

The John Lyon Gazette

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December 2010 - January 2011



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
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The John Lyon Gazette: Winner of 1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009 and 2010 Clair B. Poff Public Relations Award for Outstanding Newsletter, and Winner of National Second Place Award for 2010



***Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah,
and
a Happy New Year!***

From all the Members of
John Lyon VFW Post 3150 and the Auxiliaries,
our very best wishes for the Holidays.

From The Commander:

Right on schedule – the Christmas holidays are once again upon us. Although I must admit that at least to me it seems as if this year has simply zipped by us straight to the finish line.

Much to my chagrin, the temperature is dropping more and more each day. So it's back to dressing in layers, staying hydrated and checking the thermostat, It's also time to start keeping a close eye on our pets, children, and elderly to make sure they're warm during these winter months. And of course, be sure to be on the lookout for kids playing in the streets during their winter break.

With any luck we won't have a repeat of last year's "snowmagedon", but the truth is that I wouldn't mind having a little of the white stuff come by once or twice. There is just something special about having a "white Christmas".

Of course, this is also that time of year when we start working on our "New Year's resolutions". With that in mind, here are several resolutions you might not have considered yet: resolve to participate in at least two of the Post's quarterly Hospital visits, resolve to participate in one or two Highway Cleanups. Resolve to attend more Post meetings next year. Resolve to bring at least one qualifying veteran into the VFW. Well, I'm sure you get the idea. The Post usually has a project or two underway at any given moment that can use some extra assistance. It's up to us to ensure the health and vitality of the Post and the VFW.

Throughout the year, be sure to check out our events calendar and come on by for any of our special events or just to say hello and chat for a while. That's what I do whenever I start getting even a little cabin fever.

Well, I don't know about you all, but I'm ready to say goodbye to this "old" year and to welcome in the new one. I'm really looking forward to the New Year and the opportunities I'm sure it'll be bringing us all. As we'd say back home: "May the good Lord grant us health and happiness, we can work on the rest of the stuff ourselves".

May each and every one of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in comradeship,

Nelson Betancourt, Commander, VFW Post 3150

Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul. - General Douglas Macarthur, US ARMY

From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

Hail and Greetings:

How this year has flown by! As the weather gets colder I think of our service men and women overseas who are enduring extreme cold temperatures and those in uniform all over the country and the world who serve in all weather, all year.

Please join us for our annual Marine Toys for Tots benefit pig roast on Saturday December 11 from 4-7. This meal is always delicious and a fun time. You may also bring new toys to help the Marines deliver a message of hope to the less fortunate children in our community.

Our annual Children's Christmas party for Junior enlisted personnel's families is on December 18 from 11-1. We need Elves to help with planning and during the party! There are many ways you can help. Please contact me or the Post if you would like to assist in bringing smiles to these children's faces. We'll hope that Mother Nature does not bless us with a blizzard.

Another way you can help this holiday season and all year long is to collect and give us your Campbell's product UPCs. Our Ladies Auxiliary sends these to the VFW National Home for Children to help them work toward their goal of getting another mini-van. Since 2004, the labels have earned them five mini-vans.

Sisters, our next meetings are on Thursday, December 16 and Thursday January 20 at 7:30. Please attend and provide your valuable input. The Post's and Auxiliaries' planning meeting is on Sunday January 9 at 1:30 after brunch. This is an excellent opportunity to help our VFW plan events, know what is being considered and what will be coming up.

I look forward to sharing with you in the February John Lyon Gazette the lucky winner of the quilt for our annual Cancer Aid and Research Fund raffle.

Wishing you a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity.

In Fortitude and Loyalty,

Mary Anne McCormick, President, Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Post 3150

From the President of the Men's Auxiliary:

Greetings one and all,

This month's newsletter will be brief out of necessity. The combination of an early deadline and a late Auxiliary meeting doesn't leave much to report.

