

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 22, Number 7

February 2016



Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Lyon Post #3150
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington VA 22201
703-525-0108
<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



Men's Auxiliary 3150 Furls its Banner

Men's Auxiliary 3150 held its last meeting on 8 December after deciding in November to cease operation as an organization on 31 December. The intent of most members was to join the new VFW Auxiliary. During its eight year history, it was led by Presidents Ernie Deal (2007-09), William "Tennessee" Binkley (2009-11), R,Michael "Red" Lowe (2011-13), Wilbur Rawlings (2013-14), and Brett Hudak (2014-16). The Secretary Treasurers were Binkley, Stephen Utley and Dennis Gerrity. The Men's Auxiliary 3150, chartered on 25 March 2008, provide eight years of valuable service to Post 3150, veterans, and the community. They have greatly supported the Children's Christmas Party over the years, as well as other activities, and were a major factor for years in Sunday Brunches. We would say they would be missed; however as many have already joined the new VFW Auxiliary, we know their service and presence has not ended. Congratulations --- and thanks --- for a good run, brothers! In the photos, top, left to right, at the end of their meeting to symbolically furl their banner are Dan Abbate, Dennis Gerrity, Vincent Kane, Brett Hudak, and Frank Abbate. Above left, second and third from left, Red Lowe and Tennessee Binkley join some of the others.

From the Commander:

Greetings comrades, auxiliary members, and friends. Well I hope everyone has dug themselves out after snowmagedon 2016. I want to thank all the members and friends of the post that helped prepare us for the storm and recover.

The last month or so has been a little slow. We all had great Christmas/New Years with our family and loved ones. Then our members took some much deserved time off and recovered. We had a slow January but now it's time to ramp things up and make a big push into the end of the VFW year that ends in June.

We have several events in February and March. We start the month with UFC 196 on Saturday February 6th and follow that up the next day with our best Super Bowl party yet. Those two events are going to be a perfect time to get out to the post and converse with old friends and meet the newest members of Post 3150. Then on February 20th we host the second annual VFW 3150/Team RWB chili cook off. This is an event that I believe helps us focus on the relationship between the VFW and other veterans groups. Separate we can achieve but together we can do so much more. Lastly in March we have been invited to partake in an event at World of Beer in Ballston on St. Patrick's Day. This should be one heck of an event so keep a look out for information.

We find ourselves in a pivotal time for both the VFW at large and our little Post 3150. Over the last 6 months we have made great strides. From our face lift of the post to bringing on new members every week we are building a winning place for veterans and their families. We cannot however allow ourselves to slow down and become complacent. We cannot allow ourselves to believe veterans will walk into the post and beg to join us and assist in our mission

As a post/auxiliary member you are the front line of recruitment for the VFW. Recruitment does not always have to be handing someone an application though. Sometimes just talking to people about all we do is the best recruitment technique we have. Talk to your friends and neighbors about 3150 and all the great things we do. Of the many things we have worked on over the last

few months one of the top among them is social media. We are making great efforts to step in the technological age. We ask that if you are on social media such as Facebook you forward out our invites to everyone on your friends list as well.

In addition to events at the post we will put a renewed focus on getting our faces out into community. Sometimes this will be to assist veterans, sometimes it will be to simply show support to the community of Arlington County. Please check the monthly newsletter calendar and Facebook event pages for these events and come out even if you can only give a short amount of time.

I have been a member of several VFW posts over the last 11 years. Some good and some not so good. My time with 3150 has been outstanding and I look forward to making it even better. Let's push through these next 6 months and create something that will last for a long time and benefit 3150 for years to come.

Clifton F Clevenger
Commander, VFW Post 3150

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From the President of the Auxiliary:

Happy 2016! I trust everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season, and wish you all a joyous and healthy 2016. As I sat here thinking about people who make New Year Resolutions, I wondered what or how it all started. So I googled it. I was surprised to learn that Romans began each January by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month January is named.

Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. In the Medieval era the knights took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. So, if you made any New Year Resolutions, I wish you much luck and success in those endeavors.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner so be sure to get something sweet for your sweetheart, unless of course they are diabetic, you may want to get

them something in the range of flowers or jewelry. I myself seem to be partial to chocolate diamonds these days, even though I'm not diabetic! In case you wanted to know what to get me! Just kidding!

