

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 11, Number 3

September 2004



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



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



VFW 105 Years Old 29 September 2004

“The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service: Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves. In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations with what would become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. By 1915, membership grew to 5,000; by 1936, membership was almost 200,000.

“A Century of Accomplishments includes:

- Planned establishment of the Veterans Administration
- Led development of the national cemetery system
- Fought for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange
- Encouraged elevation of the Veterans Administration to the president's cabinet
- Protected and enhanced the VA budget
- Raised \$500,000 to provide 300,000 care packages to Desert Storm troops
- Matched funds for the creation of the World War II Memorial” (Source: VFW National website)

Post 3150 will mark the occasion with a ceremony at 7 pm on Wednesday, 29 September. John Lyon will also note the 90th anniversary of the Ladies Auxiliary on Thursday, 16 September at 6:45 pm. All are invited to both events.

From the Commander:

Last newsletter, I mentioned we had to make some adjustments in the post hours due to the change in our canteen personnel. We are doing quite well in spite of the situation but are working to possibly improve the canteen operation some more.

Connie Agresti (past commander of 3150), and I attended a ground-breaking satellite training at Springfield Post 7327 on July 31st. Being a new commander, I learned a lot and found it to be interesting.

We celebrated the U.S. Coast Guard birthday on August 4. Then on the following Saturday, we performed a highway cleanup and observed National Purple Heart Day with food served at the post.

Several of our members attended the National VFW / Auxiliary Conventions on August 14-20. And more of us have hotel reservations to attend the VFW fall conference on the 4th weekend of September.

I am writing this column before the John Lyon post 3150 Shirt and Hat Day on Saturday August 28. I am hoping we have good participation with this as it gives us good exposure throughout the community.



We have members who have been doing many different things to help out our post, Elsie and Joe Weeks setting up the tables on Saturday for the Sunday brunches for as long as I can remember, and Doc Crouch doing the breakfast prep work, the Sunday morning kitchen and dinning room crews. And a guy named Fuzzy who has cut our grass many times. It's easy to take these people for granted, but I must continue to say thank you.

Lola and Tom Kane showed up at the post one weekday recently and scrubbed and mopped the entire meeting hall floor. Tom has been showing up with Eric Anderson performing much carpentry work and cutting the grass. Gigi and Herman Cruz offered to be the star attraction (chefs) to offer a Tamale Night on Friday September 10th, and to serve Gigi's Chicken Lasagna at our Post Halloween costume party on October 30 (Start working on your costumes now!) . My heartfelt thanks go to all of these and other dedicated post members.



Yours in Comradeship,

Greg Moscatel
Commander, John Lyon Post 3150

From your President:

We had a great time in Cincinnati for the National Convention. Met many new people and conversed with old friends. The changes to the bylaws will be reviewed by the VFW before promulgation. In addition the auxiliary voted to increase the dues sent to national by \$1.00. This increases the share of your annual payment from \$2.50 to \$3.50. Because we voted to increase the annual dues last year when state raised its dues payment, there will not be an increase in our annual dues.

Speaking of annual dues, for those of you who are waiting for a dues renewal notice from national, they will not be sent out. The insurance company who picked up the \$96,000 tab elected not to do so for the foreseeable future. So please consider this request to renew as your official dues notice and send your check for \$25.00 made out to the Ladies Aux. VFW 3150 to Gail Hoffman, Treasurer 3150, 5679 Rayburn Ave. Alexandria, VA 22311. By renewing early you are entered into the drawing for the life membership or to have your annual membership paid for the ensuing year. In addition it helps the auxiliary win awards.

For those who are life members, Cancer Insurance is due by the end of December, make checks payable to Ladies Aux. VFW 3150 and send them to Gail Hoffman at the above address. The amount is \$9.90 and if you send in an even \$10.00 the extra 10 cents will go to the general fund to support our Christmas and Thanksgiving programs.



The Ladies are sponsoring Labor Day at the Post Home. Come on down to partake of the goodies being offered and to assist those working if you can and desire to do so. The co-chairs for this event are Cathy Kerns and Elsie Weeks. Later on that same week, Gigi and Herman Cruz are offering tamale dinners (reservations a must). The Ladies will be acting as waitresses and will get to keep any tips for their efforts. Again this will be a good way to show support for not only the Post but also the Auxiliary by coming out to these events. See elsewhere in this newsletter for further information. Come on down and enjoy the fun.

For those who were wondering about the donut fund raiser for Doc; he enjoyed the proceeds and so did the six people who showed up to participate in the highway clean-up at the end of July. Remember breakfast Sundays are the second and fourth Sundays of the month and we always have a good time no matter the pace of the work. Ladies we get to keep the tips for breakfast which helps us with our programs and provides us the financial base to keep operating at the pace we do. Support our functions and we can continue to provide assistance both here and overseas with programs like Operation UpLink.



