

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 24, Number 9

April 2018



Veterans of Foreign Wars

- John Lyon Post #3150
- 2116 North 19th Street
- Arlington VA 22201
- 703-525-0108



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2016 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Awards for 2010, 2011

VFW Post 3150 in 2018

Afghanistan/GWOTE and Iraq vets now #1 and #2

This issue makes the seventeenth annual look at the makeup of John Lyon Post. This year's tally of Post 3150's membership shows that, overall, we are still well represented across the board. Iraqi Freedom / Afghanistan / GWOTEM vets remain the largest blocks, each now more than Vietnam vets, but together passing them six years ago, our largest group when this survey started in 2001. Persian Gulf / Desert Storm veterans make up our fourth largest block. Considering the relative size of the different branches of the services, we are fairly well represented there, too, with Army being the largest group. 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 and completed all their paperwork. Some members were in more than one service or had multiple deployments and are counted for each, so the numbers don't add up exactly. Current memberships total 587. The results show that we were in ...

World War II	10		
Post War Occupation	15		
Korean War	21	Army	305
Korean Service	74	Navy	125
Taiwan Straits	1	USAF (including AAF)	88
Vietnam / Southeast Asia	184	USMC	126
Libya	2	USCG	4
Lebanon / Beirut	11		
Grenada	1		
El Salvador / Panama	4		
Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	124	Includes 58 women:	
Haiti	5	Post War Occupation	3
Somalia / Horn of Africa / Chad	4	Korea Service	9
Bosnia / Kosovo	38	Persian Gulf / Desert Storm	14
Afghanistan / GWOTEM	208	Haiti / Cuba	2
Iraqi Freedom	206	Bosnia / Kosovo	8
SSBN	2	Iraq	25
Other Expeditionary	24	Afghanistan / GWOTEM	20

From the Commander:

Greetings Comrades and Friends,

About ten months ago we began the 2017-2018 VFW year. This year has been one of great change and forward progress for the Post and as we approach Post elections in April, I think it an appropriate time to reflect on some of the notable accomplishments of the last 10 or so months and consider where we are today relative to where we were then:

- At the March 2017 meeting we reported \$15,400 in the bank - today we sit at about \$28,000 not including \$5,000 we have set aside to build a deck starting at the end of the month;
- At the March 2017 meeting we reported 471 life members, had recruited 74 new members for the year, and were at 92% on total membership - today we have a total of 577 members, of which 500 are life members, and we are at 101% membership with 50% retention of annual members;
- At the March 2017 meeting we approved money for a new website - today that new website has generated over 3,000 views, helped us sell over 160 merchandise items, allowed for the processing of 40 member applications, renewals, and transfers, and facilitated over 40 hall rental requests (a major source of Post income);
- In from June 2016-February of 2017 we had \$22,638 in sales at the canteen - this year we have already surpassed that mark by over \$5,000;
- Roughly this time last year there was an ongoing conversation about lowering our meeting quorum because meeting attendance had been on a downward trend - we have not even come close to missing quorum at a single meeting this year to date;
- Less than a year ago, we began a gun raffle which is our third highest selling item since June 1st with over \$1,200 in sales;
- Last year at this time, our kitchen had been close to a year or more - since June we have reopened our kitchen and food sales are our fourth highest category of sales with over 250 units sold and more than \$1,300 in sales and we have recently contracted with a catering company that will be working select events and opening the Post for lunch service in the near future.

