

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 14, Number 8

February 2008



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



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



VFW 3150 Welcomes Men's Auxiliary

Veterans of Foreign Wars John Lyon Post 3150 recently installed a new Men's Auxiliary, the purpose of which is to assist the Post in carrying out its mission among its fellow veterans and their families and the community of Arlington. The Men's Auxiliary was installed by Past VFW State Commander, C.D. Crouch, and a number of Post and Ladies Auxiliary members enthusiastically welcomed the newcomers. The new members are husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers or half-brothers of a veteran who was or is eligible for membership in the VFW. The Charter will remain open until early March and additional members will be accepted. Further information may be obtained by calling the Post.

The newly elected officers are: President, Ernest G Deal; Senior Vice President, Robert D Lewis; Junior Vice President, Bernard W Dodson; Secretary-Treasurer, Stephen A Utley; Chaplain, Vincent J Kane; Three Year Trustee, George McHugh; Two Year Trustee, Richard L Burgess; and One Year Trustee, Daniel A Metzler.

Other Charter Members are: Russell A Bertine, William L Binkley, Michael J Hoffman, Richard R Hoffman Jr, Thomas R Holtz, Brandon T Deal, Justin A Deal, William A Jones, Brian E LaFreniere, Mark R McFann, Peter A Peterson, James T Proels, Corrie L Rawlings, Donald A Wagner, Gregory J Wagner, Kurt C Wagner, and Richard S Wagner.

VFW Post 3150 was chartered in Clarendon in November 1934 and the Ladies Auxiliary 3150 in February 1935.

From The Commander:

Greetings. It has been awhile since we last talked. So, let's get to it. First I'd like to say, I hope you all had a safe and very happy holiday season. Hope you are all rested up, as it's time to get back to work on future goals and mission requirements.

I do want to take a moment and say Thank you. Thank you to all those who hung in there during the holidays and really stepped up to the plate and insured our holiday functions went on without skipping a beat. I'm not going to list names, you know who you are, besides, the list is too long. It didn't matter what the function was or what the requirements were, you did it; you did it because you wanted to. You were there for those who needed you to be there. You can feel extremely proud of yourselves. I know I'm proud of you. The Ladies Auxiliary. What can I say? You Did Good, once again. Thank you so much for your continued and undying support.

As some may or may not realize, your Post officers are now on a down hill slide. Meaning, their tenure is getting shorter by the day. It is time you started to think about a new slate of officers. Think about if you want to run for office, or who would I nominate for office if I didn't want to run. Would you run or would you nominate someone for an appointed office? Yes, you can nominate yourself. Just things to think about. Nominations will be held at our meeting on March 13th. Remember, you do have a voice in the running of your Post.

Membership, membership, membership. We haven't reached 100% as yet, but we are close. There are still a number of you who haven't renewed yet. For those of you, sit back and think of what your Post does for this country's veterans, for the community and for our immediate family, which you are part of. You should feel extremely proud of what you and your Post do. RENEW TODAY. Family, is what are to you us. I know it has been a tough year for all. That's why I'm going to tell you, give us a call, stop by, or send us an e-mail if the year has been hard on you. We are family, and family can make things happen. Thank all of you who have put in so much time and energy into the recruiting effort. We still need more, so let's get out and do it. Goals still need to be reached. So, my comrades, keep beating the bushes. Let us rise to the occasion and the reach next plateau.

The Men's Auxiliary is up and running. My congratulations to President Ernie Deal and his membership. **Welcome to John Lyon Post 3150!** I know, based on the conversations I've had with all concerned, everyone is looking forward to the coming year. I look forward to working together as a team to make things happen. I salute you all, for your support to our veterans, community and the family.

In closing. This is the time of year that the weather can turn bad at a moments notice. Drive safely and defensively. Don't over do it if you are out shoveling snow. Take the break whenever needed. Don't forget to drink fluids. You can become de-hydrated, even in the winter.

Yours in comradeship,

Eric Anderson
Commander, VFW Post 3150



From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

A belated Happy New Year to all of you--I hope you came through the holiday season in good health, minor weight gain, and ready to tackle the New Year! Groundhog Day is fast approaching, we'll have to wait and see what our little prognosticator comes up with this year.

The Post, Ladies Auxiliary, and Men's Auxiliary have a very busy year ahead of us. Please check the February calendar. We do have a Super Bowl Party planned on February 3rd from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Friday, February 29, the Ladies'/Men's Auxiliaries are planning a "Leap Year Nite" from 6 to 8 p.m. Stop by and check this out --- that day only comes around once every four years! It is time to have some fun for the occasion.

