

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 19, Number 2

August 2012



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



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



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

Philadelphia, Pa., at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th 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 to Commander Dewey Crater 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 thirteen years.

From the left (front) are Mary and Norb Reiner, Wauleah and Shelton Ellison, Richard Hoffman (ready to ring the bell), Cindy Warren, Lola Kane, John Lundquist, Dewey Carter, Kayla Parker, and Corey Parker. Behind them are Dennis Gerrity, and Charles Reddoor, Jack Parker, and J.Gary Wagner. US Flags lined the sidewalks of the Post on Independence Day. A cookout followed the bell ringing.

From The Commander:

Dear friends

During our recent Post planning meeting, the events calendar for the next six months was finalized and approved. The Auxiliaries and the Post leadership have scheduled social and fund raising events as well as community and veterans support activities. There is certainly something for everyone. I encourage all to participate either by assisting with the event or thru your attendance. You'll have some fun and support the Post at the same time.

The Post is in full recruiting mode once again. Because of transfers, deaths, and nonrenewals, the Post needs to replenish its numbers with new members and re-instatements. We're also given Membership target numbers which are intended to maintain a sustainable growth. These target numbers are also "must make goals" in order for a Post to attain All State and/or All American status. So if you have a friend, relative, co-worker, neighbor, or an acquaintance who is or has been in the military and if he or she qualifies for membership in the VFW, just invite them to join or bring them to the Post and we'll do the necessary checks for eligibility. In the VFW, everybody is a recruiter; I challenge you as a member of this organization to recruit a post or an auxiliary member. I have discovered that many potential members just need to be invited to join.

Due to the extreme weather and the high temperatures we have experienced lately, I trust that you've been taking the necessary precautions and guarding against heat injuries such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Also remember to keep an eye out for your neighbors and loved ones. The elderly, young children and pets are particularly vulnerable. Stay hydrated – drink lots of liquids, avoid strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day, stay in the shade, and take it easy. Let's keep it a safe summer. See you at the post.

Dewey Carter,
Commander, VFW Post 3150
"One team one fight"

From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Time flies as they say. It is now **time to pay your Ladies Auxiliary Annual Membership dues of \$25.00**. If you pay dues for someone else, or you have been thinking of making someone a member – this is the time. You may make your **checks out to the Treasurer, Ladies Auxiliary and mail it to the John Lyon VFW Post**, the address is on the front of this newsletter. Your **\$25.00 is divided up this way: \$.50** is sent to the **10th District of Virginia** for each member; **\$10.50** is required for the Department and National Headquarters dues; **\$2.00** is paid to our National Office for Cancer Aid and Research and the remaining **\$12.00** goes in to the Ladies Auxiliary 3150 General Fund. Our General Fund is used for our many program requirements throughout the year. This is why I say, just **by maintaining your membership** you are **helping Veterans** in a large way.

As I enter my second year as President, Membership is still a concern to me. I look forward to working with Commander Dewey Carter and President Mike "Red" Lowe to increase our membership for the Post and Auxiliaries. Our goal is to ensure that our Veterans will not be forgotten and those who need assistance will get it. We need you to help achieve our goals. As Commander Dewey Carter said, "One Team, One Fight."

After I became an Auxiliary member I called Gail Hoffman who was the Auxiliary President at that time and asked, "What can I do?" She told me about Brunch, 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month. At my first working Brunch, Gail, introduced me to Ruth Rodier who organized the folding & mailing of the monthly newsletter. Ruth (who I miss very much) is no longer able to help, but I still help put the newsletter together with four or six other members once a month. We always can use more hands. I could go on and on and I will in future letters because we need to build participation in everything we do.

Review the calendar and this newsletter for upcoming events and **come in and be a part** of what goes on at our Post. If you are never there you won't **meet new members**, or **visiting members** from other Posts, and you just won't know what needs to be accomplished to help our Veterans. Please remember our soldiers and their families in your prayers.

Hope to see you soon,
Lola D. Kane, President
Ladies Auxiliary

From the President of the Men's Auxiliary:

Greetings from the President of the Men's Auxiliary;

I open this newsletter by apologizing for having cancelled the Auxiliary Steak Dinner in July. The Ladies and Men's Auxiliary had every intention of serving up an ample portion of New York Strip steak with all the trimmings but as the date of the dinner got closer, it became apparent that the turnout would likely be very low. I suspect this was a result of many being away on vacation and the extremely hot weather didn't help us much either. That said, please keep in mind that the Auxiliaries can only make money for our fund-raising campaigns if there is a good turnout of the Post and Auxiliaries memberships and their freinds. We ask for your continued support of the Auxiliaries so that we can help others in need.

