

The John Lyon Gazette

Volume 14, Number 9

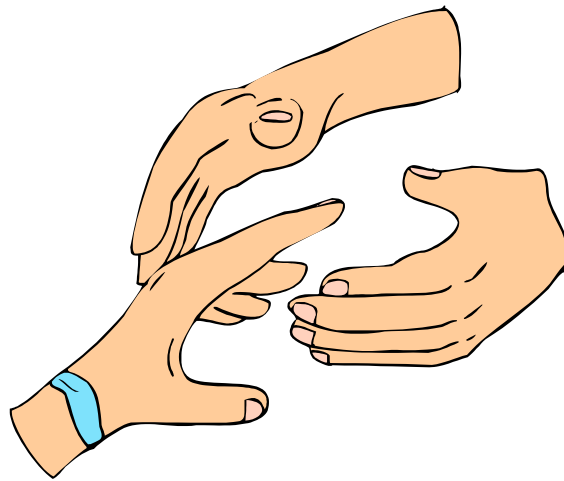
March 2008



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



Helping Hands

During the installation of the Men's Auxiliary in December, Past President of Ladies Auxiliary 3150, Gail Hoffman, welcomed the new members and stressed the eagerness of her fellow members to work with the newcomers. She presented each with a pair of "Helping Hands" and stressed they symbolized the efforts of the VFW and Auxiliaries to veterans, to our fellow citizens, and to our communities, and even to the Post and VFW. Most everything we do is a helping hand to someone or something. Several examples to be found in this issue are the VFW National Home for Children; flags for local schools; VoD, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year programs, Patriotic Art program, Brunches, Support for the Troops, Highway Cleanup...



From The Commander:

Time sure is going by quickly. As I mentioned in the last "Gazette", nominations for your next years officers will be opened during the March meeting (the 13th). This, once again, is your time to nominate those individuals you'd like to see represent you and carry out your wishes on how we do business in the future. Now after I've said that and have re-read what I said, when you get right down to it, the only real way to have your desires voiced is to do it in person, at the meeting. Let's face it, only you can express the real meaning of what you want to say. If you are unable to get the March meeting, there are some "Helping Hands" available who just might be able to help you in that endeavor. Nominations will be still open until the April 10th meeting, the last chance before elections take place that evening.

I'd like to take a moment to say congratulations to the LADIES on their 73rd birthday. Stopping to reflect and think of what you have all done in just the few short years that I've been a Post member, it still boggles the mind to think about what you and your predecessors have done in the past 73 years. You are truly solid mainstays, not only with our Post, but throughout the VFW, with your "Can Do Spirit". Happy Birthday. Your "Helping Hands" have truly given their all.

Helping Hands, Helping Hands, Helping Hands. I've said it a couple of times and I think we've all heard that term at one time or another. To me, it never really stuck in my mind, until the spotlight appearance of Past Madam President Gail Hoffman at the institution of the Men's Auxiliary, giving her inspiring welcome aboard speech. What does it really mean? Take a moment and think about why we do, what we're all about... In a nut shell, the term symbolizes support to the VFW organization. "Helping Hands" reach out to provide assistance whenever needed and where ever required. As your Commander, I am extremely proud and humbled to be in the presence of so many "Helping Hands".



On another note. As you look at your calendar in the "Gazette", you can see that we usually have several things going on during the coming month. It doesn't matter what the activity is, you, as Post or Ladies/Men's Auxiliary member, are invited to all these activities. You don't need a special invitation; you are already special, by virtue of being a member. You can attend any of these events. You aren't committing to do anything, but to be there. Just by being there, you are in fact saying thank you to those who did do what you were unable to do, but more importantly you are showing your support for what YOUR Post does for the community and its members.

Don't forget the brunches. Can always use the help, even if it's for a short time. We can always use a short break.

Membership, Membership, Membership. We need "Helping Hands" to meet our goals. Go get 'em.

Til the next time.

Yours in comradeship,

Eric Anderson
Commander, VFW Post 3150

From the President of the Ladies Auxiliary:

Punxsutawney Phil hit the nail on the head this year. Pennsylvania has been getting hammered with white outs on I-80, snow and ice storms as well, and now it is our turn! February 22nd and we get rain, icy rain and, I guess snow later. I'm glad I'm retired and didn't really need to go out today, except to write my lovely newsletter for the editor of the newsletter.