I am pleased to announce that the Auxiliary achieved 100% membership by December 31st. That is a banner requirement and thank you all for paying your dues in a timely manner. Also, many thanks to Treasurer Cathy Graham for all of her efforts in achieving this goal. A warm welcome to a new Life Member, Amanda Mesones, recommended by her husband--Jorge Mesones, a post member.

Also, at our December meeting the Auxiliary voted to adopt 10 female soldiers, all of whom are serving in Iraq in the 3rd Infantry Division. Their Commander is Lt. Col. Dane Barksdale. These women are the only 10 among 700 men. They are sorely in need of personal hygiene items, prepackaged candies, and all other sorts of items that a family would send in a "care package." The auxiliary approved funds to support this program and the mailing of items. If you live in the Arlington area and would like to help, please consider supporting these women soldiers. Donate your items (10 each please) at the Post Home --- come by for brunch and help us in this effort. Sister Annie McCormick is coordinating our efforts.

Our next Auxiliary meeting is Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. At 7 p.m. on that evening we will observe the 73rd Birthday of the 3150 Ladies Auxiliary. Please join us for cake and participate in our meeting. It is a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with our many programs.

Happy Birthday to all of you born in February. Were any of you born on February 29? If so, truly enjoy the day!

/s/

Karen A. Stewart
President, Ladies Auxiliary 3150

Treasurer Cathy Graham (left) and >>> President Karen Stewart present winner Wilber Rawlings with the quilt after his ticket was drawn in the Ladies Auxiliary annual Quilt Raffle. The quilt is made annually for this event by the mother of Cathy Kerns Deal and members of the Ladies Auxiliary sell tickets through out the fall. All proceeds go to Cancer Aide and Research and this year the Ladies Auxiliary raised nearly \$600.



From the President of the Men's Auxiliary:

Hello to all,

This being my first newsletter as President of the Men's Auxiliary, I would like to welcome our 27 members to John Lyon Post 3150.

The first meeting for the Men's Auxiliary was held on 8 January with nine members in attendance with 2 new applicants voted in as new members. I would like to thank Past State Commander C.D. "Doc" Crouch for his help in organizing and installing John Lyon Post 3150 Men's Auxiliary.

As a new group we are always looking for growth in our membership. Eligibility is as follows: Shall be limited to husbands, widowers, fathers, grandfathers, sons, grandsons, brothers and half-brothers (who attained the status prior to age sixteen) of persons who were or are eligible for membership. Those who are interested in joining the auxiliary please contact us. I can be reached at 540-522-1158 or call the post and leave your information.

The Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries are planning a special Leap Year function for the 29th of February. Since this only happens once in every four years, this is an event you don't want to miss. More information will be available at the post.

The members of the Men's Auxiliary are looking forward to working with the Post members and the Ladies Auxiliary with their ongoing support to our veterans and our community.



Happy Valentine's Day to all the ladies.
and well.

Hope this newsletter finds all healthy

Note from the President: our next auxiliary meeting is February 12th at 7:30. I will see you there.

On a personal note it is great to be a member of the John Lyon Post family.

/s/

Ernie Deal
President, Men's Auxiliary 3150

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members; Adam Belmont (Army - Iraq); Lucien Butler (AAF - WW2) (Life); Susan Colarco (Army - Iraq) (Life Trans); Gareth Hilton (Army - Desert Storm) (Life Trans); Matthew Johnson (USMC - Iraq) (trans); Christopher Melendez (Army - Iraq), Scott J. Murray (USMC - Korea) (Life trans); Neil Wolfe (USMC - Vietnam) (Life trans back); and new Ladies Auxiliary member, Amanda Mesones (Life) all elected at the December or January meetings.

Marching off...

Otho W. Helm, (85) on 6 June 2007. He was a 19 year old sailor who was left ashore in the days before Pearl Harbor because his ship, heavy cruiser *Chester*, needed cargo room for equipment to be delivered to Marines on Wake Island. He was caught in the attack on Pearl while returning from breakfast. Two of them began using their left behind launches to ferry sailors back to their ships and equipment to workers trying rescue those on board two capsized battleships. He rejoined his ship days later and saw battle in the Marshall Islands, and then on the battleship *Massachusetts* during the invasion of Casablanca. He also served on the submarine *Sea Poacher*. He received degrees from Virginia Tech, George Washington University and Harvard and later worked for the Navy Department for 20 years. A Life member of Post 3150, Helm received the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Medal in 2003. He was buried at Fairfax Memorial Cemetery.