As you may already know, the Ladies Auxiliary sends much of their hard earned money to Cancer Aide Research and last year they sent several thousands of dollars to this very worthy cause. And while the Men's Auxiliary does not have a specific charity to which we donate, for the last several years we have been very active with the Toys for Tots campaign and made significant contributions to USO families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. We all want to continue to support these very worthy causes.

Many hours of hard work goes into procuring, preparing, and serving the food we make for our fund-raising events; and of course there is always clean-up duty afterwards. The auxiliaries perform these tasks without hesitation but we can't be successful without *everyone's* support. So please watch for our table display advertisements and add your name and you family's / friends' names to the sign-up sheet between the brass rails at the canteen (or call the Post at 703-525-0108). We can't thank you enough for your continuing support.

Also please keep in mind that National VFW Ladies Auxiliary President, Leanne Lemley of West Point, Iowa, is scheduled to visit John Lyon Post #3150 on Wednesday, September 12, 2012. We are working out the details of the dinner we will be serving that evening but please mark that date on your calendars. More menu information and details of her visit will be provided as the time approaches. Let's make a good showing for this very special visitor to our Post.

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

Thomas Jefferson

Mike "Red" Lowe
President, Men's Auxiliary
John Lyon Post #3150

Early Newsletter

The newsletter is early --- and smaller --- this month as the editor will be on the way to the National Convention in Reno when we would be normally publishing it.

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Edward Ebeling (USMC - Vietnam) (Life trans) and Kathleen Gonzales (USAF - Bosnia/Kosovo)(L12), elected at recent meetings and whose paperwork is complete. And a welcome back to Eric Skrzypczak.

U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

The U.S. Coast Guard will mark its 222nd birthday on Saturday, 4 August. The post will celebrate this event with a cake cutting ceremony at 2:30 pm. All members are invited to participate in this as well as other service birthdays.

Patriotic Fundraiser, 4 August

The All American Day Charitable Trust, whose mission is to “passionately *Honor American History, Respect American Culture, and Celebrate Americans who Serve*” (<http://www.allamericanday.org/>) will hold its annual fundraiser at the Post 3- 7 pm on Saturday, 4 August. Called "Beef and Beer Day", it will raise funds for Operation Homefront (<http://www.operationhomefront.net/>). All members are invited to participate. The All American Day Charitable Trust last held their fundraiser at the Post in November 2010.

Power Out?

The recent power outages in the area bring to mind a trick for the future. Place a bowl or plastic bag of ice cubes in your freezer. If you return from vacation and the cubes have melted and refrozen in a pool, you know your power was out long enough for your freezer contents to thaw. Everything may need to be thrown out.

Renew Now to Qualify for Membership Drawings

Post members who renew their dues for 2012 by 30 September will qualify for Annual Membership drawings to be held in early October. The member will receive free Annual Membership the following year. There will be a drawing for each of the five youngest age categories established by National, plus one for the two oldest categories which will be combined due to other programs covering these age groups. The result is that all Continuous or Annual members are urged to qualify quickly by renewing their dues by 30 September. Any member who renews and “Goes Life” and whose name is drawn will be reimbursed the cost of annual membership for the year. New members this year can look forward to qualifying when they renew next year.

Annual Members May Qualify for Life Membership

In a new program recently established by the Post, a committee of top Post officers may recommend to the Commander up to two annual members a year to be granted a Life Membership based on their participation and contributions to the Post.

Upcoming Next Month

September is always a very busy month. Not counting Sunday brunches and the normal meetings, the following are the highlights of next month's calendar. See next month's newsletter or call the Post for more details.

