

The JOHN LYON GAZETTE

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Veterans of Foreign Wars

John Lyon Post #3150

2116 North 19th Street

Arlington VA 22201

703-525-0108



Arlington Military Memorials in the News

Women in Military Service Memorial

The Women in Military Service Memorial will be dedicated on Saturday, October 18. This monument, is located at the main entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. Various ceremonies are scheduled for 16 - 19 October. As normal for such an event in our backyard, some participants are expected to find their way to Post 3150. Come down to meet them and help make them feel at home. And attend some of the events yourself. See <http://www.wimsa.org> on Internet. (Also see the Auxiliary President's and the Senior Vice's columns.)

Air Force Memorial

The long-planned Air Force Memorial (See *VFW* magazine, September 1997, p. 22.) stirred up a bit of a fuss between Air Force and Marine Corps supporters and friends, as well as some local Arlington residents, during the last weeks. The location of the memorial on Arlington Ridge near the Marine Corps Memorial, aka "Two Jima", became an issue when pamphlets opposing the site were made available in local condominiums, shops, etc. and the story made it to the local headlines. Earlier approved by various local arts and monument officials, the site was dedicated on 18 September. To check out the plans, see <http://www.airforcememorial.org> and <http://members.aol.com/Iwoinfo/index.html> on the Internet.

Summer has come and gone and fall is now upon us. It seems like time passes so quickly for those of us with gray in our hair while it moves so slowly for the youth. For the youth there may be a tendency to procrastinate because of this perception, but it is incumbent upon us to remind them that opportunities can fade quickly. I am, of course, alluding to the impending deadline on the Voice of Democracy submissions. We have contacted five schools in Arlington to talk up the program and our points of contact (Junior Vice Commander Mark Pando, Post Chaplain Jimmy Wilkerson, Ladies Auxiliary President Cathy Kearns, and Ladies Auxiliary Secretary Jeannie Gibadlo) have been active in this area. However, we should all be looking for eligible applicants. We never know if the word gets out to all those who might be interested. If you need information on the program or an application package, please do not hesitate to ask.

We should also start finite planning for the upcoming months. Months in which the Post and Ladies Auxiliary find themselves doing so much: Navy Birthday observance, Marine Corps Birthday observance, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving baskets, Children's Christmas Party and Christmas baskets just to name a few. Donations in these areas of effort are essential, **NOT** just donations of money and materials, but also donations of time and effort. While the first two areas of consideration are very important, the last two are essential to carry out our intentions to fulfill the propriety of observances and to give meaningfully to those who need our assistance.

As you may have noticed there have been some great improvements in the appearance of our Post home. We have made strides, but we still have a ways to march. A lot of what has been accomplished has been through the efforts and material donations of comrades like Jack Nye, Paul Custred, Eric Anderson, Rick Bourdon, Jim Griswold, Sister Rita Beatty and friends of the post like Henry and Vince Cesnaukus, Tommy Armstrong and Greg Baker, just to name a few. The House Committee is now actively pursuing estimates to repair the roof before winter is upon us and is also looking for estimates on the parking lot for the same reason. While we may not be able to accommodate a permanent fix to the parking lot, we may be able to do something that will reduce the muddiness. Basement cleaning will begin again shortly as well.

I would like to extend thanks to the volunteers who participated in the Highway Cleanup Program: Senior Vice Commander "Connie" Agresti, Junior Vice Commander Pando, Adjutant J. Gary Wagner, Comrade John Lunquist, Ladies Auxiliary President Cathy Kearns and Ladies Auxiliary Secretary Jeannie "BL" Gibadlo.

At the 10th District meeting last month, Comrade Wallace (TAC Operations Officer for VFW's National Veterans Service) advised that because of the Eligibility Reform Act of 9 Oct 96 there will be a mandatory enrollment process required to maintain eligibility for VA benefits. The enrollment process has to be completed by Oct 98. He will be providing some information to me shortly which I will share with you in the next newsletter. However, if you have any immediate questions regarding the issue there is a VFW Hotline (1-800-VFW-1899) available 24 hours a day.

Remember to donate your time and efforts. The old adage about not volunteering does not apply at John Lyon Post.

Yours in Comradeship,



From the Senior Vice Commander:

Veterans Day Membership Drive: Anyone interested in participating in a membership drive on Saturday and/or Sunday, November 8 & 9, please contact the Senior Vice Commander. The plan is to have a table with VFW membership literature at the entrance to Ft Myer Commissary (providing permission to do so is received). We'll need two people to "man" the table for the duration of the drive -- envisioned as from 0800 - 1700.

Women in Military Service Memorial Dedication: This monument, years in building at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery will be dedicated on Saturday, October 18. As the only VFW Post in Arlington County, we should gain in esteem and membership from an increased level of participation and visibility which such events provide. Anyone interested in acting as a color guard (static -- non-marching) during the event (providing the organizers have no objections) should contact the Senior Vice-Commander.