That's about it for this month, Happy Valentine's Day to all, Happy Birthday or Anniversary if you are celebrating one of those in February. Be sure to check in on our elderly, make sure they are warm enough and getting everything they need. I know they will be glad to hear from you. Take care and stay safe in the days ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Weeks
President, VFW Auxiliary 3150

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members Jorge Correa (Navy – GWOTEM), Jennifer Formell (USAF – Iraq/Afghanistan/Korea Service)(Life Transfer), Jared Galazin (Army – Iraq), Melissa Galazin (Army – Afghanistan), Leigha Groves (Navy – Afghanistan), Ryan Groves (USAF – Iraq/Afghanistan/GWOTEM), Andre McGlashan (Kosovo)(Life), Chris Urynowicz (Army-Afghanistan), and Chris Curran Williams (USMC – Afghanistan), and new Auxiliary members, Charles Corry, Ernie Deal, and Vincent Kane, all whose paperwork is complete and who were elected at the December and/or January meetings. The Auxiliary did not meet in January.

Yearly Charitable Donations?

If you make yearly charitable donations, remember the Post: consider sending a check to VFW Post 3150, 2116 North 19th Street, Arlington VA 22201. The VFW --- and Post 3150 --- are IRS Code 501(c)19 tax exempt organizations and your donation is tax deductible. All donations to the Post are restricted to Post projects and expenses and the post could use the assistance to resupply its accounts to proceed in the new year and you may designate your choice of projects.



Take it easy when clearing snow

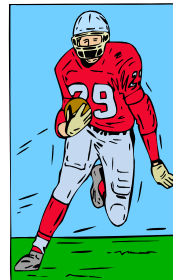
UFC Fight Night, Sat 6 Feb, 8 pm

UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) Fight Night 82 features Johnny Hendricks and Stephen "Wonderboy" Thompson who will face each other in the ring on Saturday 6 February. The Post will carry it on our multiple TV's in the canteen and the great hall. Everyone will have a front row set for this epic battle. Don't be the one that misses it!

Starts at 8 pm.

This event is open to members, active duty, veterans, their family and friends. Your donation is appreciated.

Super Bowl Party



Football fans of all jersey colors will gather at the Post by 6 pm on Sunday, 7 February to cheer on or boo the Denver Broncos or the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl --- or to just enjoy the camaraderie and TV commercials.

John Lyon VFW Post 3150, Orange Line Living & Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) are teaming up to bring you the best **Super Bowl 50** Watch Party in the area!

Wings, pizza, and other finger foods will be provided. The first 50 people to arrive will receive two drink tickets. Each drink ticket can be redeemed for 1 domestic bottle or draft, wine, or cider – OR – for \$2 off a draft craft beer or craft bottled beer.

We thank IAVA for sponsoring the food and Orange Line Living for sponsoring the drink tickets for this event. Please call or email Corey at 646-481-2209 or corey@iava.org with any questions.

Wreaths Across America Cleanup

Wreaths Across America Cleanup at Arlington National Cemetery has been postponed to 13 February. Post 3150 will help with this huge community undertaking. We will meet at the Post to depart at 7:15am to carpool to Fort Myer Old Chapel parking lot. Or meet us there if you choose to drive yourself.

Eagle / Girl Scout of the Year

Any recipient of an Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award may qualify. Deadline is 1 March, 2016. (We will accept them until 7:30 pm on 2 March.) Several years ago, a Virginia Eagle Scout won the first place national \$5,000 award. Further information, including entry forms, brochures, and back ground, are available at www.vfw.org, then Community, then Youth and Education, then Scout of the Year. Forms and information may also be obtained at <http://www.vfwva.org/>, then Community Programs. Or call Post 3150 at 703-525-0108 for further information.

Teacher of the Year Deadline 15 Feb

Nominations for Teacher of the Year for outstanding elementary, junior high and high school teachers **who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and tradition** are due by the new date February 15, 2016. Fellow teachers, supervisors or other interested individuals can submit nominations. The national teacher --- and his/her school ---- each receive a \$1000 award. Last year, two of the three national teachers came from Virginia!

Iraq/Afghanistan/GWOTE Vets Happy Hour

The Post will host a welcome happy hour for Iraq, Afghanistan and GWOTE veterans Thursday, 11 February from 5 – 8 pm. All members invited. Your vet friends are welcome to join you.

Youth and Teacher Awards 27 Feb

The Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners will be presented on Saturday, 27 February, starting with lunch at 12 noon at the Post Home. All members are invited and urged to attend and honor these special citizens..

Your Membership Expired 31 Dec

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2016, it likely expired 31 Dec --- for most Post members and the Auxiliary. (Post membership expires on the "Paid Thru Date" which is 31 December for most members.) 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 RENEW in the upper right corner. No need to login. 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 \$40.** Members of the Auxiliary may renew their memberships by sending a check to the Treasurer at the Post address on the first page. (\$25 or Life)

A John Lyon Hello ...