I can, however, say how much I enjoyed both the Marine Corps Birthday fete as well as the Veteran's Day Celebration. These two events are best observed at John Lyon Post 3150. For all those unable to attend, you will have to wait a year for your next opportunity. Kudos to Wilbur Rawlings for all his hard work in the kitchen each day, as well as the others who helped out.

Thanksgiving Dinner is the next chance to visit the post "family". The food is prepared on site and leaves little to be desired. Join the fun if you stay in town. Drive carefully if not.

There is no Men's Auxiliary event scheduled for December due to the holidays, but we are planning a dinner in mid-January. The exact time and the menu will be decided next week and details will go public thereafter.

Living in Northern Virginia gives us all the chance to see active duty military personnel in public. Join me and take those opportunities to thank these valiant young people for their service to us all as well as our freedom.

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

A Letter to Supporters from VFW National Commander Eubank
Commander Eubank proposes to offer a resolution to amend the by-laws at the 112th National Convention.

November 12, 2010

Please allow me the opportunity to assure you, our loyal supporters and the veteran community, that our mission of service is the driving force behind everything we do.

Recent political endorsements by a separate organization have called that assurance into question, and as VFW national commander, the responsibility falls on me to ensure that any questions you may have about the integrity of the VFW are answered.

First of all, I am deeply sorry because many of you were disappointed, angered or felt betrayed following the endorsements made by the PAC. The process used by the PAC was clearly biased toward the incumbent and as a result, patently unfair.

Again, I want to stress that the PAC is a *separate* organization from the VFW, and I also want to make it clear that the VFW *does not and will not* enter the political arena nor ever embroil itself in partisanship by providing endorsements for political candidates.

As VFW national commander, I have taken significant steps to correct the negative impact this situation is having on the Veterans of Foreign Wars and to regain the trust of our loyal members and supporters. As Commander-in-Chief, I propose to offer a resolution to amend the by-laws at the 112th National Convention for the purpose of dissolving the PAC. Meanwhile, under the authority granted to me, I have withdrawn all PAC appointments effective October 15, 2010, thus effectively rendering the PAC inoperable.

The VFW-PAC was created by VFW *members* and not by VFW national leaders. This was exercised through the VFW convention as the governing body of the organization. As such, it is only the delegates at the convention that can determine the continued existence of the PAC.

The confusion surrounding the relationship between the VFW and PAC disrupted our delivery of services to those who deserve it most--our service members, veterans and the families of both, who depend on us. Words cannot express how truly sorry we are for the concern and frustration you experienced. This is especially saddening because the VFW was founded on the promise to ensure that no veteran will ever again be left to care for themselves.

We are also committed to you, our valued supporter, and I am hoping the immediate corrective steps I have taken will enable you to regain your confidence in us.

I invite you to learn more at www.vfw.org. Nothing is more important than fulfilling our mandate of service and regaining your trust.

Sincerely,
Richard Eubank
Commander-in-Chief

Pig Roast to Benefit Toys for Tots

The Post will host a pig roast on Saturday, 11 December from 4 to 6:00 pm. The only cost will be a \$5 donation to Toys for Tots for the US Marine Corps program for underprivileged children. A box will also be available the week before for those who prefer to donate new unwrapped toys. Those who wish to donate an additional amount may make checks out to "Toys for Tots". With their purchasing power, this is often a better way to contribute as the Marines can obtain more toys per dollar donated. Those unable to attend Saturday night are invited to the Sunday morning brunch the next day, when the Marines will be invited about noon to accept the toys and donations collected.

Post Christmas Party

The Post / Auxiliaries Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, 18 December, starting at 4 pm.

Children's Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party for children of junior enlisted personnel at Fort Myer is scheduled for 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday, 18 December. Santa (and Mrs Claus?) are expected as special guests. Come down and join in the fun! Santa's helpers are always needed. Anyone who would like Santa to give their child a toy, please bring one with you or place it under the Christmas tree for presentation. The Post will also prepare Christmas food baskets for these same families on Friday, 17 December at 7:30 pm.

