceremony. Bells across the country were rung at 2 pm EDT. In 1963, an act of Congress officially authorized the ceremony to commemorate the ringing of bells at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, 4 July 1776. Post 3150 has participated in the past several years.

Post 3150 member Earl “Butch” >>> Hovermill (left) hams it up with several of his fellow Arlington County Volunteer Firemen during the Independence Day cookout. The Post hosted the firemen during a break from their duties on the holiday, similar to past years’ hosting of Arlington County Police.



<<< Small flags lining the sidewalks, bunting along the entrance steps, and red, white, and blue flowers near the door greet members and guests to Post 3150 on Independence Day and announce John Lyon’s pride in America on its 228th birthday.

Recent Events Around the Post

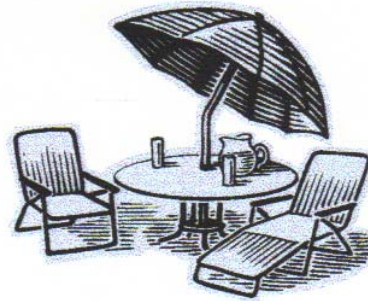


<<< Tom Kane, left, and Gary Graves, recently installed a new sink / vanity top in the Ladies Room as part of some recent improvements in the Post home.

During recent ceremonies held at Post >>> 3150, Past Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Greater Washington Chapter 353, Alfred Ortiz, instituted the unit's new Ladies' Auxiliary and installed the new officers. Front row right is President and Secretary of the new unit, Tanya Cobb, wife of Post 3150 Senior Vice Commander Steve Cobb. At far right is 3150 member Dewayne White whose wife was one of the ladies being installed. Chapter 353 has been meeting at Post 3150 for several months and includes a number of 3150 members as well.



<<< The 3150 Ladies Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Display won a second place ribbon (hanging from the butterfly) in the artistic category at the recent Department Convention in Richmond. The three figures are made from painted Buddy Poppies while the dove carries an original Buddy Poppy in its beak.



August 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Coast Guard Birthday 7 pm	5	6	7 Highway Cleanup 8:30 a Purple Heart 6 p Cookout 3 - 6 pm
8 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	9 Post O Call 7:30pm House Com 8pm	10 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:30	11 Movie Night	12 Post Meeting 8 pm	13	14 National Convention
15 Natl Conv	16 Natl Conv	17 Natl Conv	18 Movie Night Natl Conv	19 Natl Conv	20 Natl Conv	21
22 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	23	24	25 Movie Night	26	27	28 John Lyon Shirt & Hat Day
29	30	31				

Are you registered to Vote in November?

Ladies Auxiliary Labor Day Cookout
---- 6 September



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

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US Coast Guard
Birthday
4 August 2004



Purple Heart Day
7 August 2004