

The John Lyon Gazette

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April 2010



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
703-525-0108/fax 703-525-8055
<http://www.vfw3150.org>



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007 and 2009 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, and 2006;
Best Newsletter in the Nation, 1999, Second Place 2006

VFW Post 3150 in 2010

This issue makes the ninth annual look at the makeup of John Lyon Post. This year's tally of Post 3150's membership shows that, on the whole, we are still well represented across the board. Persian Gulf / Desert Storm veterans make up our second largest block after Vietnam vets. Iraqi Freedom / Afghanistan / GWOT vets would be second if counted together. World War II veterans now rank fifth behind all Korea vets. About one half 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. To keep our tallies comparable from year to year, those were counted who were on the membership roster last July 1st plus new members who have joined since. Some members were in more than one service or war so the numbers don't add up exactly. And we still lack some data from an earlier disk crash which has not yet been recovered. Current memberships total 516. The results show that we were in ...

World War II	49		
Post War Occupation	18		
Korean War	38	Army	240
Taiwan Straits	2	Navy	112
Cuba	1	USAF (including AAF)	86
Vietnam / Southeast Asia	225	USMC	87
Korean Exped / Service	51	USCG	3
Libya	4		
Grenada	2		
Lebanon	13		
El Salvador / Panama	3		
Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	100	Includes 26 women:	
Haiti	4	Berlin	2
Somalia	1	Vietnam	1
Bosnia / Kosovo	23	Korea	5
Afghanistan / GWOT	42	Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	11
Iraqi Freedom	99	Bosnia	2
SSBN	1	Iraq / Afghanistan / GWOT	12
Other Expeditionary	4		

From the Commander:

At last, Spring is upon us with Easter just days away. It's hard to remember a time when the season has been so long awaited or so welcome. Traditionally, it is this time of year that our spirits begin to soar and our thoughts begin to focus on long hoped-for possibilities. Spring is in the air.

Like the very landscape around us, signs of renewal are evident all over our community. We are fortunate to live in such a place. But not everyone in our community – as rich and diverse as it is – is happy and hopeful. Far too many of our citizens are in desperate need of the very help that we here at Post 3150 are uniquely positioned to give. Whether it's a family whose spouse or parent is serving overseas, or a young veteran returning to an improving but still bleak job market, or a wounded vet in need of physical and moral support, we are able (and poised) to help. But we can – and must – do more.

Thank you, thank you all for what you do, your goodwill, and hours of selfless service. Your efforts bring good cheer and brighten the day for many. Just a couple examples of your goodwill are: the smiles of those at the Veteran's Administration Hospital, the chatter of friends during our monthly breakfasts, all examples of how you bring smiles to many in our community. You have stepped up and given comfort and assistance to our neighbors and friends when they need it. Isn't this, after all, the very reason that our Post exists?

If you want to be part of these memorable occasions, whether you have a little time or a lot to give in service to our community, your help is needed, valuable and welcome. And remember: those who can, do. Those who do *more* are called volunteers.

Finally, and in keeping with the theme, I'm pleased to wish a happy anniversary to our very own Men's Auxiliary. Over the past two years, these guys have worked very hard to help our Post remain an effective patron and supporter of our community. Whether they're cooking Sunday breakfasts or raising funds for charitable causes, the contributions these guys make to the overall quality and success of our Post make us all look good. Congratulations, – and thank you!

Yours in Comradeship.

Charles Reddoor, Commander, VFW Post 3150

From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

Since all that nasty nasty weather has left our area and we hope it's gone for a long time, the rains will be here again. So it's time to tend to flower beds, gardens, and yards getting them ready to plant and making sure the yard has no storm debris, twigs, clumps of leaves, or any hazardous debris laying around. What beautiful mornings we are having!

Late March happenings: The 25th is the Men's Auxiliary's 2nd birthday. "Happy Birthday" to a great group of guys! May you have many many more!! They will cut their cake at 7:30p.m.

On the 28th (Palm Sunday Breakfast) the Ladies are having their "Egg Raffle". See you there!

31 March is the deadline for the "Patriotic Arts Contest" sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Now April's doings: On Saturday, 3 April, 5:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m. our Ladies are having our "Annual Crab

Dinner", good news: prices are the same as they were in 2009. Be sure to sign up for our big event.

Department homecoming will be held in Staunton, VA. on the 24th. We wish the Department President God speed and Thanks for all you've done for us!