Christmas Hospital Visit

The yearly Christmas visit to the VA Hospital Nursing Home in Washington, DC is scheduled for Saturday, 11 December. John Lyon members (and Santa?) will meet at the Post Home at 9:00 am (tentative time) and proceed to the hospital with small presents and other goodies for the residents. You are encouraged to join in this most rewarding event and help bring a smile to the faces of our veterans at the home.

Scout of the Year

Scout of the Year: Any Eagle Scout, Venture Silver Award recipient, or Sea Scout Quartermaster may qualify. Deadline is March 1, 2011. Early submission --- or intent to do so --- by 31 December may provide opportunity for additional trip to Valley Forge for Scout.

Further information, including entry forms, brochures, and back ground, are available at www.vfw.org, then Community, Programs, then Scout of the Year. Forms may also be obtained at <http://www.vfwva.org/reports.htm>, then Programs or Forms. Or call Post 3150 after 3 pm at 703-525-0108 for further information.

Marching Off....

Neil H. Wolfe, 63, on 4 August, in Doylestown, PA. He was a U.S. Marine, serving with the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company in Vietnam, where he received Purple Heart. He had been a Life Member of Post 3150 since November 1993.

Sister June Husband, 75, of Stephens City, VA, on 29 October. She was buried in Macedonia Cemetery near Stephens City. In addition to the rest of her family, her brother is Post member William Pearson of Falls Church.

NO Brunch Dec 26

As is usual, there will be NO Sunday brunch when it falls between Christmas and New Years, this year on 26 December. We'll see you on 9 January

Bring Your Membership Card

Members of the Post and the Auxiliaries are reminded to show their membership cards to the on-duty manager when entering the Post home. ABC Rules require it! Remember: Membership remains a privilege to be guarded.

Thanks! Post Membership near 95%

Thanks to all members who have renewed their memberships for the year 2011. You have pushed the Post near 95% for the new year. And, of course, thanks to all Life members who automatically put the Post on an early start towards our goal. Those who haven't renewed yet are asked to send theirs in as soon as possible. Do it now before the holidays take your attention. \$30 for all of 2011.

Ways to Renew Post Membership

Post members can renew their memberships or convert to Life with or without a renewal notice from National. There are three ways to renew. First, return the notice from National with check or charge information. Second, charge your dues on-line at www.vfw.org. Click on Login --- and create a login ID, if necessary at this time. You will need your membership number, found on your membership card or above your name on the mailing label of your VFW magazine. Third, mail or bring your dues to the Post. Annual dues are \$30.

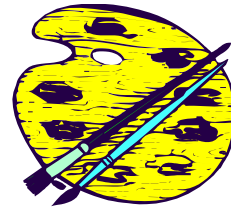
Renew Auxiliary Membership

Members of the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries may renew their memberships by sending a check to their Treasurer at the Post Address on the first page. Ladies Auxiliary (\$25 or Life membership), or Men's Auxiliary (\$30).

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
Holidays	open 12 noon



High Schoolers: Art Contest

The Ladies Auxiliary yearly holds the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest for grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Deadline is March 31, 2011. See <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org>, then Programs, then Youth Activities. Or call the Post for information.

Sunday Brunch \$7.00

9 am - 12 noon

Kids under 10 years eat free

New Members

Due to an early press time this month, new members of the Post and Auxiliaries will appear in the February issue of the John Lyon Gazette, there being no January issue due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

VFW 'Legislative Day on the Hill' in Richmond

The VFW Department of Virginia is likely to conduct its annual 'Legislative Day on the Hill' in Richmond on Thursday, 14 January 2010. Check the January General Orders at the VFW Virginia website (<http://www.vfwva.com/>) for additional information. The Legislative Day on the Hill is a time for VFW members to meet with state legislators on matters affecting veterans. Everyone is invited to join this effort to promote veterans' issues to the state legislators. See "Doc" Crouch for more information.