Last night we have our monthly membership meeting, along with celebration of the 3150 Auxiliary's 73rd Birthday. Post Senior Vice Commander, Mike Holtz, Men's Auxiliary President, Ernie Deal, and myself had the honor of cutting the birthday cake. Commander Anderson could not make it and called with his regrets. He had just gotten off work and was not feeling well. It is very gratifying to work with all of these fine people. The Men's and Ladies Auxiliaries are meshing together in support of the Post and in support of each other.

Among our Helping Hands efforts, Annie McCormick reported on our work toward our female

"troop adoption" in Iraq. She has renamed it: *Woman to Woman Support*. Three packages

(read boxes) have already been sent to Iraq and we are working on more. Our Easter Egg Raffle on March 23rd, Easter Sunday Brunch, will be dedicated to this program. If you would like to personally support the effort, you may donate items

or money. Thank you.

I recently received a lovely note from Terry McHale, sister to Gene Miller, offering us a generous donation in support of the above effort. Thank you, Terry! Your 3150 sisters send our many thanks and blessing as you enter into your new treatment program. Gene keeps us up-to-date on how you are doing and we hope to see you soon.

Again, Sisters please check the calendar attached. March is **hopping** with our brunches, St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday, March 15th, and the Easter Sunday Brunch on March 23rd. Don't forget the Easter Egg Raffle. Howdja like the hopping?

A heads up on April--April 5th will be our Quarterly Hospital Visit. If you wish to participate, meet us at the Post at Noon on that day.

Welcome to our newest members, Carolyn Abbate and Ilsa Pflaumer. Happy Birthday to those of you with birthdays in this month --- look out for those March winds! April showers and Spring will be on the way. Drive safely!!

Karen A. Stewart
President, Ladies Auxiliary 3150

President Karen Stewart invited Post >>> Senior Vice Commander Mike Holtz (left) and Men's Auxiliary President Ernie Deal to help her cut the cake marking the 73rd Birthday of Ladies Auxiliary 3150. The Ladies Auxiliary was chartered 19 February 1935, about three months after the chartering of Post 3150.



From the President of the Men's Auxiliary:

Hello to all,

I hope this newsletter finds all happy and well.

First and foremost, I would like to extend from the Men's Auxiliary a very Happy Birthday to John Lyon Post 3150 Ladies Auxiliary on their recent 73rd Birthday. We send our congratulations and best wishes to an awesome group of ladies.

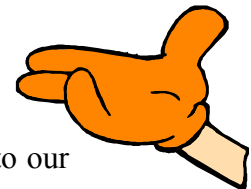
On January 25th, John Lyon had Gene Miller's Chili-Mac night. Gene, again, a great meal! We all had a great time. We had five members present who helped serve this dinner. I would like to thank everyone present that evening for all the support to our auxiliary.

On 16 February, we had two members present to help with highway cleanup. Later that evening, the Ladies had their annual Taco Night. The tacos were great and the music by DJ Richard Hoffman was awesome.

Our monthly meeting was held on February 19th due to the inclement weather on the 12th. We voted in seven new members. They are: David A Cruz, Herman G Cruz, Jose F Cruz, Edward D Muddiman, John P Kost, David F Nash, and Mark P Wagner. Also I would like to recognize Frank A Abbate and Daniel W Abbate whose names were not in the last newsletter. With the addition of these new members, we now have a total of 34 members in our auxiliary. I am looking forward to working with you all.

Please join the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries on 29 February for their Leap Year night event with music and food.

The Men's Auxiliary will extend our Helping Hands by serving the Post's Annual St. Patrick's' Day Dinner on March 15th.



We as an auxiliary must always remember to extend our Helping Hands to our Veterans and our Community.

In closing, again thanks to all for their support. We are growing and we must also remember our recruiting efforts for new members.