Sister **Audrey "Shorty" Gladmon**, about 93, on/about 21 November 2007. As well as being a member of the Ladies Auxiliary 3150, she was very active with American Legion Post 85 for a number of years. She was buried National Memorial Cemetery in a quiet ceremony.

Superbowl Party

Football fans of all jersey colors will gather at the Post at 6 pm on Sunday, 3 February to cheer on or boo the New England Patriots or New York Giants in the Superbowl --- or to just enjoy the camaraderie. Although the menu has not been set as we go to press, some food will be available from 6 - 9 pm.

Two Virginians Seek National Office

At recent national and regional VFW meetings, two Virginians announced they will seek the VFW's and Ladies Auxiliary's top leadership positions.

Dan Boyer, past state commander for Virginia, and current 6th District National Council member, formally announced at the Southern Conference Meeting in November that he will seek election as Junior Vice Commander in Chief of the VFW, a step that would lead to his election as Commander in Chief two years later. Boyer will seek the votes of the 14 Southern Conference departments for the endorsement of the Conference in November 2009 and the normally automatic election at the National Convention in 2010. The positions rotate among the four VFW conferences.

Dee Guillory, a past state president of the Ladies Auxiliary in Virginia and past Southern Conference President., announced at the last National Convention that she would seek the office of National Guard in 2008, an election which would advance her to National President of the Ladies Auxiliary five years later. While the rotating position is assigned to the Southern Conference this coming year, the victor is elected by all delegates at the next National Convention.

Virginia has never had a Commander-in-Chief nor a National President and hopes are high. As with other national elections, these require much time, effort, and money. John Lyon Post has provided support to both candidates.

Tenth District Meeting

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Tenth District Meetings will be held on Sunday, 24 February, at McLean Post 8241, 1051 Springhill Road, McLean. A Joint Meeting will begin at 1 pm with awards to the district winners of Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teachers and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. All VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members are invited to attend. Men's Auxiliary members won't have a separate meeting but are invited to attend the Joint meeting.

Post Awards Ceremony 23 February

John Lyon Post will hold an awards ceremony honoring our Post participants and winners in VOD and Patriot's Pen essay, and Teacher of the Year competitions on Saturday, 23 February at 2 pm. Everyone is invited to join our congratulations and thanks to these outstanding individuals.

Iraq/Afghanistan/GWOT Vets

Attention Iraq, Afghanistan and GWOT veterans: The post is hosting a get acquainted evening on Friday, 22 February between 6 and 8 pm. The first two beverages and a light food buffet is our way of welcoming you home and to Post 3150. This evening will provide you with the opportunity to meet other Afghanistan, Iraq, and GWOT veterans. Bring your non-member fellow vets. All members are invited to stop by and meet our younger members.

VFW National Winter Conferences in Washington, D.C.

VFW's national winter conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in March: The National Community Service and Legislative Conference will meet March 2-5, at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. VFW and Auxiliary members are invited to attend these conferences. For further information, contact the Post or see "**2008 Washington Conference**" under **News & Info** at www.vfw.org. The Agenda is in the center of the page.

John Lyon Post will host a spaghetti dinner for members and conference attendees on Sunday 2 March from 3 - 9 pm.

A John Lyon Hello ...

...to the members of the new Man's Auxiliary 3150! We're most excited to have you on board. And we look forward to many years' working together, along with our wonderful Ladies Auxiliary.

Happy Birthday, John Lyon Ladies Auxiliary

The Year 2008 marks the 73rd Anniversary of the founding of John Lyon VFW Post 3150 Ladies Auxiliary. The Ladies have been very instrumental in 3150's successes throughout the years. While Tuesday, February 19th marks the actual date, the ceremony marking this event will be held on Thursday, 21 February at 7 pm, prior to the Ladies Auxiliary Meeting. All Post, Ladies and Men's Auxiliary members are invited to attend and celebrate their many contributions.

New Officers to be Selected

Post officers for the Year 2008-2009 will be nominated during the March meeting and elected in April. All members are urged to consider one of the positions. Contact the Commander or one of the other current officers for more information on the positions. All positions are open to be filled. The elected positions and some of their areas of prime interest are commander, senior vice commander (membership), junior vice commander (activities), quartermaster (finances), chaplain, advocate (parliamentarian), surgeon (welfare and hospital), three year trustee (oversight), and three year house committee member (post home). Additionally, there are appointed positions such as adjutant (admin), officer of the day, and publicity chairman to be filled.

The Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries will both nominate and elect new officers during their April meetings. Contact the appropriate President or one of the other officers for further information.