To Santa's Chief Elf, Jodie, to Santa and Mrs Claus, and the other elves, reindeer, snowmen, etc., and many other members who helped out around the Post and made Christmas a memorable occasion for the members of the veteran / military community and their families. And to VFW Post 609 which has returned to their refurbished home in Alexandria National Cemetery.



**Presidents Day
15 February 2016**

VFW Auxiliary Accepting New Members



2nd Annual Chili Cook-off

Membership in the VFW Auxiliary 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 *and* <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/programs-page/membership/>, where additional info is also available. Cost is \$30 to join, \$25 to renew next year.

Members of the recent Men's Auxiliary are invited to apply for the VFW Auxiliary. This is an opportunity to gain Life Membership, district, state, and national representation, and other benefits. Completion of a short form and documentation is required.

Post Closed on Mon and Tues

The Post Canteen will be closed for normal business on Mondays and Tuesday. Any meetings will continue as scheduled.

Hours for Post Canteen

The Post Canteen is open as follows:

Sunday	1 pm – 7:30 pm
Monday – Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday - Thursday	3 pm – 7:30 pm
Friday	3 pm – 10 pm
Saturday	3 pm – 10 pm
Post may stay open later for various events.	

Auxiliary 81st Birthday

VFW Auxiliary 3150 will celebrate its 81st birthday on Friday, 19 February. Cake cutting will begin at 7 pm. Included will be the unveiling of the new Auxiliary Charter. All John Lyon members are invited this historic event.

(RSVP for chefs and attendees through Eventbrite is REQUIRED for this event.)

Come show off your cooking skills, or just sample some awesome Chili, vote for your favorite, play some games, chase the heat down with a beer and most importantly share a great time with John Lyon VFW Post 3150 and Team RWB DC.

In addition to the Chili competition, we'll also have Cornbread and 7 Layer Dip competitions! There are 12 slots available for Chili Chef Contestants. Chili slots are FIRST COME FIRST SERVE – sign up today to get your spot!

Head over to our Eventbrite page to find all the details and RSVP for this event: <https://rwbvfwchili.eventbrite.com/>

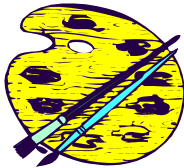
Student Essay Themes for 2016-17

Themes for the high school and middle school essay contests for 2016-2017 have been announced. For the High School Voice of Democracy contest, the theme will be *"My Responsibility to America"* and for the Middle School Patriot's Pen contest the theme will be *"The America I Believe In"*. Deadlines for both programs are November 1 to the Post. New this year: Voice of Democracy essays should be recorded on an audio CD or a flash drive. For further information, go to the VFW national website at www.vfw.org, then click on Community, then Youth and Education, the appropriate program. Other information on these programs is also available. The top national awards are \$30,000 for Voice of Democracy and \$10,000 for Patriot's Pen. Post, District and State awards will also be presented to winners at those levels. The programs were placed on the NASSP (National Association Secondary School Principals) **2015-16 NASSP List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students.** And we expect hos to be repeated for this coming year.

Alyce Dixon Dies

Alyce Dixon, 108 years old, and the oldest female veteran died, 27 January at the VA Hospital in Washington. She was a favorite of many John Lyon members who saw her during hospital visits. See more at

http://www.washingtondc.va.gov/WASHINGTON/DC/features/Alyce_Dixon.asp



High Schoolers: Art Contest

VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest: grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Deadline is March 31, 2016. See <http://www.vfwauxiliary.org>, then Programs, then Scholarships, then Young American Creative Patriotic Art Brochure. To see winners since 1979, follow above link..

New Officers to be Selected

Post officers for the Year 2016-2017 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, three year trustee (oversight), and three year house committee member (post home). Additionally, there are appointed positions such as adjutant (admin), advocate (parliamentarian), surgeon (welfare and hospital), officer of the day, guard, and publicity chairman to be filled.

The VFW Auxiliary will both nominate and elect new officers during their April meetings. Contact the appropriate President or one of the other officers for further information.

Please notify us when you move! Send an email with your new address to the Adjutant at adjpost3150@va.vfwwebmail.com. Also notify the Adjutant of a new email address.

New Quartermaster for 2016-17

(The following is an excerpt from an item written by the late George Jordan. It describes well the duties of the Quartermaster and is reprinted in part for this year.)