/s/

Ernie Deal
President, Men's Auxiliary 3150

Pentagram covers Post Brunch

Post 3150's continued hospitality for recovering soldiers from Walter Reed was recently covered by *The Pentagram* newspaper which serves Fort Myer and the Pentagon in the local military community. The Pentagram graciously gave us permission to reprint the article (Thanks, *Pentagram!*) which was, however, too long to include in this issue. The article is available in the Post Home and was also available on their website: http://www.dcmilitary.com/stories/021408/pentagram_28294.shtml

Welcome to Our New Members

Welcome to new Post members, Nelson Betancourt (Army - Korea), Gregory T. Boyette (Air Force - Desert Storm) (Life Transfer), Jonathan Campbell (Army - Iraq), Richard Cao (Air Force - Korea) (transfer), Carlos F Castillo (Army - Iraq), Preston George (Navy - Korean War), David Grimord (Navy - Persian Gulf), William Michael (Air Force - Iraq), Kevin Vasquez (USMC - Desert Storm), Ronald Woodward (Air Force - Vietnam); new Ladies Auxiliary members, Carolyn Abbate and Ilsa Pflaumer, new Men's Auxiliary members, Dan Abbate, Frank Abbate, David A Cruz, Herman G. Cruz, Joe F Cruz, John P. Kost, Edward D Muddiman, David F Nash, and Mark P Wagner, all elected at the January or February meetings.

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.

Marching off...

Claude Stephens (82) on / about 1 February. He was an Army Air Force veteran who served in Asiatic-Pacific Theater during World War II. Burial was reportedly in Colorado with his wife who died last summer.

St Patrick's Day Dinner

John Lyon will go green again this year on Saturday, 15 March 2008, with its renowned corned beef and cabbage dinner. Salad, potatoes, and dessert will complete the meal, which will be served from 4 pm to 7pm. Price is \$8.00. Reservations are a must for this popular event: call the Post Home at 703-525-0108 or sign up in Canteen by Wednesday, 12 March to get your name on the list. A limited amount of alternative meat will be available for those not favoring the traditional Irish corned beef.

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.

Patriotic Art Deadline Nears

Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest: gives students in grades 9 - 12 an opportunity to express their patriotism through art. The deadline is March 31, 2008 to Ladies Auxiliary 3150. Awards are presented at post, district, state, and national levels and can add up to thousands of dollars. For application and further information, go to <http://www.ladiesauxvfw.com>, or <https://www.ladiesauxvfw.org/eWeb/StartPage.aspx> then Programs, then Patriotic Art / VOD.

Lapel Pins for Post Members

The Post will conduct a brief ceremony during the next meeting on 13 March and welcome all newer members with their official lapel pins. Any member who has not received his or her VFW lapel pin is invited to attend the meeting and receive the membership pin.

Post Wireless Internet

The Post has wireless Internet connection available for all John Lyon members. Since this is a closed system, your laptop must be registered in the server. Bring your computer and see Quartermaster Richard Hoffman to get set up and enjoy checking the Internet and your email in the camaraderie of your Post home.

Arnold Dixon New Trustee

With the position being declared vacant at the January meeting, Arnold Dixon was elected new Post One Year Trustee at the February meeting. He will hold the position until the middle of June when all new officers assume their positions.

Spaghetti Dinner Cancelled

The spaghetti dinner originally scheduled for Sunday 2 March has been cancelled.

Post Membership at 97% Charge Your Renewal On-Line

Post members: Membership is about 97%. We need your renewal to reach that 100% mark! Those who would like to charge their renewal 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. You may also use the website to convert to Life Membership, including the two installment programs. If you have not renewed for the Year 2008, your membership expired at the end of December. Check your membership card for the expiration date.

State Convention

The Department of Virginia's state convention will be held June 12-15, 2008 at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel. Group room rates at the hotel are \$89.00 per night. For hotel reservations, call 804-285-2000. Reservations must be made by mid-May for the group rate. Those planning to attend should let the Post know so that we can coordinate several events with you.

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

A John Lyon Hello ...

...to Larry Calabro, recently back from overseas, and named for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force. Congratulations, Larry!

