

# CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
April 2012



VFW Legislative Team members Doc Crouch, Pete MacLeod and Dan Boyer meet with Congressman Frank Wolf on Capitol Hill. Read Pete's article on [Page 5](#).



I just received a letter from the Commander-in-Chief Richard DeNoyer congratulating Rick Raskin for recruiting ten new members for the VFW. If you see Rick, congratulate him.

Our BINGO has expanded; we now have a progressive game. We also have increased the consolation payout on the Jackpot to \$100.00. Our 90-10 jackpot is still the crowd favorite—an innovation by our Post BINGO Manager, Rick Raskin. I would like to thank the following for people for volunteering to work BINGO on Wednesday morning: Rick Raskin, Steve Meade, Dave Gill (non-member and former neighbor of Rick's), Warren Ewell, Phil Smith, Ken Lion, Pete Slusher, and Wayne Moore. From the Auxiliary, I would like to thank Mary Corkhill, Janet Raskin and Kay Yeager. We do get help from Warrenton Post 9835 -- Paul Chase and Joel Chase.

During this election year, it is more important to vote for local, state and national candidates who will support Veteran's issues. Therefore it is even more important to

*Commander on page 9)*



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## Auxiliary Fundraiser

<http://tinyurl.com/zwmp4tt>

Manassas Ladies VFW Fundraising Store  
800-897-1004

**Attractions Dining and Value Guide** is a fundraising partner for **Manassas Ladies VFW**. Items purchased from the store will be fulfilled by **Attractions**, and **Manassas Ladies VFW** will receive a credit for each item purchased. The charge will appear on your credit card statement as "Attractions Online Store."

## Post Elections— April 2

Post elections will be held at the April 2 membership meeting. Members will have the opportunity to elect a slate of officers for the 2012-13 membership year. Nominations were held at the March meeting, but additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the April meeting. The following nominations were accepted at the March meeting:

Commander: **Ron Link**  
Senior Vice Commander: **Pete MacLeod**  
Junior Vice Commander: **Steve Botello**  
Quartermaster: **Rick Raskin**  
Judge Advocate: **Steve Meade**  
Chaplain: **Sam Nealey**  
Trustee 2:  
Trustee 3: **Dave Crowder**  
Surgeon:

Trustee 3 is normally the only elected Trustee position . However because of an unforeseen vacancy we will also elect Trustee 2.

Elected officers for 2012-13 will officially assume their positions after the State convention in June.

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### NOTICE

Due to the increased cost of printing and mailing, it was decided at the January membership meeting to discontinue mailing the Post Newsletter. This edition is being mailed to notify all of our members of the change.

Future editions will be posted on the Post's website ([www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)). Printed copies will also be available at Bingo on the Wednesday immediately preceding the Post meeting.

***This will now be a monthly publication.***

Please contact us if you require an alternate method of delivery.

## Auxiliary President's Report

I would like to welcome the new members who have joined since July 2011:  
**Regina Kyle, Ann Mitchell, Johnnie Stever, Stacy Vaka and Dana Zank.**

At our April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, we will elect our officers for 2012-2013. If you are interested in running for an office, you must be present at the meeting or have previously submitted written willingness to be elected and hold office. (See By-laws SEC.804)

If you are interested in becoming an Auxiliary Chairman for one of our National or Department Programs, please contact me at 703-361-8950 or [mcorkill@comcast.net](mailto:mcorkill@comcast.net). Thank you in advance for your consideration and assistance.

Starting July 1, 2012, our annual dues will increase from \$15 to \$20. The one time initiation fee for new members would remain \$5.00. If you wish to pay your 2013 dues before the increase, please send your dues to the Auxiliary Treasurer, Elanor Doczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109.

The District 8 Convention will be held at VFW Post 2524 in Culpeper on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. The address of the Post is 12219 Sperryville Pike, Culpeper. Elections and installation for the District officers will be held at this meeting.

I would like to thank Renee Benner (chairman) and everyone who participated in our latest *Attraction Dining and Value Guide* fundraiser. Without your assistance, we wouldn't have made it a success. If you still want to purchase a book, please let us know.

Yours in Loyalty,  
Mary Corkhill

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## MEMBERSHIP

Comrades, the lifeline of all successful posts is membership. Annual members who did not renew by December 31, 2011 are no longer in good standing. If you find yourself in a financial situation and cannot pay your membership dues, please let the Quartermaster know and we can assist. Numbers do count! They are important so we can continue fighting in Richmond and Washington to maintain the Veterans entitlements we have worked so hard to obtain.