Winter Council Meeting

The annual Winter Council Meeting will be held 14-16 January 2011, at the Crown Plaza Williamsburg at Ft Magruder, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg VA 23185, telephone 1-800-227-6963. Reserve by 22 December for VFW rates of \$68 per night. All members of the VFW and Auxiliaries are invited to attend and see their organizations at the state level. Saturday night banquet features White Fish or Sirloin Filet in Mushroom Sauce, and salad, vegetables, dessert, etc. Notify Adjutant Wagner of choice by 16 December.

Tenth District Meeting

The Tenth District Meeting will be held on Sunday, 12 December, at Woodbridge Post 7916, 214 Mill Street, Occoquan, (Phone 703-491-1884). Meeting will begin at 1 pm, following lunch at 12 noon. All VFW members are urged to attend this meeting. The Ladies Auxiliary will NOT meet in December.



Christmas Dinner

The Post will serve Christmas Dinner from 1 - 4 on Saturday, 25 December. Please call the Post for reservations, at 703-525-0108, by Tuesday, 22 December. The cost is \$7.00. Kids under 10 eat free.

Christmas Gift Idea

If you need a last minute idea for a Christmas gift for your spouse, consider a Life Membership to the VFW or Ladies Auxiliary. And remember that the wife of a VFW member is eligible for membership in the Ladies Auxiliary. Contact the Post for information.

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.

Sun, 6 Feb: Superbowl Party, 6 pm

Sat, 13 Feb: Highway Cleanup 8:30 am (tentative)

Mon, 21 Feb: Ladies Auxiliary 3150 76th Birthday cake cutting, (date, time TBD)

Sun, 27 Feb Tenth District Meeting, McLean Post 8241, 1 pm (lunch at 12 noon)

Thanks to the Troops

In lieu of Christmas cards sent to "Any soldier" (which will not be accepted), send as many cards as you like to Holiday Mail for Heroes, P.O. Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456. Absolutely NO inserts of any kind. Must be postmarked by 10 December. Cards must be signed but no email or snail addresses on cards. They will be screened for offensive content. See <http://www.redcross.org/holidaymail> for more info.

Xerox Corp, through its www.letsaythanks.com website, allows you to pick out and send a thank you card to a service member in overseas. You can't designate a specific soldier, but you can select a card and add your own message. Xerox will then print the card and get it delivered to a member of one of the armed services. It is free and only takes a minute.

Other possibilities --- and mailing deadlines for oversea --- can be found at <http://www.ourmilitary.mil>

Youth, Teacher and Emergency Responders Awards

While the winners will be announced after we go to press, the awards will be presented on Saturday, 22 January at 2 pm at the Post Home. All members are invited and urged to attend and honor these special citizens. Snow date will be 29 January at 2 pm.



Take it easy when shoveling snow

A John Lyon Hello ...

To the many members who helped out around the Post and made Veterans Day 2011 a memorable occasion for our many members and guests from across the country. And to John Lundquist recovering from a recent illness.

Men's Auxiliary Dinner

The Men's Auxiliary will tentatively hold a dinner in January, likely Saturday, 15 January. Exact details are still to be worked out, so check with the Post early next month.



Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony Tues, 7 December, 7:30 pm

Post News Email

The post sends out periodic updates and reminders of upcoming events and other information of note to members via blind email. If you do not presently receive these and would like to be added to our email list, send an email to the Adjutant at adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com.



Some of the costumed revelers at the recent Post Halloween party gather to show their holiday outfits. Thanks to several members, the Post was festively decorated with some fresh new decorations.

New National Website a Good Resource

The revised National VFW website at www.vfw.org offers a variety of information in an easy to find and use format. It is now easier to find a post near you by zip code. By creating a login ID, you have more information available, such as finding your national legislators. You can also renew or modify information such as your mailing address, and obtain more detailed information of VFW programs. There are a few bad links, but they are making progress fixing the remaining problems. Give it a try!