VFW Home for Children turns 83; Awareness Week is 23-29 March

Established in 1925, the VFW National Home for Children was created as a home for widows and orphans of deceased World War I veterans, but now includes other families in crisis. The National Home is a private, non-profit, licensed residential child care agency created to care for the developmental, social and spiritual needs of the children and families of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary. The facility is not an orphanage, but a neighborhood of custom homes, service buildings and recreational land administered by a highly devoted staff and fully integrated into its surrounding community. More than 2,000 people have lived at the National Home during its 83 years of service. For more information, see www.vfwnationalhome.org.

John Lyon continues to collect Campbell's "Labels for Education" labels and send them to the National Home. A drop-off box is in the Post.

National VFW Convention

The 109th National VFW Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, from August 16 - 21, 2008. Information can be obtained from the national VFW website (www.vfw.org, then 109th Convention), the state of Virginia's General Orders (www.vfwva.org), from the Post, and recent issues of the VFW magazine. You must book by July 14, 2008 for group rate. Go to www.vfw.org or call 1-888-221-9245 and let them know that you are with the State of Virginia and they will take care of your reservation. Virginia's hotel is the Rosen Centre. Anyone planning to attend should let the post know so that we can coordinate several items with you.

Email Post News

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.

Reminder to Members

Members of both the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary 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.

Newsletter Online

The John Lyon Gazette may be downloaded in color or read from the post website at www.vfw3150.org. You can expect to find it on the first page of the website about the first of each month. It will be in PDF format. You can download a PDF reader for free from the Internet.

Tax Scams

It's income tax time again and already the scammers are trying to get the rest of our money. Remember the government does NOT do such business over the phone or email. Do NOT respond to phone or email requests for your bank account, social security number and other similar info. No matter what the webpage looks like and the voice sounds like, THOSE are the bad guys!

Highway Cleanup

Highway Cleanup was accomplished in February so the rain date will not be needed. Photos were not available for this issue. The next Highway Cleanup is scheduled for 12 April.



Daylight Savings: 9 March

Daylight Savings is scheduled to begin on Sunday, 9 March. This is an ideal time to check your smoke detectors.

2007 - 2008 Post Awards Announced

Voice of Democracy

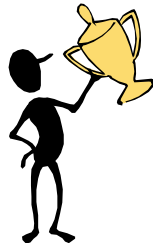
This year's "Voice of Democracy" theme, "My Role in Honoring America's Veterans" attracted 59 outstanding high school students who participated in the Audio/Essay competition program. First place winner was Anthony McAlum, a student at Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington. Home schooled Marieke van der Vaart was second, and Jerome Ingram of O'Connell was third. Julia Paegle and Donald Darang, both from O'Connell were named Honorable mention. McAlum was advanced to District competition.

Patriot's Pen

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, participate in the VFW's annual Patriot's Pen program. This year's theme was "Why I Am An American Patriot" and attracted 46 entrants. Felix van der Vaart, a home-schooled student, took the top honors. Marie Connole, a student at St Thomas Moore Elementary School, placed second. Homeschooled Scott Dronfield was third. Caitlin Hall, St Thomas More, and Susanna Sewell, Homeschooled, were named Honorable Mention. Van der Vaart's entry was forwarded on to the 10th District competition.

Andrew Traylor, a 7th grade student, sponsored by VFW Post 2216 and Ladies Auxiliary, Staunton, Virginia took Second Place in the National Competition and will receive the \$8,000 VFW U.S. Savings Bond.

Congratulations to all of our winners and special thanks to the school officials, the parents, and the judges who took the time to support our efforts. Most especially, we want to thank the students themselves for taking the time and making the effort to participate with us in this year's program. What you think and how you feel does make a difference. See below for this coming year's themes.



Teacher of the Year

The Teacher of the Year program promotes Citizenship Education in the schools. The Teacher of the Year was Ms Allie Weber of Swanson Middle School, Arlington. Her entry was forwarded to the Tenth District where she placed second.

Deadline for nominations for Teacher of the Year 2008 - 2009 is 1 November 2008. Teachers may be nominated in levels K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Further information is available at the VFW national website at www.vfw.org, then click on "Programs", then "Citizenship", then "Teacher..."