From the Junior Vice Commander:

Comrades, Ladies, and Friends of VFW Post 3150,

Fall is once again upon us and this season also heralds an increasing tempo in our Post's life.

For all those who missed Friday's (19 September) Taco night put on by our Ladies Auxiliary--you missed a real treat! My thanks to all those galley chefs for making it happen.

Sisters Imogene Robinson, Virginia LePage, and Juanita Diggs accompanied me on Saturday, 13 September, to pay a visit to our comrades at the VA Medical Center in downtown Washington, DC. Baked goods and plenty of reading materials were distributed to our brothers which produced many appreciative smiles. We also paid a visit to Sister Virginia Musselman at the U.S. Soldier's and Airman's Home who now resides in a modern and

very nice assisted living facility. She sends her best to all of you. Thanks also to Sister Marian MacIntyre for helping us bag cookies prior to our mission. We are always looking for volunteers and extra vehicles to help us in this worthy effort. Stay tuned for special events surrounding our Christmas visit to the VA Medical Center.

Our Voice of Democracy initiative has been officially kicked off with five Arlington County schools receiving VOD application packages. If you know of any High School students who would like to participate, or desire more information, please contact me ASAP. There's a lot of scholarship money for college to be won here. Deadline date for entries is 1 November. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary, and Sister Jeanne Gibadlo in particular, for being a major player in making this '97 VOD campaign a viable one!

My appreciation also goes to the volunteers who have stepped up to the plate in helping to improve our Post's physical appearance. We still have a long way to go, but one look at our "patio" will tell you that important progress is being made. Many thanks especially to Comrade Paul Custred for providing a much needed paint "facelift" to both indoor and outdoor areas of the Post home.

Look for ways to become involved as we approach the U.S. Navy birthday, Columbus Day, U.S. Marine Corps birthday, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and the Christmas holiday season. The next couple of months will present us with many opportunities to "shine" in our community. Please do not hesitate to stand up and be recognized! We need your help and input in making "John Lyon" an even better Post.

Yours in comradeship,

Mark M. Pando
Junior Vice Commander
(703) 525-3642 (H)
(703) 418-3477 (W)
e-mail: pando@erols.com

From the Auxiliary President

The heat of the summer months is now fading into a distant memory and with the crisp air of Fall we are now approaching the busiest months of our Auxiliary year. As you read this, several of your Auxiliary Officers are attending the Department's Fall Council Meeting in Lynchburg, VA, being held from October 3rd through October 5th. This is the meeting where we get the most valuable information regarding all of our Banner Programs. The exchange of information among all of the auxiliaries throughout the state is invaluable, and I will be sure to share with you what we learn.

I was joined by Jeannie, Joy, and Gail at the 10th District's first meeting of the year on Sunday, September 21st at the Springfield VFW. Ladies, you will be pleased to hear that as of that date, our Auxiliary is currently standing **SECOND** in the District in membership, with a strength of 66% of last year's total membership of 118. The Department of Virginia is currently at 44% overall, so we are doing extremely well. I was very pleased and proud as the State Representative announced the figures. Thank you all so very much! You made our Auxiliary stand out! Remember, we want all of you with us so please try to have your renewal in by the end of the November. Joy is waiting to hear from you to send you your card for the new year.

Our "**Taco Night**" was a smashing success. I want to thank not only each of the Ladies who took the time to come down to the Post to help with the preparations but also each and every person who showed their support of our efforts by joining us in the course of the evening. The tacos were delicious and the company and camaraderie the best. A heartfelt "**THANK YOU**" must go to our Commander for his unwavering support of the Ladies Auxiliary. We couldn't have done it without him. And a very special thanks to Rita Beatty. Rita, you get a gold star!

We are moving right along with our programs for this year. Several reports have already been forwarded to the Department Chairmen. We have

lots of big projects coming up in the near future. Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are fast approaching and we are already making plans for these major events so please let us know if you can help out. Even though it is lots of work, it's also lots of fun, and I'm sure each of you has something special you can offer to make our efforts more effective. Everyone is welcome.

I want to remind all of the Ladies that the Auxiliary will be having their annual inspection at the October meeting. Marcia Klausung, 10th District President, will be in attendance to inspect the Auxiliary and let us know how we are doing. I'd like to encourage everyone who can to try to attend this meeting. It would mean a lot to show our guest that we are, indeed, strong and healthy. And speaking of meetings, this is a perfect opportunity to say thank you to each and every officer of the Auxiliary. At the September meeting we had a perfect Roll Call! All thirteen officers of the Auxiliary were in attendance. What a show of support! Thank you!