## **“Stormin’ the Hill” – VFW Legislative Committee in Action**

*By Peter MacLeod – Post 7589 Senior Vice-Commander*

Our goals had already been worked out as the VFW Legislative Committee settled in for a five day conference beginning March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Crystal City, Va. We were quickly briefed on Saturday night:

- Provide quality health care to all wounded, ill and injured veterans.
- Protect the Tri-Care system from further cuts or “adjustments”.
- Address the crisis in suicides and homelessness among veterans.  
(18 veterans commit suicide every day! Push for more mental health services for veterans!)
- Urge Congress to require the Veterans Benefits Administration to reduce the claims backlog. (Some veterans will die before their claims are considered!)
- Demand the creation of one integrated electronic medical and service record that will follow veterans through life.
- Oppose all ideas that will damage morale among the troops and threaten the all volunteer force. (The threats include forcing 20 year veterans to wait until age 60 to start drawing their pension, substituting a 401 K plan for the current pension system, freezing military pay, increasing TRICARE premiums.)
- Sustain the current G.I. Bill. (No chipping away at this!!!!)
- Fully support U.S. troops and their mission to prosecute the war on terrorism.  
(Insure the proper defense funding to do this!)
- Achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.

Well, the talk was over on the cold Monday morning of March 5<sup>th</sup>. We took the Metro, taxis, buses, and cars, dressed up with VFW cover, to converge on Capitol Hill and meetings with our Virginia Congressional delegation. I was a rookie but I went with two former VFW state commanders who quickly showed me the ropes; “Doc” Crouch and Dan Boyer.

Our first stop was the office of Democratic Congressman Jim Moran. We were given over to his top aides. I quickly got my head handed to me by bringing up the fears of some young veterans that the military retirement system was under attack. I was told very sternly by Moran’s staff that we are only going to talk facts not

proposals” at this meeting! I found out you had to do your “homework” as I listened to Doc and Dan talk non-stop for 20 minutes, hitting issue after issue. Moran’s staff were cool and brusque and seemed to minimize our fears of cut-backs as just so much talk, but they did say “everything” had to be looked at in these tough financial times.

Then a face to face thirty minute meeting with Republican Congressman Frank Wolf whose district includes Post 7589. He looked us in the eye and said he will always give 100 percent support to veterans, and he pledged to fight the Obama recommended defense cuts. He then unexpectedly turned the tables and asked each of us what we thought about the situation in Afghanistan. Again, Do Your Homework!!!! I wasn’t ready and blurted out something about holding the line that I don’t think he agreed with. But all in all, it was a very interesting, fascinating meeting.

Then another face to face meeting with Democratic Congressman Gerry Connolly who represents the Coles district where I live, and a good chunk of Northern Virginia. He surprised me with his lack of partisanship. He spoke of working with many of the Virginia Republican Congressmen and came out strong for veterans and the military. But the other thing was his genuine friendliness as he listened to Dan Boyer talk about Southwest Virginia and the problems veterans in rural areas have traveling to VA facilities. Well this was just the first day!!!

The next two days were filled with more meetings. Let me tell you which ones stood out:

Ann Vallandingham, Legislative Asst. to Senator Jim Webb sat with Dan and me for about 40 minutes talking about the problems of troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. She said Senator Webb was in Vietnam and “gets it”, and to call his office anytime we have any concerns or need any help on veterans’ issues.

Congressman Morgan Griffith who represents the 9<sup>th</sup> District and broke up a meeting to come out and talk with us for ten minutes about providing transportation to VA facilities for veterans in rural areas.

Our last meeting was Wednesday afternoon after our National VFW Commander Richard DeNoyer addressed Congress with our VFW Legislative goals.

This was a great experience and a good way to see the VFW in action. VFW members from the other states and territories were all meeting with their respective representatives. The halls of Congress were literally filled with VFW members from March 5 to 7<sup>th</sup>!

The battle is far from over. And one way to keep ourselves in front of Congress and keep our access to those offices, is to recruit more members and keep our membership numbers high.

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## General Assembly Report—Veterans

### Status Current of JLC items

The **Joint Leadership Council** of Veterans Service Organizations provides a vehicle for veterans service organizations to collaborate with the Department of Veterans Services on meeting the needs of Virginia's veterans.