My successor (as Quartermaster) must be a Post member of unquestionable integrity, have working knowledge of Excel, and be able to balance a checkbook.

VFW's manual states the duties to include bookkeeping/treasurer in nature and in charge of membership. Bookkeeping/treasurer duties include caretaking and accounting of the Post funds, paying the bills, reconciling the checking account, reporting monthly to the membership, quarterly to the State, undergoing monthly audits by the trustees, paying monthly sales taxes to the State and County Government, and filing appropriate Federal forms.

Membership duties basically include inputting membership information into VFW's system including new members, renewals, transfers, etc. The Quartermaster often assumes the duties of the Pull Tab Manager (Pull Tab Manager does not have to be a Post Member).

The VFW's Quartermaster duties can be broken down to two members as desired: Quartermaster and assistant. With planning, the bookkeeping duties can be largely conducted at home on your personal computer and our borrowed printer, which prints Post checks (I assume Quicken, our checkbook can be transferred to another computer).

I thank you for your consideration. You'll never regret stepping up for a year. And remember, the Post cannot operate without a Quartermaster.

George Jordan, Post Quartermaster 2013 - 2014

Recent Events Around the Post



<<< John Lyon members and a friend gather for ceremonies marking Pearl Harbor Day. From the left Jim Bertine, Tim Springmann, Shirley McAlhaney Heather Clevenger, Cliff Clevenger, Mike Rau, and John Leggett. The event remembered the attack on Pearl Harbor 74 years ago which speeded the U.S. entry into World War II.

Belle Woods (rear) and Lola Kane are >>> among those preparing to assemble the Christmas boxes for families of junior enlisted families at nearby Fort Myer, identified by the USO and the fort. The food baskets contained all the fixings for Christmas dinner and maybe breakfast and lunch as well.



<<< Preparing to enjoy the banquet at the Virginia Winter Council Meeting are (l to r) State Community Activities Chairman M.C. “Connie” Agresti. Past State President Cathy Graham, and State Americanism Chairman J.Gary Wagner. Also attending was photographer and Past State Commander C.D. “Doc” Crouch. The weekend included committee and council meetings as well as state awards for Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners.

Christmas at John Lyon



<<< John Lyon members pause during the visit to the Washington DC VA Hospital. Attending were (l to r) Lola Kane, Stephanie Benally, Jolly Bittick, Heather Clevenger, Shelton Ellison, Dennis Gerrity Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc and daughter Emily, and Commander Cliff Clevenger. Gene Miller is missing from the photo. The annual Christmas hospital visit was joined by members of the Fraternal Order of the Police and various police units who provided a special escort for Santa and joined in the distribution of fresh fruit for each resident of the VA Hospital Nursing Home.

A number of John Lyon members >>> participated in Wreaths Across America at Alexandria and Arlington National Cemeteries but no meaningful photos of members in action. Here a wreath is seen on the decorated grave of Post 3150 member Keith “Joe” Weeks in Arlington.



<<< Santa and Mrs Claus chat with a youngster during the annual Christmas party for children of junior enlisted soldiers named by the USO at Fort Myer. Fifteen children received a stocking and a bag of gifts from their Santa lists. Lunch for the families preceded the visit by Santa and Mrs Claus. Jodie LaFreniere-Dajc was Santa’s chief elf this year. The same seven families also received a Christmas dinner “basket” from John Lyon.

VFW 3150

February 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	1	2	3	4	5	6
						UFC 196, 8 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Super Bowl 50 Party 5 – end	House Committee / Post O Call 7 pm		GRIST mtg, 7 pm	Iraq/Afghanistan /GWOTE vets Happy Hour , 5 – 8 pm		Wreaths Across America Cleanup, Meet at Post by 7:15 am
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
VALENTINE'S DAY	Sinking of USS Maine 1898 PRESI- DENTS DAY Post Meeting 7:30 pm	←---- Deadline Teacher of the Year nomination 7:30 pm Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm			81 st Birthday LA 3150 7 pm Game Night, 7:30 pm	Chili Cook off, 12:30 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
						VoD, Patriots Pen And Teacher Awards, 1 pm
28	29	1 Mar				
		Deadline - Scout of the Year nomination				

15 February: Deadline Teacher of the Year Nominations

1 March: Deadline Scout of the Year Nominations

**Nominations may be delivered the day after deadline due to Post's
being closed**



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
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Dated Material Please Do Not Delay

February 2016

Address Service Requested



Post 3150 in Winter Storm Jonas, 22 – 23 January 2016
(thanks to Alex Nobles)