Mon, 3 Sep: End of WW2 Ceremony, 2:30 pm, and Labor Day Cookout, 3 – 5 pm

Tue, 11 Sep: Patriot Day (9/11) Remembrance 7pm

Wed, 12 Sep: Dinner for LA Natl President, 6:30 p

Sun, 16 Sep: 10D Meeting, McLean, 1 pm

Tue, 18 Sep: Air Forces Birthday ceremony, 7 pm

Thur, 20 Sep: Ladies Auxiliary 98th birthday, 7 pm

Fri, 21 Sep: POW / MIA Ceremony, 7:30 pm

Sat, 22 Sep: Quarterly VA Hospital Visit, 12 noon

Sat, 29 Sep: VFW 113th Birthday, 7 pm

Sun, 30 Sep: Gold Star Mothers Day, 1 pm

From Your Post Service Officer

Arnold Dixon

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Fee Basis Program

Part Two of Two

The purpose of this article is to make you aware of a benefit that may be available to you. Do not use it to attempt to determine your eligibility because there are too many variables. If you have questions, contact your VFW Department Service Officer, who is there to answer your Department of Veterans Affairs questions. To find your VFW Department Service Officer, go to <http://www.vfw.org/Assistance/National-Veterans-Service/> and select your state from the drop down list on the right of the page.

Emergency Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs may cover the costs for emergency care for treatment if it is impossible for the veteran to get to a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility. An emergency is defined as a situation in which, without immediate treatment, the veteran's health or life is threatened. When this happens, the veteran, the family, friends or hospital staff should contact the Department of Veterans Affairs within 72 hours.

If anyone other than the hospital staff contacts the Department of Veterans Affairs they should provide the reason for the emergency and the services being provided. The Department of Veterans Affairs should be questioned as to how and when reimbursement will be made. The name and telephone number of the Department of Veterans Affairs employee you spoke with should be recorded as well as the date and time of the call.

The Department of Veterans Affairs may move the veteran to a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility as soon as feasible.

There are several ways to be eligible for this program. The two most common are emergency care for a service connected condition or any condition of a veteran who is permanently and totally disabled due to service connected conditions.

To be eligible the veteran must meet **all** of the following:

Enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system and received care within twenty-four months before the emergency.

Financially liable to the medical provider for the emergency care.

Has no entitlement to care or services under a health care-plan.

Has no other contractual or legal resource against a third party that would in whole extinguish such liability to the provider.

Does not qualify for payment as a service connected veteran as noted in last month's *The John Lyon Gazette*.

The Department of Veterans Affairs must be notified within seventy-two hours and any claims must be filed within ninety days.

Purple Heart Day

The Post will hold a short ceremony to honor those who were awarded a Purple Heart on Tuesday, 7 August at 7 pm. All members are invited to attend.



John Lyon Shirt and Cap Days

John Lyon Shirt and Cap Days will be held this summer on Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 August. All 3150 members are urged to wear their John Lyon shirts and caps wherever they go those days in an effort to show the people of Arlington that we are here. A previous year's effort (seen above) prompted townsfolk to ask about the Post and Auxiliaries. All participants are asked to stop by the Post for a group photo after brunch on Sunday at 2pm.

Free Steak Dinner and a Chance in Membership Drawings Reasons to Renew Your Membership Now

Yes, it's that time of year again. Even though your annual membership card is good until December 2012, the VFW and the Auxiliaries will begin sending out renewal notices soon. As it takes a while to get everyone renewed, the process begins early. Why renew now?

1. Post and Auxiliary members who renew early will qualify for 3150's free Early Bird Steak Dinner on 6 October.

2. Post members will also qualify for the membership drawings done at the Early Bird Dinner. The drawings will be for paid Annual Membership for the following year. There will be six drawings, one for each of the five youngest year categories, plus one for the two oldest year categories.

2a. Ladies Auxiliary 3150 has a Life Membership and two Annual Membership drawings in November for memberships for those who renew early.

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

Respond to your renewal notice or send a check to the Post Quartermaster (\$30 or Life membership), Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer (\$25 or Life membership), or Men's Auxiliary (\$30). VFW members may also renew on-line at www.vfw.org. Click on Login in upper right corner, then login or create an account, then "Click Here to Access New Online Membership System..."

Consider that Life Membership. For VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Life memberships, see tables below. The VFW is making it easy by providing two options: Lump sum payment, and 12 month payment plan. For the payment plan, there is a one-time \$35 payment and the VFW will bill you monthly for the remainder. Post 3150 will reimburse you the \$35 when your status changes to "Life". Send a note to the Post to receive the rebate.

The VFW is also offering an automatic payment for annual and installment memberships. You provide your credit card and they will automatically charge the card at the appropriate interval. See your renewal notice or the website for further information.

VFW Life Membership Fee Schedule

Age on 12/31	One time payment	12 months plan
< Age 31	\$425.00	\$40.39
31-40	\$410.00	\$39.02
41-50	\$375.00	\$35.84
51-60	\$335.00	\$32.20
61-70	\$290.00	\$28.11
71-80	\$225.00	\$22.20
81 and over	\$170.00	\$17.20

Men's Auxiliary

At the present time, there is no Life Membership for the Men's Auxiliary.