At our last meeting, we began the process of nominating our elected officers for the 2018-2019 VFW year, and at our meeting in April we will be electing our new leadership. The comrades whom we select as our elected officers for the 2018-2019 year and the appointed officers the Post Commander will select are the foundation from which we will continue to grow and build. Here is a breakdown of the elected and appointed positions:

Elected Officers

- Post Commander
 - Current: Walter Sweeney
 - Nominees for 2018-19: Walter Sweeney
- Senior Vice Commander
 - Current: Nicholas Hatfield
 - Nominees for 2018-19: Eric Ganser
- Junior Vice Commander
 - Current (acting): EJ Delpero
 - Nominees for 2018-19: EJ Delpero
- Quartermaster
 - Current: Jim Bertine
 - Nominees for 2018-19: Jim Bertine
-
-

- Chaplain
 - Current: Mike Beatty
 - Nominees for 2018-19: Mike Beatty
- 3-Year House Committee Member
 - Current (will become 2-Year Member automatically): Eric Grenlin
 - Nominees for 2018-19: Cam Kennedy
- 3-Year Trustee
 - Current (will become 2-Year Trustee automatically): Bill Kelly
 - Nominees for 2018-19: Wayne Bertino

Appointed Officers (appointments are made by the Commander-Elect between elections in April and installation in early June)

- Adjutant (current: J Gary Wagner)
- Judge Advocate (current: Amelia Polling)
- Surgeon (current: Chris Gaffney)
- Guard (current: Mike Rau)
- Officer of the Day (current: Jolly Bittick)
- Service Officer (current: Eric Grenlin)

Trustees and House Committee Members - Each year we elect the 3-Year House Committee Member and Trustee who then move up to the 2-Year and then the 1-Year automatically each year. These are the House Committee Members and Trustees that will continue on this year:

- Eric Grenlin will move from 3-Year House Committee Member to 2-Year House Committee Member
- Eric Ganser will move from 2-Year House Committee Member to 1-Year House Committee Member (if elected Senior Vice Commander, the 1-Year House Committee Member position will be vacant and require a special election)
- Bill Kelly will move from 3-Year Trustee to 2-Year Trustee
- Pat Murray will move from 2-Year Trustee to 1-Year Trustee

The expected time commitment for most elected and appointed officers is an average of one hour a week (Commander, Quartermaster, and Adjutant are likely 2-3hrs per week). If you have that time to spare, then I encourage you to consider running for an elected position, seeking an appointment from the Commander-Elect following elections in April, or volunteering as the assistant to any of the elected or appointed officers. It is the work of the people in leadership that keeps our doors open to veterans in need and our community service impactful.

Thank you to those who have worked so hard this year, to those who are continuing, and to those who will take on the mantle of leadership for the first time this year. Thank you for being a part of such a great team, for your selfless sacrifice of time, and for making VFW Post 3150 the highest rated Post in Virginia and a top-40 Post in the world!

Yours in Comradeship,
 Walter Sweeney, USMC
 Post Commander
 John Lyon VFW Post 3150
 Arlington, Virginia
www.vfw3150.org

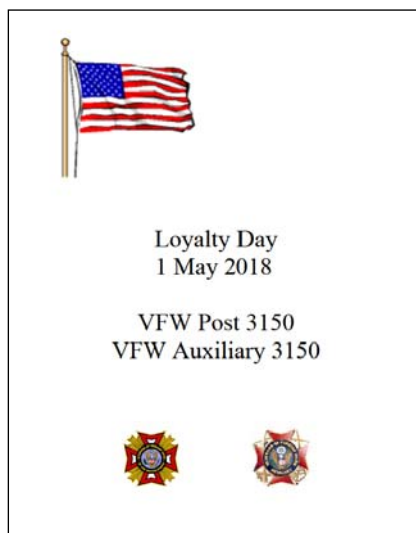
From the President of the Auxiliary:

Greetings from Oklahoma, land of the Boomer Sooners! Mom and I have been on an adventure to establish residency in the huge town of Wyandotte, OK. It took a week to get an Oklahoma driver's license in two different locations, (which is only open on Tuesdays) and an Oklahoma license plate from a 3rd location which is open Monday through Friday. But the license plate took 3 attempts to obtain! Then it was Saturday, nothing open that we needed to get done so it was off to Wally World for a bit of shopping. The temperature hit 79 degrees and I decided to turn the air conditioner on, but it decided not to work! So, there is a Ford dealer in Miami before we get to Wally World. I stop to see if they are open which they were, for oil changes but not air conditioners. They ask if I mind if they check the buttons to make sure I had the right ones on. As if I wasn't smart enough to turn on the car's air correctly! I'm not sure if it's because they think women are incapable of turning it on correctly or what, but I guess I passed the test because I did have the correct buttons on! So, then they made an appointment for my new car with 2000 miles on it to get the air fixed on Monday at 10:00am. Just like a doctor's appointment, it was late getting in for its appointment. One thing we have found out, in Sooner country nothing moves quickly. It took 5 different appointment times to get dish network installed. Seems they felt my new address was invalid. They couldn't find it. Funny I drove 1400 miles and found it with no problem but the 3 technicians they sent from the area couldn't find it. I had to assure them it was a valid address and of course they found it after I explained we were behind the water tower behind the casino. (They knew where the casino was!) When it came time to install a landline phone, all went well, except we had to go to Seneca, MO to get that! But the women there could not have been more helpful. One minute one woman came out to help us the next minute there were 8 women out there! It was nuts. Mom and I thought they all must have come out there as surely there couldn't have been more than that working there! Now picture this, all this time in Wyandotte I'm making tons of calls on my cell phone trying to set things up and arrange things. Only problem with this is there isn't very good cell reception anywhere! So here I am driving around country roads with my cell phone in my hand stuck out the window of the car until I can find a signal! Once I find one I pull to the side of the road keeping my arm up in air cell in hand and not moving it to prevent losing the signal and talking over the hands-free Bluetooth through the radio! Boy I can tell you it gives a new meaning to that commercial, "can you hear me now!" Oh, no Wi-Fi either, so no texting or emails going or coming in. So here I sit writing my article on my cell in hopes I can get it to Gary Wagner before the next edition or next year for that matter! So here we are still on our adventure. We plan to move during the early summer months. So, until next month, Happy Birthday and/or Anniversary to anyone who is celebrating them this month. Please remember to check on our elderly and disabled, it will warm your heart and bring a smile to them!

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Weeks

President VFW Post 3150 Auxiliary



Loyalty Day?

You will notice elsewhere in this newsletter that May 1st is Loyalty Day. "What is Loyalty Day?" some of our newer members may ask.

In April 1965, Post Commander Ned Allred explained in the *Northern Virginia Sun*: "The Veterans of Foreign War created Loyalty Day to counteract Communist demonstrations against our American way of life...The Reds were using May Day for special celebration of their revolutionary drive against all freedom principles. It was their number one day on which to shout hatred for our ideals and to wave their hammer and sickle flag under our noses."

According to *History - Department of Virginia - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States - 1919 - 1969* (page 219): "Designed to stimulate and promote nationwide expression of Americanism and Patriotism, May 1st was established by the National V.F.W. in 1947 as 'Loyalty Day'; as an occasion for

general observance and reaffirmation of our country's basic concepts of Freedom...Gaining in significance and recognition yearly, it has within two decades developed into the Nation's most outstanding observance of its character, to become declared by Congress as 'a special day for public reaffirmation and demonstration of strong loyalty to country by all true citizens.'" Recent events in the Ukraine, the Middle East and elsewhere around the world continue to make Loyalty Day as appropriate for the Twenty-first Century as for the previous one.

**Post Elections &
Corporate Meeting**
Mon, 16 Apr 18
7:30 pm

VFW Auxiliary Elections
Tues, 17 Apr 18
7:30 pm

Corporate Meeting

The annual meeting of the John Lyon Corporation will be held in connection with the Post meeting on Monday, 16 April. Corporation officers will be elected to match Post officers.



John Lyon Color Guard to Open Arlington Little League Ceremonies, 8 Apr

The John Lyon Color Guard will present the National Colors during the opening ceremonies of the Arlington Little League's 32nd Anniversary season, on Sunday, 8 April. The opening ceremonies are scheduled for 2:00 pm at Field #1 on Barcroft Park, 4200 South Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington. The Post 3150 Honor Guard will present the colors. Members are invited attend the ceremonies and the regular season baseball games. The Post will sponsor the AAA Rays this year. Information at <http://arlingtonlittleleague.org/>

Event updates can be found on our Facebook page. "Like" us at "John Lyon VFW Post 3150".

