

# The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 14, Number 2

August 2007



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



The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004 and 2007 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



“Whereas the tolling of the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall,

Philadelphia, Pa., at 2 o’clock in the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1776, proclaimed the signing of the Declaration of Independence...” (Concurrent Resolution Number 25, United States Senate & The House of Representatives, Adopted 26 June 1963)

Members of the John Lyon family gather at the flagpole to listen while Tom Kane, Eric Anderson, and Jerry Peterson (right) read proclamations pertaining to the Let Freedom Ring National Bell Ringing Ceremony on Independence Day. The Post bell was rung, along with bells across the country, 13 times at 2 pm EDT. In 1963, the 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 this ceremony for about eight years.

## *From The Commander:*

Safety Note- We've had some pretty hot days during July and August usually proves to be even hotter. Water, water, and more water. Drink plenty of it. Don't wait til you get thirsty to have that sip or two. If you notice that you're not sweating, as you should be or not at all, **you could be in trouble**. It would be a good idea to get out of the sun, get into the shade and get some water back into your system. If you must work outside, wear protection, (hat, sunscreen, etc.), drink plenty of water, take breaks, don't over do it. Treat your bodies well. You're worth it.

Thank you, Fuzzy. Richard "Fuzzy" Collier has been a staunch supporter of the Post. Maintaining our grassy areas, cutting the grass, edging as necessary, he has been very mindful of the beatification of our Post home. He has even come in during brunch to help out where necessary. Thanks again, Fuzzy.



A lot of things are happening this month. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, the U. S. Coast Guard Birthday. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, several of us will be attending the District meeting in Springfield; on the 7<sup>th</sup> we have the National Purple Heart Day ceremony, on a day to remember and honor those who have given so much for our freedom; the John Lyon shirt/hat day on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> --- photos on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Brunches on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>; take Fuzzy's cue, come on in and give us a hand . Lastly, don't forget to check voter registration. Election Day is a day you can make a difference.

The parking lot is coming along. We've taken a little different approach with the possibility of saving some money. Right now it seems to be working. If things work out, as I think they will, before long we will have a nicely resurfaced parking lot.

Membership, membership, membership. Because of some rule changes this coming year, YOUR post has an extremely good chance of becoming an ALL AMERICAN post. It will only become a reality through your efforts. I urge all of you to carry an application in you pocket. We all know someone who may be eligible. All it takes is the simple question: "Are you eligible?" You have bestowed upon me the privilege of being your Commander, and I don't take that lightly, but YOU, the membership, are the only ones who can make it happen. YOU, the membership, deserve the honor of being an All American Post. Let us make it happen this coming year.

On another note: This coming meeting, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Aug, we will be bringing to the floor the topic of a Men's Auxiliary. We will bring it to the floor for discussion and then vote on whether or not we want one. Think of the pros and cons and come to the meeting to voice your opinion. It is up to you. If you're wondering why I don't give an opinion, it is because I am your voice and I will go with your wishes.

Thank you all for your support.

Til, the next time,

/s/

Eric Anderson  
Commander, VFW Post 3150

## **From the President:**

Greetings to Comrades and Sisters!!

Here it is August already, the year is passing quickly. Thanks to all of you for your continued support at our brunches and other functions. Last month I failed to acknowledge Celia Ortiz, who donated a patriotic afghan to the Auxiliary. We raffled the afghan over the Memorial Day weekend and raised \$255. Again thank you, Celia! Tommy Saunders won the afghan. We received a donation of two baby afghans and a handmade doll from a friend of the Auxiliary in Myrtle Beach. One was purchased for \$25.00 by Cathy Kerns. We are saving the other afghan and doll for a later event. I apologize--I do not have the name of the donor but hope to recognize you properly soonest.

At our July meeting we voted to conduct our annual membership lottery for "Early Bird" renewals. The drawing will be for one Life Membership and three Annual Continuous Memberships. Members renewing prior to August 31st will receive 5 chances, prior to September 30th will receive 3 chances, and prior to October 31st will receive 1 chance for a free membership. Please renew early as we must reach 100% membership by December 31st.

Also at our July meeting, we voted to hold the annual Labor Day Cookout. The menu will be brats, sauerkraut, baked beans, coleslaw, and dessert; all for \$7.00. A signup sheet will be available in the Post. We will also hold a 50/50 raffle and begin our Quilt Raffle --- selling tickets between Labor Day and Thanksgiving. This quilt is again donated by Cathy Kerns' mother.



In case you are wondering what happens to all the money we raise --- the funds go to our Cancer Aid and Research program. We hope to raise \$2,500 again this year!

Welcome to new members: Rose M. Bassett, Jeanne M. Campau, and Sue Shovan --- all sisters of Ken Jansen. Thank you, Sisters, and thank you, Ken.