Website of Interest

<http://politicalgraveyard.com/> contains databases with a number of cross-references for political leaders, including VFW (and other veterans organization) membership, as well as elected and appointed positions, education, etc., etc., etc.

From the John Lyon Past...

The following is an excerpt of an article which appeared in *The Sun*, on 2 February 1945:

“Party To Be Given For V.F.W. Auxiliary

“The Auxiliary of John Lyon Post, V.F.W., will meet Thursday evening, February 8 at x o’clock at the Ashton Heights Woman’s Club House. Following a business session, the members will go to the American Legion Club House on North Washington Boulevard where the members of the V.F.W. Post will give a party in honor of the local Auxiliary’s 10th anniversary.”

Highway Cleanup 17 February

The Post has scheduled a winter Highway Cleanup along Lee Highway from Rosslyn to Veitch Street for Saturday 16 February. Meet at the Post for coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 am. The post has pick-up sticks and gloves. Long pants and hard shoes are recommended. The event should take less two hours. In case of bad weather, the rain date is 8 March.

Auxiliaries to Host Leap Year Event

The Men’s Auxiliary, in its first activity, and the Ladies Auxiliary together will host a Leap Year event on Friday, 29 February, from 6 to 8 pm at the Post Home. Details are still to be worked out but keep the date free. More info will be available at the Post and via email as the date nears. (If you want to be added to the email update list, send an email to adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com.)

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

Scout of the Year

The VFW has been involved with the Boy Scouts since 1915 and yearly sponsors a Scout of the Year Program. Awards are made at the post, district, and state levels. The deadline to submit the entry to VFW Post 3150 is 1 March 2008. Information, including forms to be completed can be found at www.vfwva.org; click on Reports to go to the second page, then the BSA button, and then Scout of the Year Application. A PDF file can be downloaded including the entry form, directions and judging criteria. You can also call the post at 703-525-0108 for additional information.

The criteria include being a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or Sea Scout Ship AND having received the Eagle Scout Award, Venture Silver Award or Quartermaster Award, and having demonstrated practical citizenship in school, Scouting and community. Applicant must have reached his/her 15th birthday and is enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Submit entries to VFW Post 3150, 2116 North 19th Street, Arlington VA 22201. Any candidate living outside the VFW 3150 area can submit an entry to a VFW post in the area he/she lives

Post Membership at 94% Charge Your Renewal On-Line

Post members: We need your renewal! Membership is about 95%. Those who would like to charge their annual renewals may do so on-line at www.vfw.org. Click on Membership, then Current Members, then Renew Your Membership. You will then see a list of member options which will allow you to pay your annual dues or sign up for Life Membership. You will need your membership number for this transaction, plus the Post dues amount to renew: \$30. Or send your check to National or to the Post.

**Primary Election Day
in Virginia is 12 February
Remember to Vote!**

Christmas at John Lyon



<<< Members of John Lyon and the Fraternal Order of the Police NOVA Lodge #35 arrived at the VA Hospital nursing home in Washington, DC, for the Post's annual Christmas visit. The delegation visited the 120 residents of the nursing home and presented each with several pieces of fresh fruit and a Christmas ornament made from Buddy Poppies. From the VFW: (1 to r) (rear) Ilsa Pflaumer, J.Gary Wagner, Karen Stewart, Mark Pando, Arnold Dixon, Annie McCormick, and (front) Kathy and Gary Palka. Also attending from 3150 were Gene Miller and Santa, of course! The group returned to the Post where the FOP hosted a Christmas party for Easter Seal children.

Santa and Mrs Claus present a happy young man with gifts from the North Pole during the Christmas party for children of junior enlisted personnel from Fort Myer. Twenty-eight children were guests of John Lyon during the party which included lunch, coloring book and crayons, a stocking and specially earmarked gifts. The eighteen families also received food baskets for the holidays.