September will be a busy month for us. We have the District 10 meeting at Springfield on September 19 and the Department Fall Conference at Roanoke 24-26 September. In addition, don't forget Labor Day on 6 September, Tamale night on 10 September, POW/MIA on 17 September, Air Force birthday 18 September, Ladies Auxiliary National birthday 16 September, and the breakfasts on 12 and 26 September.

One final note for this month, we will be inspected by the 10th District President, Betty Gimble, at our next meeting on 16 September. The cake cutting for the Ladies Auxiliary birthday will be at 6:45 followed by our meeting at 7:30. Ladies show your support for your auxiliary by being there. This is your Auxiliary.

Last day for voter registration for the November Presidential election is 2 October.

Cathy Graham

Annual Dues to be Determined at September Meeting

As reported last month, the Department of Virginia will raise our dues assessment by \$5 in January. The Post must determine its response to this increase and the matter will be determined at the Post meeting starting at 8 pm on 9 September. Annual Dues of \$30 has been proposed. Anyone with thoughts on this matter is urged attend the Post meeting. The increase should take affect in January and members are urged to renew NOW for the 2005 year to beat the increase.

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. Whether or not you have received a renewal notice, you can send or bring your dues by the Post, or renew at National's website. Dues are currently \$23 for VFW members.

Note: If you pay more than once, National will credit you with a renewal for following years.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Thomas Buchholz (Navy - Vietnam) and Anthony Mitchell (Navy - Desert Storm / Persian Gulf) elected at the August meeting.

Moved Lately? Are you Registered to Vote?

**Check your new county
for registration deadline!
(2 October in Virginia)**



Past Post Commander William Jackson Dies

Past Post Commander (1955-56) William C. Jackson died on Sunday, 22 August. He was 86 on 13 August. Bill and his wife, Elsie Lee (Past President 1956-57), both seen above, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary early in 2001. Bill sometimes accompanied Lee when she would help with the newsletter mailout and had a wealth of Post history stories to tell, some of which have appeared in the John Lyon Gazette. He was a member of the Army's Company B, 50th Signal Battalion, Field Artillery in Europe during World War II. He joined the VFW Post 3150 in 1948 and had been a Life member since April 1969. His service was scheduled for 11 am Monday, 30 August at the National Funeral Home at National Memorial Cemetery on Lee Highway.

Marching off...

Lowell "Dutch" Reade (83), on Thursday, 19 August 2004. Dutch was a fairly new member of the VFW and Post 3150 but in the short time he was here he became beloved by all. He was in the Navy during World War II and was stationed in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. His burial has not yet been scheduled. Call Post for details.

Martha Schuchart-Sachs (90), our last female Post member from World War II, on 31 July 2004. She will be buried on 16 September at Fort Myer. Her husband precedes her in death and is at Arlington National Cemetery Martha was a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army and saw postwar duty in Japan, the Philippines, and Germany. She transferred into Post 3150 in May 1999 from Indianapolis and was an old friend of Irene Van Houten Munster who died last year.

And, of course, Bill Jackson.

From the John Lyon Past...

“First World War II Veteran Department Commander

“Their ranks now the major segment of V.F.W. membership, a World War II Veteran was for the first time elected Department Commander, when the Encampment unanimously elevated Senior Vice Commander Leroy S. Bendheim, of Alexandria, to that office for 1948-49...Other elective Officers also unanimously chosen were:

“...Chaplain---the Rev. Ralph D. Fowler, Arlington.

“These appointments and various Committee heads were announced by Commander Bendheim:

“Chief of Staff---George C. Dalby, Arlington;...Public Relations Officer---Roy B. Pruitt, Arlington...” (The *History of the Department of Virginia - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 1919 - 1969: A Half-Century of Veteran Service*, p. 240)

Hours for the Post Canteen

The Post canteen is without a daytime manager for the present time and lunch has been suspended. On some days the Post is expected to open weekdays at 4 pm for limited services. Full services on all days 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.

Correction

The 4th of July photo identified all firefighters as Arlington County Volunteer Firemen. Only “Butch” Hovermill is a volunteer. The others are regular members of the Arlington County Fire Department.

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 M, L, and XL sizes, particularly colored and white T-shirts and boxer shorts, flip-flops, athletic socks, and outdoor shorts. These articles are being taken to Andrews AFB and to the hospitals as needed. A box has been set up in 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.