At our last breakfast for the month of April (25th) our ladies are having a bake sale. Proceeds will go to our general fund. That fund is used to support various programs

For all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries we wish for you all the happiness in the world. And for those who are recuperating in hospitals and rehab, get well soon. Come back to our home post, as we have missed seeing you. So until next month, I bid you a fond farewell.

With loyalty and fortitude,

Elsa V. Weeks, President, Ladies Auxiliary 3150

From the President of the Men's Auxiliary:

Greetings One and All,

Sorry to say I have no new members to report this month. Please put on your thinking caps guys, and let us all do our best to raise some new members.

Thanks to everyone who attended the recent St. Patty's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner. Your support is always appreciated.

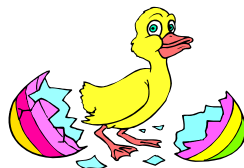
Kudos all around for all the folks involved in the preparation and service of the meal. Brett Hudak and Vince Kane waiting the tables, Butch Hovermill doing most of the clean up, Bernie Dodson conducting the 50/50 raffle, Mike "Red" Lowe both as event coordinator as well as major domo: all did fantastic jobs. Special thanks to both kitchen stalwarts, Eric Anderson and Wilbur Rawlings who not only purchased the grub but prepped, cooked, and served the meal. Great job guys, as usual, and let's not forget thanks to Jennifer Thompson for gathering our selection of pies. I heard nothing but praise from all corners.

No events planned by the Men Auxiliary for next month, but please stay tuned in for upcoming details.

Mike Holtz and Russ Dixon are home from their deployments safe and sound, Hallelujah.

See you at the post,

W.L. Binkley, President, Men's Auxiliary 3150



Happy Easter!

Post Officer Nominations

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

Commander: Nelson Betancourt
Senior Vice Commander: Mark Wolfe
Junior Vice Commander: Dewey Carter,
Matt Miller
Quartermaster: Richard Hoffman
Chaplain: Gary Woods
Advocate: M. Conrad Agresti
Surgeon: Mark M. Pando
3 Year Trustee: John Godsey

3 Year House Committee: John Mallon

Post nominations remain open and additional ones may be made at the **April meeting --- 8 April ---** when elections will be held.

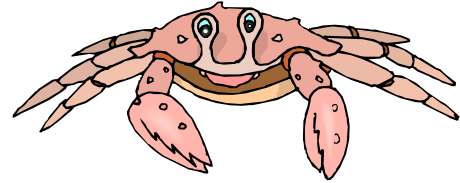
The **Men's Auxiliary** will nominate and elect at their meeting on **13 April** while the **Ladies Auxiliary** will nominate and elect at their meeting on **15 April**. All new officers will be installed in May but will not assume their duties until the new state officers are installed at the end of the state convention in Richmond in June.

Corporate Meeting

The annual meeting of the John Lyon Corporation will be held in connection with the Post meeting on Thursday, 8 April. Corporation officers will be elected.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Thomasine Clifton Jackson (USMC-Desert Storm)(Life-24), Christopher Miller (Army-Korea/Afghanistan/Desert Storm), Dean Mitchell (Korea)(Life Trans), Daniel Nordmann (USMC-Vietnam)(Life Trans), and to new Ladies Auxiliary member Ellen Sutherland, all elected at the March meetings.



Crab Cake Supper

Ladies Auxiliary 3150 will again hold its annual Crab Cake dinner this spring. The dinner will be Saturday, April 3rd, from 5 pm 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 703-525-0108 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.

A John Lyon Hello ...

...and "Welcome Home!" to Patrick McDougal who recently returned from a year's tour in Iraq. And to Mike Holtz and Russ Dixon, who as we write this, are on a plane enroute home from Iraq!

State Convention

The Department of Virginia's state convention will be held June 10-13, 2010 at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel. Group room rates at the hotel are \$89.00 per night. For hotel reservations, call 804-285-2000. Reservations must be made by 10-May for the group rate. Those planning to attend should let the Post know so that we can coordinate several events with you.

Desert Storm / Persian Gulf Cease Fire

The anniversary of the Persian Gulf Cease Fire at the end of Operation Desert Storm will be marked by a short ceremony on Sunday, 11 April at 1:00 pm. All members, but especially those veterans of the 1990s Iraq war, are invited to attend.