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Calvin Honeywell (Army-Iraq)(Life Trans), Celidon ("Celi") Pitt (USMC – GWOTEM(Life), Jorge Rios (USMC – Iraq / Afghanistan)(L12), and Michael Kelly, all who were elected at the March meeting.

New Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is open as follows:
First Thursday of each month from 6-10 pm
Every Friday from 5-10 pm
Every Saturday from 3-10 pm
Every Sunday from 1-6 pm
Post may extend hours for various events.

Are You Expired?

Many VFW member's memberships are set to expire in the next weeks. Check your membership card for your expiration date and renew if necessary.

Poses and Pints: Yoga Regular Time: 2 pm.

Join us for our monthly yoga session with the folks at Yoga Legion the first Saturday of the month. The next is 7 April at 2pm..

This event is open to VFW & Auxiliary Members and service members and their dependents free of charge. Accompanying guests of these individuals may attend for a \$10 fee. Please bring your Membership card or CAC/Dependent ID for verification

Stick around after yoga to enjoy a beverage with other Yogis and Post members. Yoga participants will receive \$1 off their first beer or soft drink in the Post's Canteen following yoga.

No yoga experience is necessary!

Post 3150 has 500 Life Members!

Post 3150 reached 500 Life members for the first time in history during March. Individual records are not yet available to determine who was the 500th Life member., but thanks to everyone who went “Life” in recent weeks! Life members make up about 86% of Post membership.

Moved?

Post members, if you are not receiving the VFW magazine, please go to www.vfw.org and update your address or send an email with your new address to the Adjutant at adjpost3150@vfwva.org Also notify the Adjutant of a new email address

District Convention

The Tenth District Convention is scheduled for 6 May at VFW Dale City Post 1503. Meeting at 1 pm with lunch starting at 11:30 am. Both VFW and Auxiliary will meet.

State Convention

The Department of Virginia’s state convention will be held 14 – 17 June 2018 at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth VA, telephone 757-673-3000. Room Rate: \$125.00. Group name “Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia”. Reserve room by 14 May 2018 to insure group rates.

National Convention

The National Convention will be held 21 – 25 July 2018 in Kansas City. The assigned hotel for Virginia is Westin Crown Center. Special Room rates are available until mid-June. For info or to reserve, go to <https://www.vfw.org/news-and-publications/events/vfw-national-convention>

Post Cleanup Date 21Apr

Devote an hour or two to help with Post Cleanup at 9 am on Sat, 21 April. We will work both indoors and out weather permitting.

Highway Cleanup 21 April

Highway Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, 21 April. Meet at the Post at 9 am. Wear long pants and hard-soled shoes. The Post has gloves, safety vests, and levered pick-up sticks. With a good turnout, we can be done in about 90 minutes.

Donations to the Post

Help us continue our long tradition of service with your donations today! Send check to the Post home or go to <https://www.gofundme.com/vfw3150/donate>

John Lyon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post is a Congressionally Chartered and Federally Recognized 501 (c) 19 Veterans Charitable Organization.

Inquiries can be sent to johnlyon3150@gmail.com

Tax Scams

It’s income tax time again and the scammers are trying to get the rest of our money. The government does NOT do business via the phone or email. Do NOT respond to phone or email requests for your bank account, social security number and other similar info.

**Spring Days.
Watch out for
children playing
outdoors.**



Post Awards Ceremonies

Awards will be presented for the winners of the Post's Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Police Officer of the Year on April 14th. Awards will also be presented to the Post's Member and New Member of the Year as well as the Volunteer of the Year.

The event will begin with a reception at 5pm followed by dinner service beginning at 6pm. The awards ceremony will begin at 6:30pm.