Charge Your Renewal On-Line Also Change Address, Replace Lost Card

Post members who would like to charge their annual renewals may do so on-line at www.vfw.org. Once you reach the national VFW webpage, click on “Membership”, then “Member Tools”. You will then see a list of member options which will allow you to pay your annual dues or sign up for Life Membership. You can also obtain a duplicate life or annual membership card or change your address. You will need your membership number, found on your membership card for any of these transactions, plus the Post dues amount to renew (\$23). (If you need help finding your membership number, give the post a call.)

And remember that the sooner your dues are paid, the sooner you will qualify for the Post's Life Membership drawings in early October.

Back to School Time

Watch out for Kids

And Slow Down! The Police watch the streets near Key Elementary School for speeders.

Air Forces Birthday

Commemorating the
Army Air Corps,
Army Air Force,
U.S. Air Force

Ceremonies
Saturday, 18 September 2004
7:00 pm

Early Bird Dinner Scheduled

The Early Bird Dinner is scheduled for 4 - 7 pm on Saturday, 2 October. This is a no-cost "thank you" for all renewed and Life members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. There will be a charge for non-Early Birds. Call the Post for further information and to signup.

Last Month for VFW Life
Membership Drawings

The Post will again hold a special drawing during the Early Bird Dinner from all members who have joined or renewed by 1 October. The drawing will include one from each age group and the winners will receive a Life membership in the VFW. If the member whose name is drawn had gone Life when renewing or joining this summer, he/she will be reimbursed for that Life Membership and so will not be penalized for having "gone Life". To qualify for the drawing, you must join/renew at the Post by 1 October or National must have posted your Direct Dues renewal by 1 October.

Gold Star Mother's Day

Gold Star Mother's Day is Sunday, 26 September. Gold Star Mothers are those mothers whose sons or daughters died in combat, and who made, next to those who did not return, the greatest sacrifice for the nation. At least two members of the 3150 Ladies Auxiliary are Gold Star Mothers. We salute these valiant ladies.

District Meeting and
Department Fall Council Meeting

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Tenth District will hold their quarterly meetings at 1 pm on Sunday, 19 September at Springfield Post 7327. The Department Representatives will be State Junior Vice Commander C.D. "Doc" Crouch for the VFW and Department President Peggy Grimes for the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Department Fall Council meeting for VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members will be held 24 - 26 September in Roanoke, VA. Meetings will be held at the Wyndham Roanoke Airport Hotel. Phone 540-561-7908.

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend either or both meetings.

In case of illness or death, please notify the Post Commander or Adjutant or Ladies Auxiliary President or Secretary. The Post address / phone number are shown on the front page.

9-11 / Patriot's Day

John Lyon Post will remember those lost on 11 September 2001 at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and at Somerset, PA with ceremonies at 3 pm. The day has been named Patriot's Day.

Citizenship Day
17 September 2004
U.S. Constitution
Approved 1787

Labor Day Cookout Monday, 6 September

2 - 5 pm \$6.00

Chicken Breasts

Tossed Salad

Corn on the Cob

Baked Beans

Call Post for Reservations.

VFW Organizations Birthdays

The VFW as an organization will mark 105 years of serving veterans, their families, their communities, and the nation on September 29th. And the like-minded VFW Ladies Auxiliary will be 90 years old on September 17th. The occasions will be marked before the Ladies Auxiliary meeting at 6:45 pm on the 16th and the Post at 7 pm on the 29th.

Hospice Benefit Night

Mark your calendars: the annual Hospice Benefit Dinner is scheduled for 4 - 8 pm on Saturday, 16 October. Karaoke will follow the dinner.

Vietnam Trip Contest

"If you received a Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam, you could be one of 12 lucky veterans to be selected for the VFW's 'Return to Vietnam' trip. The in-country tour, which will be April 8-17, 2005, will take the selected veterans to Saigon, the Mekong Delta, Cu Chi, Hue, the DMZ, Hoi An, Marble Mountain and China Beach. Airfare, accommodations and meals are included. Entries will be selected in a drawing to be held Nov. 15, 2004. Winners will be notified by mail or e-mail in early December." Obtain application and additional information on the National VFW website or at the Post.

Students, Teachers, and Scouts

The following is an overview of VFW programs and contests for students, teachers, and scouts:

Voice of Democracy: audio essay contest for grades 9 through 12. The 2004-2005 theme is "Celebrating Our Veterans' Service" Deadline is Nov. 1, 2004.

Patriot's Pen: essay contest for grades 6, 7 and 8. The 2004-2005 theme is "What Service to Our Country Means to Me." The deadline is Nov. 1, 2004.

Teacher of the Year: top elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and tradition. Fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals can submit nominations by Nov 1, 2004.

Scout of the Year: Deadline is Mar 1, 2005

Ladies Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art: grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Deadline: Mar 29, 2005. See <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.com>, then Scholarships.