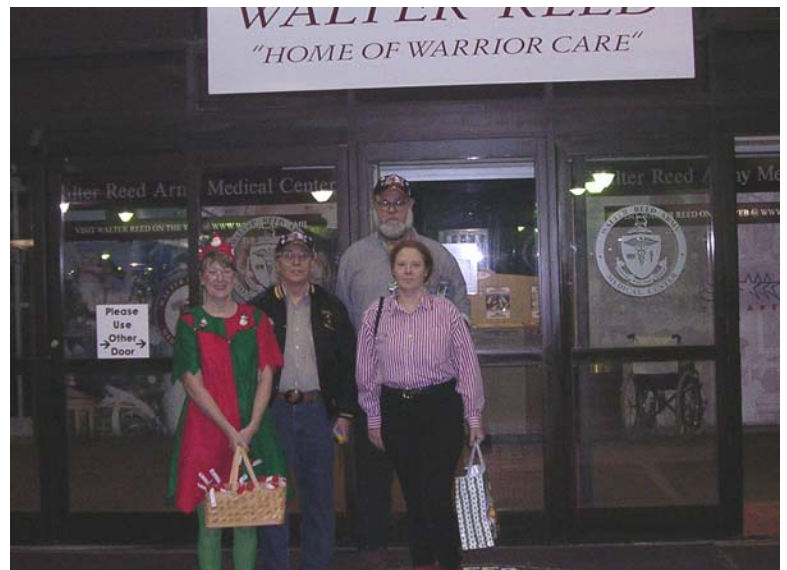
<<< Senior Vice Commander Mike Holtz (right) prepares to present a record donation to USMCR Gunnery Sergeant Kyu Ro and Sergeant David Jeffcoat for Toys for Tots, while Post Commander Eric Anderson, Quartermaster Richard Hoffman, and Ladies Auxiliary President Karen Stewart watch from the sides. John Lyon collected over \$1980 in cash and toys from 3150 members as well as the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. All proceeds from the Pig Roast dinner also went to Toys for Tots. The donation was about \$800 higher than last year.

Christmas at John Lyon



<<< Joining Santa and Mrs Claus with Christmas food baskets are (front) Eric Anderson, Ruth Rodier, Butch Hovermill, Karen Stewart, and (rear) Richard Hoffman, Greg Moscatar, Gail Hoffman, Juanita Diggs, Lola and Tom Kane. Baskets with all the fixings for Christmas dinner and some other meals were presented to 18 families of young enlisted soldiers at nearby Fort Myer.

One of Santa's Elves (Gail Hoffman) is >>> escorted into Walter Reed Army Medical Center to visit with the troops, by Arnold Dixon and Annie McCormick, all from John Lyon Post, and John Miska, Post 8208. Santa's Elf ---- and the others --- distributed goodies and good cheer to the troops on Christmas Eve.



<<< Gene Miller, Charles Reddoor, and J.Gary Wagner present the Presidential Proclamation, the VFW's comments, and Post Member Otho Helm's experiences during the attack on Hawaii, during the ceremonies marking Pearl Harbor Day held at Post 3150. The event remembered the attack on Pearl Harbor 66 years ago which speeded the U.S. entry into World War II.

Recent Events Around the Post

Post Commanders Ken Jansen (1999 - >>>> 2001) and Eric Anderson (present) rehang the Post's Perpetual Charter. The document was found in post archives and reframed and then unveiled during the Post's 73rd birthday on 20 November. The Perpetual Charter marks 25 Life Members in the Post. The document was dated 23 May 1969. The post now has 393 Life Members, or about 75% of the membership.

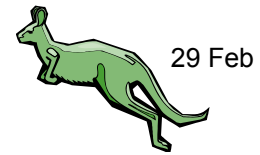


<<< Doc Crouch and Cathy Graham met with State Delegate David Bulova from Fairfax County during the VFW's Day on the Hill recently held at the state capitol in Richmond. The annual event is the presentation of the VFW's legislative goals to state senators and delegates.

While Doc Crouch mans the camera, >>>> John Lyon members Cathy Graham, Connie Agresti, J.Gary Wagner, and Jerry Peterson await the beginning of dinner at the annual VFW Winter Council Meeting recently held in Williamsburg. The yearly event takes a look at the progress of the Virginia VFW and Ladies Auxiliary and provides direction for the rest of the VFW year.



VFW 3150 February 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Superbowl Party 6 - 9 pm	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday Movie Night	7	8	9
10 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	11 House Committee 7:30 pm Post O Call 8 pm	12 Virginia Primary Election Day Men's Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	13 Movie Night	14 Valentines Day Post Meeting 8 pm	15 Sinking of the USS Maine 1898	16 Highway Cleanup 8:30 am Rain Date 8 March
17	18 Presidents' Day	19	20 Movie Night	21 73rd Birthday LA 3150 7 pm Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	22 Afghanistan / Iraq / GWOT vets Get Together 6 - 8 pm	23 Post Awards Ceremonies 2 pm
24 Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm Tenth District Mtg Mclean VFW Post 1 pm	25	26	27 Movie Night	28	29 Ladies / Men's Auxiliaries Leap Year Night 6 - 8 pm	1 March Deadline Scout of the Year Nominations

**Welcome Afghanistan / Iraq / GWOT Vets
Friday 22 February**



JOHN LYON POST # 3150
"All American Post"
Veterans of Foreign Wars
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Presidents Day
18 February 2008