Winners aged 18 and under will be permitted two guests, while all winner over the age of 18 will be permitted one guest. Additional guests and attendees not involved in the ceremony will be required to purchase a ticket for \$10 upon arrival. Please RSVP using at <https://www.vfw3150.org/2018awards/> if you plan to attend this year's ceremony.

Post Closed Friday, 30 March and Sunday 1 April

The Post will be closed Friday, 30 March, and Sunday 1 April for Easter Weekend observances. Hours in Saturday 21 March will be limited, opening about 2:30 and ending when a movie ends about 7pm.

Upcoming Next Month

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

Mon, 1 May: Loyalty Day

Sun, 6 May: District Convention, Post 1503, 1 pm

Fri, 25 May: Grave Decoration, National Memorial & Columbia Gardens cemeteries, 12:30 pm at Post

Sat, 26 May: Grave Decoration, Arlington National Cemetery, 9 am at Post

Mon, 28 May: Memorial Day Ceremonies:

Cherrydale "John Lyon" Memorial, 11 am

Clarendon War Memorial, 1 pm

Facebook / Instagram

Join us on Facebook to get the latest Post info:
John Lyon VFW Post 3150



**Happy Easter
and
Best Wishes for your
Observance of Passover**



VFW Junior Vice Commander in Chief William "Doc" Schmitz (left) circled the state, visiting posts in Virginia in March. Cathy Graham and "Doc" Crouch were among those who greeted him at the Manassas Post 7589.

From the John Lyon Past...

The following is excerpted from an article which appeared in the Northern Virginia Sun on 27 April 1962.

“Lyon Post Honors 3 Members

“ARLINGTON --- Presentation of life memberships to three leaders of John Lyon Post 3150, Veterans of Foreign Wars, marked the post’s joint installation with its auxiliary unit.

“The session also saw the burning of the mortgage on the home, marking recent wiping-out of its last indebtedness in a drive led by Dr. Raymond Markle, new senior vice commander.

“THE LIFE membership certificates were presented to George C. Dalby, a past national council member as well as past commander on state department, district and post levels. George E. Plunkitt, past district commander and national and state safety committee chairman, and retiring Commander Robert Bassford, who completed two years of post leadership.

“PAST COMMANDER DALBY also received a life membership in the VFW National Home organization for his efforts in its behalf. The awards were made to him by another past department commander, Robert H. Ringer of Springfield. Post Commander Miles Hubbard made the presentations to past Commanders Plunkitt and Bassford....”

VFW State Raffle

The VFW Department of Virginia will again conduct a raffle with winners to be drawn at the June Convention in Portsmouth. There are 50 great prizes. See below. The tickets are \$5 each and can be obtained at the Post or from various Post members.

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Phone: _____	\$5.00 each Permit Number G-19-03033-061232 No. 23161 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> VFW Department of Virginia Fund-Raising Raffle </div> The drawing will be held June 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in Portsmouth, VA at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704 Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Virginia 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401 • (540) 886-8112 (List of prizes on back)	No. 23161
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1. Yeti Cooler Package
2. \$250 BPS Gift Card
3. \$250 BPS Gift Card
4. \$500 BPS Gift Card
5. \$500 BPS Gift Card
6. \$750 BPS Gift Card
7. Hummingbird Helix 5 Sonar/GPS
8. Boom Bottle Radio/Speaker
9. Garmin Striker 4
10. Mustang PFD
11. Prowler Trolling Motor
12. Ascend T10 Kayak
13. Mr Steak Gas Grill
14. Masterbuilt 40" Digital Smoker
15. Lane Rocker Recliner
16. GoPro 6 Camera
17. Shimano Nasci Reel
18. RedHead 18 Gun Safe
19. M-999i Game Camera
20. Garmin Dog Tracking System
21. Knife Sharpener
22. Vortex Rangefinder
23. Nikon Monarch 5 Binoculars
24. Costa 580P Sunglasses
25. Penn Spinfish Combo
26. Casio Pathfinder Watch
27. Portable Vacuum Sealer
28. Muddy 2-person Ladder Stand
29. Viper Climbing Tree Stand
30. Thunderhawk Crossbow Pkg
31. 3D Crossbow Target
32. Parker Entorcer Crossbow
33. Blackout Ground Blind
34. Shimano Curado K Reel
35. Yeti Tundra 35
36. Yeti Tundra 45
37. Ruger 10/22 Takedown
38. SIG Sauer SP320 Compact
39. Henry Golden Boy .22 cal
40. Remington 700 VTR .308 w/Bipod
41. Remington 870 Home Defense
42. Henry US Survival AR-7 Rifle
43. Remington 870 Marine Magnum
44. Henry Big Boy .44 mag
45. H&K VP LE .40 with Night Sights
46. Savage 11/111 Trophy Hunter .308 w/
47. DPMS Oracle NATO Rifle
48. GLOCK 19 Gen5 Semi-Auto Pistol
49. Benelli M2 12ga Field Shotgun
50. Arctic Cat Alterra 500