Ladies Auxiliary Life Membership Fee Schedule

Age on 12/31	Fee
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

Qualifying for VFW or Auxiliary Membership

Veterans who served overseas in an active or passive war zone are likely eligible for the VFW. The best check is receipt of an Expeditionary or Campaign Medal, although some other qualifiers exist. The most common are World War II, Korean War and subsequent service in country, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and the current Afghanistan and Iraq Wars, but other campaigns and situations, such as Bosnia, Panama, Cuba, and Imminent Danger Pay also qualify. A DD Form 214 or other documentation which shows the qualification is required. Further information is available at the Post.

Membership in the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries is open to men and women whose spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling (and half-sibling who attain the status prior to the age sixteen) was or is eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America. Documentation is required as it is for the Post. Members must also be at least sixteen years old. Those whose family members might be interested can get further information at the Post.



**Be an Early Bird!
Renew Now
Early Bird Steak Dinner
6 October 2012**

Post to Host 10D School of Instruction, 19 August

Post 3150 will host the Tenth District School of Instruction on Sunday, 19 August from 9 am – 1 pm. VFW members are invited to attend and learn how the VFW works. Lunch will be served; let us know if you will attend: 703-525-0108.

Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

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

End of World War II Monday, 3 Sept, 2:30 pm

While the official end of World War II was 2 September 1945, a short ceremony to commemorate the end of World War II, 67 years ago, will be held at the Post on Monday, 3 September at 2:30 pm in connection with the Labor Day cookout. We have received some new World War II artifacts which will be on display.



Labor Day Cookout

The Post will hold a Labor Day cookout on Monday 3 September 3-5 pm. More information will be in next month's newsletter. As usual, we ask you to put your name(s) on the sheet at the Canteen or call the Post (703-525-0108) to help us with the planning.

Address Changes Cost Post \$\$

Because we use the third class rate for the Post newsletter, and the required "Address Service Requested" line above the address label, the Post Office charges us 70 cents (sometimes double due to overlapping dates) to forward your newsletter and send us your new address. **PLEASE let us know before you move!** You can also email the Adjutant at adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com.

Independence Day at the Post



Wilbur Rawlings (above left) mans the grill during the Post's Independence Day cookout featuring sausages, burgers, hot dogs and all the fixings. Above right, Mary Reiner and John Lundquist fill their plates with the 4th of July fare at the Post. Eric Anderson, another of the Post's kitchen Meisters, and Commander Dewey Carter check the setup in the background. The cookout followed the earlier National Bell Ringing ceremony. Several John Lyon members also marched in the Fairfax Independence Day Parade earlier in the day.

Memorial Day Revisited



(Above left) Emil Graves (second from left), a World War 2 Marine Corps veteran and his son, Jon (left) were welcomed to the post by Quartermaster Richard Hoffman and then-Junior Vice Commander-elect Alex Nobles (right) during Memorial Day weekend. Jon Graves brought his father to Washington to see among others things the World War 2 Memorial. Emil Graves was at, among others, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Guam, and Iwo Jima, during the war

(Above right) Also visiting Post 3150 over Memorial Day weekend were Bob and Jani Bergdahl, the parents of American POW US Army Specialist Bowe Bergdahl. The Bergdahls had been riding with Rolling Thunder earlier in day and visited the Post with a group of friends and supporters.

VFW 3150 August 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Movie Night	2	3	4 US Coast Guard Birthday 2:30 pm All-American Day Charitable Trust Fundraiser 3 - 7 pm
5	6 House Com./ Post O Call 7 pm	7 Purple Heart ceremony 7 pm	8 Movie Night	9 Post Meeting 7:30 pm	10	11 John Lyon Shirt & Cap Day
12 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n John Lyon Shirt & Cap Day Photo 2 pm	13	14 Men's Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	15 Movie Night	16 Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	17	18
19 10D School of Instruction, at Post 3150, 9 am - 1 pm	20	21	22 Movie Night	23	24	25
26 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n	27	28	29 Movie Night	30	31	

**3 Sept – end of WW2 ceremony 2:30 and
Labor Day Cookout: 3 - 5 pm
RSVP: 703-525-0108**



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

August 12

Address Service Requested



US Coast Guard
Birthday
4 August 2012



Purple Heart Day
7 August 2012