Awards are presented at post, district, state, and national levels and can add up to thousands of dollars. Deadlines are to local post.

The Veterans' Tribute Scholarship is new this year and is available to children and grandchildren, ages 16 to 18, of all U.S. military veterans, active duty, Reserves and National Guard.: Deadline is Dec 31, 2004. Application at VFW website.

Except as noted above, see www.vfw.org, then Programs, then Youth Development or Citizenship Education. Or call Post 3150 at 703-525-0108 (evenings or weekends best) for further information.

A John Lyon Hello ...

...and congratulations to Mr and Mrs Henry Shine who were recently married.

Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Senior Vice Commander Steve Cobb and Adjutant J.Gary Wagner accept the first boxes of Krispy Kreme doughnuts from Manager in Training Bryan Bacon (rear) and two associates of the retail store in Alexandria, Lek and Esther. The store is donating weekly about 12 dozen doughnuts to be presented to injured servicemen and women returning from the war zone and to the staffs of the hospitals where they are being accepted and treated.

Following ceremonies at the Purple >>> Heart Memorial at Mount Vernon, post rep J.Gary Wagner joins other John Lyon members Mary Straub, Ralph Huston, Dewayne White, and Steve Cobb. Also seen are Edward Schnug who received a special citation and Tanya Cobb (third and second from the right) all whom are members of Purple Heart Chapter 353 or its Ladies Auxiliary



<<< Following Post 3150 ceremonies for Purple Heart Day, recipients Richard Hoffman, Gene Miller, and Ralph Huston cut into a purple and white cake.

Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Post Commander Greg Moscater and Ladies Auxiliary President Catherine Graham review the history of the U.S. Coast Guard during ceremonies marking the 214th birthday of what once was known as the Revenue Cutter Service among other names.

Ladies Auxiliary and Post Chaplains >>> Barbara Brickhill and Ralph Huston, along with Surgeon Mark Pando and Adjutant J.Gary Wagner recently distributed fresh fruits and magazines to residents of the VA Hospital nursing home in Washington, DC.



<<< Sunday Brunch remains a popular attraction for John Lyon members, guests, and members of the community. Recently Ladies Auxiliary Tenth District President Betty Gimble (left) and Past Department President Virginia Edwards (front) joined 3150 President Cathy Graham for the a morning meal at the Post.

Virginia Voter Registration

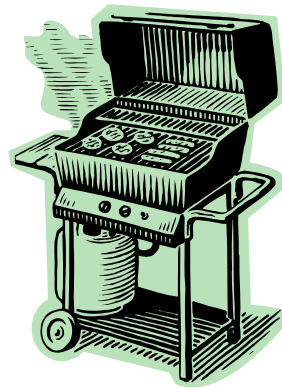
Who may register to vote?

- ⇒ Must be a citizen of the United States.
- ⇒ Must live in the state of Virginia.
(A person who has come to Virginia for temporary purposes and intends to return to another state is not considered a resident for voting purposes)
- ⇒ Must be at least 18 years old by the date of the next general election.
- ⇒ Must not claim the right to vote in any other state.
- ⇒ Must not currently be in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, or judged by a court to be incapacitated, unless your right to vote has been restored by the Governor or a court order has restored you to capacity.

When is the deadline to register to vote?

- ⇒ For a general, primary or presidential election, the deadline is 29 days before the election.
- ⇒ For a special election held at a time other than a general election, the deadline is 14 days before the election. If mailed, the application must be postmarked no later than the deadline.
- ⇒ If delivered in person, either by the applicant or a third party, the application must be received by the deadline.
- ⇒ Applications postmarked or received after the deadline will be held and processed after the election.

Remember – Every Vote Is Important



September 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Movie Night	2	3	4
5	6 Ladies Aux Labor Day Cookout 2 - 5 pm	7 Post O Call 7:30 pm House Com 8 pm	8 Movie Night	9 Post Meeting 8 pm	10	11 9-11 / Patriots Day 3 pm
12 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	13	14	15 Movie Night	16 Ladies Aux 90th Birthday 6:45 & Meeting 7:30	17 POW/MIA 7 pm	18 Air Forces Birthday 7 pm
19 10th District Meeting 1 pm	20	21	22 Movie Night	23	24 Fall Council Meeting - Roanoke	25 Fall Council Meeting - Roanoke
26 Sun. Brunch 9 am - 1 pm Fall Council Gold Star Mothers	27	28	29 VFW 105th Birthday 7pm Movie Night	30		2 Oct Early Bird Dinner 4 - 7 pm

Are you registered to Vote in November?



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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 9209

Dated Material Please Do Not Delay



POW / MIA
Recognition Day

17 September 2004

Post 3150 Ceremony
7 pm