VFW in Action

The National Legislative Conference, held in Washington DC, enables VFW and Auxiliary members to meet with members of Congress and present the VFW Legislative goals to their Representative and Senators. The VFW CINC also testifies before Congress. Post 3150 members joined in the week's activities.



Post member C.D. "Doc" Crouch, National Legislative Committee member, meets with Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11th District)



Post member Ryan M. Gallucci (l) Director, National Veterans Service, discusses legislation with another VFW member.



Post member Patrick Murray, National Legislative Service Associate Director, takes a break before the CINC's testimony begins.



Post member Brendan Gehrke waits for the CINC's testimony to begin.

Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Tenth District Commander Chuck Wilson (r) and President Regina Meehan (l) present the first place award for Voice of Democracy to Victoria Revello, a student at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington. Third place in Patriot's Pen was won by Bridget Rothwell, a student at St Ann School in Arlington but she was not available to receive her award. Both students were advanced from Post 3150 student essay competitions. The awards were presented at the recent Tenth District meeting. The district covers from Dale City to Leesburg to Arlington.

Post Commander Walter Sweeney >>> (center) receives the Honor Post plaque and hats for Commander and Quartermaster from State Commander Michael Boehme (right) and State Senior Vice Commander Ken Wiseman during the recent Tenth District Meeting. The plaque replaces the usual banners from previous years and is presented to Posts reaching 100% of their membership goals. It is the second earliest the Post reached 100% in memory.



<<< (l to r) Ryan Connally, Joseph Simons, and Daniele Figueroa play and sing during the Guitars for Vets night at Post 3150. Guitars for Vets is a national organization devoted to using music to teach physically and emotionally troubled vets to play the guitar and when they finish the program, they are presented with a new guitar. The organization then helps the vets find a place to showcase their talents. Musicians frequently include instructors, students and Post members.

VFW 3150

April 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HAPPY EASTER Post Closed	2 John Lyon born 2 Apr 1893	3	4	5 GWOTE Happy Hour, 6 – 9 pm	6 Commander's Happy Hour, 5 – 10 pm	7 Poses and Pints, Yoga 2 3pm
8 3150 Color Guard at Arlington Little League Opening 2 pm	9	10	11 Grist mtg, 7 pm	12	13 Happy Hour, 5 – 10 pm	14 Post 3150 Awards Ceremony and Dinner, 5 – 9 pm
15 House Committee / Post O Call 2 pm	16 Post Meeting 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	17 INCOME TAX DAY Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm ELECTIONS	18	19	20 Happy Hour, 5 – 10 pm	21 Post and Highway Cleanup 9 am
22	23	24	25	26	27 Student Vet Social 5 – 10 pm	28
29	30					



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

Dated Material Please Do Not Delay
April 2018



Happy 125th Birthday, Lt John Lyon

2 April 1893 – 16 October 1918
Killed in action, World War I