On October 18th the "Women in Military Service for America Memorial" will be dedicated. The dedication is scheduled for noon. The Auxiliary is planning to participate in the Candlelight Walk at dusk on Saturday evening, commencing at the Lincoln Memorial and proceeding to the Memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery. If anyone is interested in participating or would like more information about the Memorial, please contact me. Several of us are planning to participate and we'd love to have you join us.

As I wrap this up, I would like to remind everyone that as we remembered our POW/MIAs this past month on POW/MIA Recognition Day, we must not forget our veterans who have served their country and are now confined to hospital care. We will be making our monthly Hospital Visit to the V.A. Medical Hospital on Saturday, the 11th. Please try to make one of these visits with us. We really need to get more people involved. If you can't join us, you might consider making up a batch of low-fat or sugar free cookies. That would be a big help. As the holidays approach, we tend to get caught up in

From the Auxiliary President, cont.

so many things. Now is the time these men and women need our love and appreciation the most.

Happy Birthday to all who celebrate their birthday this month, and especially to the United States Navy which has its special day on October 13th.

Cathy Kerns
President

Grocery Chains Kickoff Tape Collections

As usual Post 3150 has a collection box for cash register tapes from local grocery chains. Giant and Safeway are being joined by Superfresh in this year's paper gathering, scheduled to last until the end of February. Last year Post 3150 collected nearly \$8300 of the tapes to benefit local schools with computers and other equipment.

Ladies Auxiliary Birthday

In preparing last month's newsletter article on the birthday of the VFW, I missed including that September was also birthday month for the Ladies Auxiliary. It was organized 17 September 1914. (Nobody seems to have noticed I missed it, so maybe I should've just kept my mouth shut...? Ed.) Happy Belated Birthday, Ladies!

Navy Birthday

The U.S. Navy celebrates its birthday on 13 October. This is the Columbus Day holiday so the Post will be open early. It should be a "great Navy day". Stop by the Post for a bit of cake and camaraderie.

From the Adjutant:

The Department of Virginia reports in the September Department Orders that the National Convention, after beating it back last year, did vote this year in Salt Lake City in August, to increase the cost of VFW Life Membership by about 25%. There is still a little time to take advantage of the lower present rates. See the separate page if you would like to jump in. If you have already renewed, you may apply your \$20 renewal to the final cost until early December. Include your birthdate and next of kin. If you want to charge it, we need your type of card, credit card number and expiration date. (Note: Ladies Auxiliary Life Membership cost did not change.)




If you have not yet renewed get a move on! Your current membership expires end of December. If you did not receive a renewal notice from National, use the page at the end of this newsletter.

If you did renew and you receive one more notice from National, there is no need to notify us. National prints and mails them and then sometimes receives our notice to them, via Department of Virginia, on the next day or so. On the otherhand, if you mail us your renewal and do not receive your card in a week or two, then please notify US. We continue to get the cards out within several days of receiving the renewal, so you should receive your card quickly.

And thanks to those who have renewed: we are up to about 70%.

J.Gary Wagner
email: 103636.1543@compuserve.com

October 1997

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
					FALL COUNCIL MEETING IN LYNCHBURG	FALL COUNCIL MEETING IN LYNCHBURG
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
FALL COUNCIL MEETING IN LYNCHBURG		VFW MOVIE NIGHT		POST MEETING 8:00PM 		HOSPITAL VISIT
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM COLUMBUS DAY	U.S. NAVY BIRTHDAY COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED	VFW MOVIE NIGHT		AUXILIARY MEETING 8:00PM 		DEDICATION & CANDLELIGHT WALK FOR THE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		VFW MOVIE NIGHT			UNITED NATIONS DAY	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
SUNDAY BRUNCH 9:00AM-1:00PM		VFW MOVIE NIGHT			HALLOWEEN 	

Post/Auxiliary Membership 1997-98

Please Renew Today

- POST ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (\$20.00)
- AUXILIARY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (\$20.00)
- AUXILIARY CANCER INSURANCE (Life Members - \$ 9 .90)
- POST / AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER (Age 81- ++ \$ 50.00)
- POST / AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER (Age 71-80 -\$ 85.00)
- POST / AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER (Age 61-70 -\$ 115.00)
- POST / AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER (Age 51-60 -\$ 145.00)
- POST / AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER (Age 41-50 -\$ 165.00)
- POST / AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER (Age 31-40 -\$ 185.00)
- POST / AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER (Age 17-30 -\$ 200.00)

IMPORTANT: We need Birth DATE for Life Members

** NAME: _____ Birthday: _____

***** Life Members should "get a new member." *****

Please mail your renewal // LIFE MEMBERSHIP today
to

Auxiliary Treasurer

Ms. Joy M. Neher
2304 North Florida Street
Arlington, VA 22207

Post Quartermaster

Richard J. Bourdon
2116 North 19th Street
Arlington, VA 22201