John Lyon Color Guard to Open Arlington Little League Ceremonies

A John Lyon Color Guard will lead the parade of teams at the opening ceremonies of the Arlington Little League season, on Sunday, 11 April. The opening ceremonies are scheduled for 2:30 pm at Field #1 on Barcroft Park, 4200 South. Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington. Members are invited to join the Color Guard, attend the ceremonies and the regular season baseball games.

This is the tenth year the post has sponsored a team. Following our initial sponsorship of the Majors 2 Orioles ---- which won the tournament championship --- the last nine years we sponsored the Majors 2 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/

National VFW Convention

The 111th National VFW Convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 21 - 26, 2010. Information can be obtained from the national VFW (www.vfw.org, then News & Info, 111th Convention), the state of Virginia's General Orders (www.vfwva.org), from the Post, and current issues of the VFW magazine. You must book by early July for group rate, and via mail, fax, or the Internet. Virginia's hotel is the Omni Severn. Anyone planning to attend should let the post know so that we can coordinate several items with you.

America The Story of Us

The History Channel will premier a 12 part, 6 night review of U.S. history on Sunday, 25 April. Called **America The Story of Us**, It will cover the days of settlement of America through the current days. Limited information is currently available at www.history.com/classroom, while more can be expected at the main site as the show date nears.

Post Membership nears 100% Charge Your Renewal On-Line

Post members: Membership is inching towards 100%. **We need your renewal to reach that 100% mark!** Those who would like to charge their renewal may do so on-line at www.vfw.org. Click on Membership, then Current Members, and then Renew Your Membership. 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 will need your membership number for this transaction, plus the Post dues amount to renew: \$30. Or send your check to National or to the Post. You may also use the website to convert to Life Membership, including the two installment programs. If you have not renewed for the Year 2010, your membership expired at the end of December. Check your membership card for the expiration date.

Upcoming Next Month

Not counting Sunday brunches and the normal meetings, the following are the highlights of next month's calendar. See next month's newsletter for more details.

- Mon, 3 May: Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Ceremony, 7 pm
- Sat, 15 May: Installation of Officers, 2 pm
- Fri, 28 May: Grave Decoration, National Memorial & Columbia Gardens, 12:30 pm
- Sat, 29 May: Grave Decoration, Arlington National Cemetery, 9 am
- Mon, 31 May: Memorial Day Ceremonies:
John Lyon Memorial, 11 am
Clarendon War Memorial, 1 pm

Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

Sun (1 st , 3 rd , 5 th)	12 noon – 9pm
Sun (2 nd , 4 th , "Brunch")	9 am – 9 pm
Mon - Thurs	3 – 9 pm
Fri	3 – 10 pm
Sat	12 noon–10 pm

Post / Highway Cleanup Scheduled

Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, 17 April. Meet at the Post at 8:30 am for coffee and doughnuts. Wear long pants and hard-soled shoes. The Post has gloves, 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.



April 18 - 24 National Volunteer Week

Be a Volunteer!
Join us for
Highway Cleanup
on Saturday, 17 April

Tax Scams

It's income tax time again and already the scammers are trying to get the rest of our money. Remember the government does NOT do such business over the phone or email. Do NOT respond to phone or email requests for your bank account, social security number and other similar info. No matter what the webpage looks like and the voice sounds like, THOSE are the bad guys!

Sunday Brunch \$7.00
9 am - 12 noon
Kids under 10 years eat free

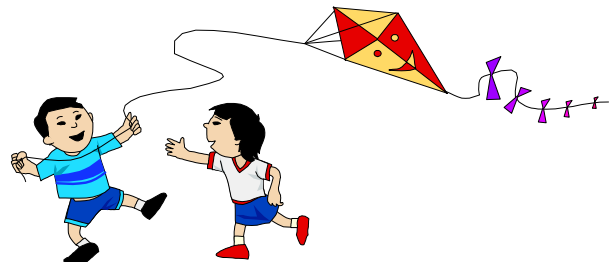
Veterans Day National Poster Nominations

Do you have an idea for a national Veterans Day poster? If so, the Veterans Day National Committee wants to hear from you. The committee is seeking submissions for the 2010 national Veterans Day poster. The poster is distributed to VA and military installations around the world. It also graces the cover of the official program booklet for the Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

A selection committee will convene in May 2010 to review submissions and select a finalist. The final poster must be 18x24" at 300 dots per inch, but please scale down submissions to 9x12" and submit electronic versions as jpg images or PDF files via e-mail to vetsday@va.gov. Alternatively, send copies of artwork or a CD with artwork files to: Department of Veterans Affairs (002C), 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, D.C., 20420. Please do not send originals. The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2010.