Please check the calendar on the back page for upcoming Post and Auxiliary events.

Happy Birthday to those of you born in August!!

/s/

Karen A. Stewart, President

## **Post to Consider Men's Auxiliary**

The August Post meeting will explore the possibility and advisability of a Men's Auxiliary's being formed at VFW Post 3150. Post members who have an interest in this topic should attend the meeting.

A Men's Auxiliary would augment the Post and Ladies Auxiliary in promoting work of the VFW of honoring our departed comrades by assisting the living through supporting the principals of Americanism, community and youth activities, and assisting veterans and their families.

Membership in the Men's Auxiliary is limited to husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers, (and half-brothers who attain the status prior to the age sixteen) of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America. Documentation is required as it is for the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary. Members must also be at least sixteen years old. Men who might be interested should call the post at 703-525-0108 and leave their name, address, and phone number so that we may contact them if the Men's Auxiliary is authorized.

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

Welcome to new Post members, Chequita Bagley (Army/Navy - Iraq) (Life) and Henry "Hank" Lewelleyn (Army - Vietnam) (Life Transfer), and to new Ladies Auxiliary members Rose M Bassett, Jeanne M Campau, and Sue Shovan, all elected at the July meetings.

## **U.S. Coast Guard Birthday**

The U.S. Coast Guard will mark its 217th birthday on Saturday, 4 August. The post will mark this event with a cake cutting ceremony at 7:30 pm.

## **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.

## **Marching Off....**

Guy C Brill Jr, 81, on 22 December 2006. He was a World War II Army veteran who served in the European Theater from 1944. He became a VFW member in 1945, and a Life member in 1989. He was buried at Cedar Creek Church Cemetery in Woodstock, VA.

Eston Painter, 77, on 2 July. He was an Army Korean War veteran and became a Life member in 1992. He was buried in Arlington's Columbia Gardens Cemetery.

## **John Lyon Shirt and Cap Days**

John Lyon Shirt and Cap Days will be held this summer on Saturday and Sunday, 11-12 August. All 3150 members are urged to wear their John Lyon shirts and caps wherever they go in Arlington those days in an effort to show the people of Arlington that we are here. Last year's effort prompted townsfolk to ask about the Post and Auxiliary. All participants are asked to stop by the Post for a group photo on Sunday at 2pm. 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 the John Lyon tee-shirts in blue and grey for \$15 as well as VFW Post 3150 baseball caps in black, navy blue, and royal blue for \$18.

## **Virginia VFW License Plate**

The Department of Virginia has received the minimum number of requests for the VFW license plate to be created and the plate should be a regular option for the future. Those who already ordered one should be receiving them in the near future. Others should see the option among the special plates available and be able to order theirs when they renew the license plates.

## **National Purple Heart Day**

Tuesday, 7 August is National Purple Heart Day. John Lyon Post will mark this day with ceremonies at 7:30 pm. All members are invited to participate.

## **John Lyon Members Named to State Positions**

Post 3150 members have been named to Department positions in the state of Virginia for the Year 2007 - 2008. The appointments appear in the July General Orders. C.D. "Doc" Crouch, of course, is the Past Department Commander and was appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee and Co-Chairman of the Membership / Life Membership Committee. M.C. "Connie" Agresti, who was elected as Tenth District Commander, will also be a member of the Council of Administration. He was also named Parliamentarian, and member of the Audit Committee and the Resolutions Committee. Jerry Peterson was named Chairman of the Political Action Committee, the Blogmaster, and member of the Public Relations Committee. Albert Quaye III was named Representative to the Washington DC VAMC Hospital. J.Gary Wagner was again named as Vice Chairman of Americanism and member of the By-Laws and SOP Committee.

Catherine Graham, as Tenth District President, also serves on the Council of Administration for the Department of Virginia Ladies Auxiliary.

## **Head Start for Teens in VFW Essay Contests**

Teens can use the remaining days of summer to get a head start on the VFW's financially worthwhile essay contests. For the High School Voice of Democracy contest, the theme is "My Role in Honoring America's Veterans", and for the Middle School Patriot's Pen contest the theme is "Why I Am an American Patriot" Essays need to be submitted to the Post by November 1. Further information is available at the VFW national website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then click on "Programs", then VFW Scholarship Programs. Or check with the Post. Home schooled and institution-schooled students are eligible. Prizes are awarded at the post, district, state, and national levels. The top national awards for both programs have been increased, up to \$30,000 for Voice of Democracy and up to \$10,000 for Patriot's Pen.