VOD, Patriot's Pen Themes for 2008-09 Announced

Themes for the high school and middle school essay contests for 2008-2009 have been announced. For the High School Voice of Democracy contest, the theme will be "**Service and Sacrifice by America's Veterans Benefits Today's Youth by _____**", and for the Middle School Patriot's Pen contest the theme will be "**Why America's Veterans Should be Honored**". Deadlines for both programs are November 1. Further information is available at the VFW national website at www.vfw.org, then click on "Programs", then VFW Scholarship Programs. The top national awards for both programs have been increased, up to \$30,000 for Voice of Democracy and up to \$10,000 for Patriot's Pen.

VoD, Patriot's Pen, Teacher Awards



Patriot's Pen Third Place - Scott Dronfield



VOD Third Place - Jerome Ingram



Patriot's Pen Second Place - Marie Connole



VOD Second Place - Marieke Van der Vaart



Patriot's Pen First Place - Felix Van der Vaart



VOD First Place - Anthony McAlum



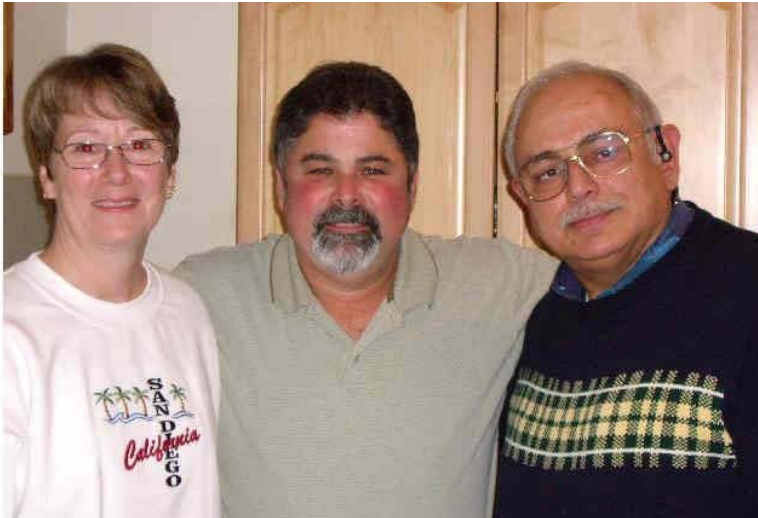
Middle School Teacher of the Year Allie Weber Awards presented by Commander Eric Anderson and President Karen Stewart.



The ceremony was emceed by program chairman and Senior Vice Commander Michael Holtz (above right).

Recent Events Around the Post

Tom Kane (right) and J.Gary Wagner >>> present Dr Lisa Piehota, Principal of Patrick Henry Elementary School in Arlington with a new flag for the flag pole in front of their school. The school in turn gave their older, faded flag to the post to be retired. Post 3150 also presented a U.S. flag to Arlington Traditional School for their sister school in Africa.



<<< Gail Hoffman pauses with Men's Auxiliary members Bill Binkley and Frank Abbate (right) during the recent Chili-Mac Night. Members of Men's Auxiliary 3150 did waiter duties as one of their first projects during the return of Past Commander Gene Miller's renowned Chili-Mac in January.

Bill Michael and Al Quaye were among >>> the Post members and guests during the recent Afghanistan / Iraq / Global War on Terrorism night held at the Post. The most successful of these events so far, the evening gave these members and guests an opportunity to meet one another in the camaraderie of the Post Home and share some common experiences.



VFW 3150 March 2008



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1 Deadline for Scout of the Year
2 ----- National Legislative	3 ----- & Community Service	4 ----- Conference Wash DC	5 Movie Night	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Begins Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	10 House Committee 7:30 pm Post O Call 8 pm	11 Mens' Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 pm	12 Movie Night	13 Post Meeting 8 pm Officer Nominations	14	15 St Patrick's Day Dinner 4 - 7 pm
16	17	18	19 Movie Night	20 Ladies Aux Meeting 7:30 pm	21 Good Friday	22
23 -----VFW Easter Sunday Sunday Brunch 9 am - 1 pm	24 National	25 Home	26 Awareness Movie Night	27 Week,	28 23 -29 March	29 ----->
30	31 Deadline for Patriotic Art Contest					

**St Patrick's Day Dinner
RSVP at 703-525-0108**



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

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St. Patrick's Day
Dinner
Saturday
15 March 2008
4 - 7pm

Reservations Required