Recent Events at the Post



<<< Grant Vaught (left) and Mike McCartney check out the newly sodded backyard at the Post home. The old yard was about 15 years old and had been severely worn out by Mother Nature and a lot of traffic. It should be lush and green for next summer's cookouts and moments of relaxation.

Ready to head out to nearby Lee Highway >>> on a recent autumn morning for the Highway Cleanup, are Robert "Fuzzy" Collier, M.C. "Connie" Agresti, Nelson Betancourt, Michelle Betancourt, Patrick Long, John Godsey, and photographer J.Gary Wagner. The group picked up trash along the nearby Lee Highway section assigned to John Lyon Post.



U.S. Marine Corps Birthday

<<< Shawn Poulin cuts into the cake commemorating the 235th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps on 10 November to present the first pieces to Walter Landry and Andre Joseph, the oldest and youngest Marines present. Post Commander Nelson Betancourt watches from the right. Landry is a Korean War veteran, while Joseph served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a native of Trinidad & Tobago and became a U.S. citizen in Baghdad in 2005. Poulin also served in Iraq, and Betancourt served in Korea with the Army. All are Post 3150 members.

Veterans Day at Post 3150



A large contingent of John Lyon members and friends attended the two Veterans Day wreath laying ceremonies at the Cherrydale War Memorial (aka the “John Lyon Memorial”), left, and the Clarendon War Memorial. The “John Lyon Memorial” has been so named as John Lyon’s is the first of several names of Arlingtonians killed in World War I.




Commander Nelson Betancourt and Senior Vice Commander Mark Wolfe present the Post wreath at Clarendon War Memorial on Veterans Day. The Ladies Auxiliary wreath was presented by President Mary Anne McCormick and State Junior Vice President Catherine Graham. Dennis Gerrity and Bernard Dotson present the Men’s Auxiliary wreath during the ceremonies which included three American Legion posts and civic organizations.

Other Veterans Day week activities included Buddy Poppy distribution, attendance at school and civic events, and Post 3150’s hosting members, veterans and their families who visited the Washington area from around the country.

VFW 3150

December 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Movie Night	2	3	4
		Pearl Harbor Day 7:30 pm House Committee / Post O Call 7:45 pm	8 Movie Night	9 Post Meeting 7:30 pm	10	11 Christmas VA Hospital Visit 9 am (tent time) Toys for Tots Benefit Pig Roast 4 - 7 pm
5 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n Toys for Tots 12 noon VFW 10th Dist Mtg Occoquan 1 p,	6	14 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 p	15 Movie Night	16 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	17 Christmas Basket Prep 7:30 pm	18 Children's Christmas Party 11 - 1 Post/Auxiliary Christmas Party 4 pm
12	13	21	22 Movie Night	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Post Dinner 1 - 4 pm
19	20 Deadline to RSVP for Christmas Dinner.	28	29 Movie Night	30	31 New Years Eve	
26 NO SUNDAY BRUNCH	27					

VFW 3150

January 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5 Movie Night	6	7	8
9 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n Officers Planning Meeting 1:30 pm	10 House Committee / Post O Call 7:30 pm	11 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	12 Movie Night	13 Virginia Day on the Hill - Richmond (tent) Post Meeting 7:30 pm	14 Winter Council Meeting Williamsburg	15 Men's Aux Dinner (tentative) Winter Council Meeting Williamsburg
16 Winter Council Meeting Williamsburg	17 Martin Luther King Day	18	19 Movie Night	20 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	21	22 Post Awards Ceremonies 2 pm
23 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 12 n	24	25	26 Movie Night	27 Anniversary Signing of Vietnam Peace Accords, 7:30 p	28	29 Post Awards Ceremonies 2 pm (snow date)
30	31					6 Feb ----->> (Sunday) Superbowl Party 6 - 9 pm

703-525-0108 for info or reservations