## ***From the John Lyon Past...***

An individual identified only as "Big Mike" made a posting on the American Backyard website a while back. An excerpt from his posting follows:

"Went off to high school, W-L in Arlington, VA. John Lyon VFW Post 3150 ran the rifle team - at school, school range. We had Winchester 75s. I got good enough to get my own gun, got a Mossberg 144. Not good. Traded it in on a used '75. My first\_real\_gun. Don't remember price. Dad chipped in on the trade-up. That would have been 1951...

"On good days, put it across my bike handlebars, rode 1 mile to school, put it in school supplied locker. Shot on the school range 2-3 afternoons a week. Put it on my handlebars, rode home. 1952 and 1953, I went home to school to my girl's house to home. One mile on each leg of triangle. Kept it behind the front door in her house, with her Dad's OK. Bolt was in my pocket.

"Got stopped on my bike by a cop once in three years...Asked me if it was safe. I pulled bolt out of my pocket, waved it at him. He said 'Don't drop it. It looks expensive.'

"Wish I could remember the coach's name. He taught me to shoot with both eyes open, and all the basic skills. God Bless Him, and God Bless the VFW; especially John Lyon Post #3150."

## **Tenth District Meeting**

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Tenth District will hold their quarterly meetings at 1 pm on Sunday, 5 August. Although hosted by Springfield Post 7327, the meeting will be held at Springfield American Legion Post 176, 6620 Amherst Avenue, VA 22150.

All VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend this and other meetings.



## *A John Lyon Hello...*

...to Cathy Graham, Margaret Dozier, Lola and Tom Kane Virginia LePage, Marian MacIntyre, Annie McCormick, Elaine Munroe, Bob Ponzo, Joe and Joannie Repasch, Ruth Rodier, Tommy Saunders, Karen Stewart, and Joe and Elsie Weeks, who have helped with the newsletter mail out in recent months.

### **National VFW Convention**

The 108th National VFW Convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, from August 18 - 23, 2007. Information can be obtained from the national VFW website ([www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), then 108th Convention), the state of Virginia's General Orders ([www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org)), from the Post, and recent issues of the VFW magazine.

### **Hours for Post Canteen**

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

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

### **Power Outage?**

With summer storms and the possibility of power outages, do you know if your freezer thawed and refroze while you were gone? Place a bowl of ice cubes in your freezer when you leave. If the cubes have reformed as a frozen puddle in the bowl, you'll know your power was out.

### **Address Changes Cost Post \$\$**

Because we use the third class rate for the Post newsletter, when we use the "Address Service Requested" line above the address label every other month or so, the Post Office charges us 70 cents to forward your newsletter and send us your new address. **PLEASE let us know before you move!**

## **Advertise on Post Web Log**

When you go to our new web log <http://www.vfwwebcom.org/va/post3150> (not to be confused with the post website) you will notice on the right side there is an area available for advertisers to promote their product or service. The Post receives a monthly rental fee from each advertiser, up to a maximum of five. The advertiser has a choice to place the ad on the Post 3150, District 10 and Dept. of Virginia site with each getting a monthly fee. So if you know of a local business that wants to reach our Comrades for approximately \$60 a month, please call me 703-243-2998. The Post has complete control and approval of what is advertised on the site. The Post only has to identify the companies and all site setup and design is done by ad professionals.

Jerry Peterson  
Jr. Vice Commander

### **Alarm System You Already Have**

A retired policeman forwarded us the following tip which makes sense for all:

Start keeping your car keys next to your bed on the night stand when you go to bed at night. If you think someone is trying to get into your house, or if you hear a noise outside your house, press the panic alarm on your car key chain. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around. Shortly all the neighbors will be looking out their window to see what is going on; the criminal won't want that. Try yours to make sure it works before you rely on it. Just know that you must press the alarm button again to turn it off.

And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there and may save a life or a sexual abuse crime. And remember to call 911.

## 4 Reasons to Renew Your Membership Now

Yes, it's that time of year again. Even though your annual membership card is good until December 2007, the VFW will begin sending out renewal notices soon. As it takes a while to get everyone renewed, the process begins early. Why do it now?

1. Post and Ladies Auxiliary members who join or renew by 5 October will qualify (along with all Life members) for the Early Bird Dinner on 6 October.

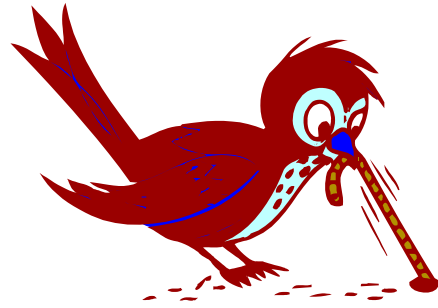
2. New and renewing Post members will also qualify for the Life Membership drawing done at the Early Bird Dinner. There will be six drawings, one for each of the five youngest year categories, and one for those over 71. (The post will continue its program to purchase a Life Membership for those annual members who will be 71 years old by 30 June of each year and who have been members of Post 3150 continuously for the previous five years.). As the Post is currently over 75% Life, this means that there are only about 100 annual members to compete in those six categories in the drawing. Your chances of having your name drawn are about one in twenty, much better odds than in the mega lottos --- or most any other drawing for that matter.