To view Veterans Day posters from previous years, please visit <http://www.va.gov/vetsday> and click on "Poster Gallery".

Submissions should include sufficient information to demonstrate that the image is the work of the artist and is not copyrighted material (i.e. photos and concepts). The committee may select a particular submission but ask the artist to make modifications to the original design. Additional changes may be required prior to printing. (Veterans Day National Committee press release)



**Drive safe: Spring means longer
days and more kids outside.**

Recent Events Around the Post

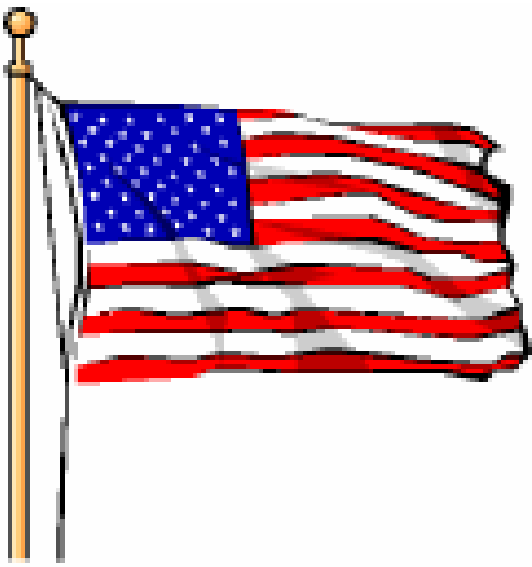
Preparing to head out to John Lyon' >>> designated stretch of Lee Highway for the quarterly Highway Cleanup are (l to r) Tommy Saunders, Nelson Betancourt, Shirley McAlhaney, Charles Reddoor, John Godsey (front) and J.Gary Wagner. A few snow drifts remained in spite of the warmer weather and the members worked around those in gathering a record 20 bags of trash after the recent blizzards.



<<< Having loaded the van with four cases of bananas, pears, and oranges, and bags of laundry detergent, bleach, toothpaste, tooth brushes, etc., Matt Carson, Richard Hoffman, J.Gary Wagner, and Charles Reddoor prepare to head to the VA Hospital in Washington to visit residents of the nursing home.

A John Lyon tradition for at least 43 >>> years: corned beef and cabbage for St Patrick's Day! Louis and Elena Rodriguez, and Clara Jordan and George Jordan (l to r) dig into the generous servings of corned or regular beef, cabbage, potatoes, salad, and desert.. This year the feast was sponsored by Men's Auxiliary 3150.





Loyalty Day
1 May 2010

VFW Post 3150
Ladies Auxiliary 3150
Men's Auxiliary 3150



VFW 3150

April 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 PASSOVER 30 Mar - 5 Apr	2 Lt John Lyon born 2 Apr 1893	3 Auxiliary Crab Cake Supper 5 - 8 pm
4 EASTER SUNDAY	5 House Committee 7:30 pm Post O Call 8 pm	6	7 Movie Night	8 Post Meeting 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	9	10
11 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n Arlington Little League Opening 2:30 pm	12 <<< Persian Gulf Cease Fire 1 pm	13 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	14 Movie Night	15 TAX DAY Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	16	17 Highway Cleanup 8:30 am
18	19 National	20	21 Movie Night	22	23	24 State Cmdr & Pres Homecoming Staunton, VA 9 am - 12 mid
<<<-----		-----	Volunteer	Week-----	18- 24 April	----->>>
25 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n	26	27	28 Movie Night	29	30	1 May LOYALTY DAY

Dinner RSVPs / Info: 703-525-0108



We rarely show you plants in the yard outside the Post home, but after the blizzard pictures in the last issue, we thought you might like to see what was lurking beneath those mountains of snow. Crocus (left) and Snowdrops (?) have brightened the previously dismal days, and as we go to press, daffodils are beginning to show their color.



**Post Elections &
Corporate Meeting
Tues, 8 Apr 10
7:30 pm**

**Men's Auxiliary
Elections
Tues, 13 Apr 10
7:30 pm**

**Ladies Auxiliary
Elections
Thurs, 15 Apr 10
7:30 pm**