Ladies Auxiliary 3150 also has a drawing for memberships for those who renew early. See the President's column for details.

3. Consider VFW Life Membership. See tables to the right. The VFW is making it easy by providing three options: Lump sum payment, 12 month payment plan, and 24 month payment plan. For the two payment plans, there is a one-time \$35 payment and the VFW will bill you monthly for the remainder. If you "go Life" and your name is drawn, you will receive a refund for the Life membership payment, so you are not penalized for "going Life" when you join or renew.

4. Avoid all those renewal reminders, letters, and phone calls.

Respond to your renewal notice or send or bring a check to the Post Quartermaster (\$30 or Life membership) or Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer (\$25 or Life membership). For Life memberships, see tables at right. Post members can also renew by going to [www.vfwva.org](http://www.vfwva.org) and following the links.



### Be an Early Bird! Renew Now

#### VFW Life Membership Fee Schedule

<u>Age on 12/31</u>	<u>One time payment</u>	<u>12 mos plan</u>	<u>24 mos plan</u>
< Age 31	\$425.00	\$40.39	\$20.23
31-40	\$410.00	\$39.02	\$19.58
41-50	\$375.00	\$35.84	\$18.05
51-60	\$335.00	\$32.20	\$16.32
61-70	\$290.00	\$28.11	\$14.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$22.20	\$11.53
81 and over	\$170.00	\$17.20	\$ 9.14

There is a \$35 charge on the first month on the installment plans, then as above.

#### Ladies Auxiliary Life Membership Fee Schedule

<u>Age on 12/31</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Through Age 20	\$220
21-25	\$210
26-30	\$200
31-35	\$190
36-40	\$185
41-45	\$175
46-50	\$170
51-55	\$160
56-60	\$150
61-65	\$140
66-70	\$130
71-75	\$115
76-80	\$95
81-85	\$75
86-90	\$60
91 and over	\$50

# Recent Events Around the Post



<<< Preparing for the Tenth District Planning Meeting recently hosted by Post 3150, Tenth District Commander M.C. “Connie” Agresti, Commander, and Catherine Graham, Ladies Auxiliary President, confer with Virginia’s State Commander, Jimmy Lee Wallace (left). Agresti and Graham are both from John Lyon Post, while Wallace is a member of Tenth District’s VFW Post 1503 in Dale City.

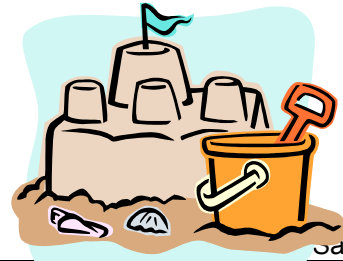
Ladies Auxiliary President Karen >>> Stewart and Post Commander Eric Anderson grab a quick break in the back room from their duties during a recent Sunday brunch. The brunches are held the second and fourth Sundays of every month and feature all you can eat from our menu.



<<< Leading the marching delegation from VFW Posts 5412 and 7327 in Burke and Springfield, respectively, are (front row, right to left) Tenth District Commander M.C. “Connie” Agresti, Tenth District Ladies Auxiliary President Catherine Graham, both John Lyon members, and Tenth District Senior Vice Commander Margo Sheridan (Post 5412). The parade is the centerpiece of Fairfax County’s annual Independence Day celebration and also features Fairfax VFW Post 8469.



# VFW 3150 August 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Movie Night	2	3	4 US Coast Guard Birthday, 7:30 pm
5 Tenth District Meeting: Springfield Amer. Legion Post 176, 1pm	6	7 Purple Heart ceremony 7:30 pm House Com. 7:45 pm Post O Call 8:15 pm	8 Movie Night	9 Post Meeting 8 pm	10	11 John Lyon Shirt & Cap Day
12 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm John Lyon Shirt & Cap Day Photo 2 pm	13	14	15 Movie Night	16 Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	17	18 National Convention
19 National Convention	20 National Convention	21 National Convention	22 Movie Night National Convention	23 National Convention	24	25
26 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	27	28	29 Movie Night	30	31	

**3 Sept - Labor Day Cookout: 2 - 5 pm**  
**RSVP: 703-525-0108**



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

**NON-PROFIT ORG**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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**Merrifield, VA**  
**Permit No. 9209**

**Dated Material Please Do Not Delay**

**Address Service Requested**

**US Coast Guard**  
**Birthday**  
**4 August 2007**



**Purple Heart Day**  
**7 August 2007**