#### **JLC Recommendation 1 - Veterans Identification**

- Goal: Provide a simple, ready means of identification for Virginia's veterans
- Status: Legislation is not required - DMV will implement without legislation

#### **JLC Recommendation 2 - Unclaimed Cremains SB 433 (Patrons Del Tata - R - 85; Sen. Puller - D - 36)**

- Goal: Facilitate the honorable burial of the unclaimed cremated remains (cremains) of Virginia veterans in a state veterans' cemetery by requiring mortuaries to report unclaimed cremains to DVS
- 
- Status: Passed House and Senate and approved by the Governor

#### **JLC Recommendation 3 - Sales Tax Exemption for 501(c) (19) VSOs (Patron Sen. McDougle - R - 4)**

- Goal: Recognize the community service and philanthropic contributions of Virginia's Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)
- Status: SB114 (McDougle) passed Senate; House continued to 2013

#### **JLC Recommendation 4 - Homeless Veterans**

- Goal: Reduce homelessness among Virginia veterans
- Status: Included in HB1301 (House Budget)

## **New Rental Policy for Post 7589 Members**

Effective 1 April 2012, the rental policy for the use of the Hall for Post and Auxiliary members is revised as follows:

- Life Members and Elected Officers.....**\$100.00 flat fee**
- Renewed Annual Members.....**50% discount**

A rental contract must be completed. Security Deposit may be waived by the Building Manager, Quartermaster, or Commander.

Any event where alcoholic beverages will be served requires a security deposit and ABC Event License. Such license shall be posted during the event.

Standard Rental Pricing is \$200.00 first two hours and \$75.00 each hour thereafter. For additional information on rentals visit our website [www.vfw7589.org/Rental/Rental.htm](http://www.vfw7589.org/Rental/Rental.htm).

## **66th Anniversary Picnic—June 2, 2012**



Be sure to join us on June 2nd for our 66th anniversary picnic.

Free admission for Post and Auxiliary members and their families.

Bring a covered dish or dessert.

11:30 am —2:30 pm

*(Commander from Page 2)*

look closely at the slate of candidates campaigning for office. With the economy the way it is, we need elected officials —not politicians. With so many “*Veteran Entitlements*” being cut or watered down, we need to research the issues ourselves and not take everything we hear from the media as fact. **The important thing is to VOTE.**

Our building expansion plans have received “*a shot in the arm*” from city council member Mark Wolfe. Mark has greatly assisted us in clearing a hurdle that had been blocking our progress.

Mark has been a friend of our Post and of Veterans causes within the city. It is elected officials like Mark who fight for Veterans within city government. Mark and Amy Wolfe know all too well the trials of the veteran. Their son, Colin Joseph Wolfe, proudly served with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. While serving in the al-Anbar province of Iraq, he was riding in the back of a truck that triggered a road-side bomb. He died on August 30, 2006.

The Executive Board has been looking at ways to reduce expenses and operating costs. We have to do this task because we are looking to update the Post home. The expansion will add offices and increase the size of the meeting hall. Also, it will update the HVAC, electrical system, and the restroom facilities. The construction will bring the Post home up to current ADA standards. Currently, our HVAC does not adequately cool the hall. The ramp is beginning to deteriorate and will have to be replaced.

Remember, June 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Post. We are celebrating it with a Post picnic. We will also honor some of the Comrades and Auxiliary members. Please join us.

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Ron**

### Upcoming Events

- April 2: Post Meeting (Elections)—1930
- April 19: Youth Committee Meeting—1830
- April 22: District Convention—Post 2524 Culpeper—1300
- April 26: Executive Board Meeting—1900
- May 7: Post Meeting
- May 17: Youth Committee Meeting—1830
- May 19: Eagle Scout Breakfast—Old Town Inn
- May 26-28: Memorial Day Events
  - 26: Poppies—TBD—0900-1300
  - 27: Poppies—TBD—0900-1300
  - 28: Flag placement & ceremonies
- May 31: Executive Board Meeting—1900
- June 2: Post 66th Anniversary Picnic
- June 7-10: State Convention—Williamsburg

#### April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

#### May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Let us keep a copy of your proof of military service on file.

You never know when you or your family might need to obtain a copy of your proof of military service. Sometimes it can happen during the most stressful of times.

Recently a member of the Post passed on. The family contacted our service officer who informed them that in order to have a veterans burial they would need a copy of his DD-214. Unfortunately they were subjected to a frantic search before finally locating his records.

Had his record been on file at the Post a considerable amount of stress could have been avoided.

We will maintain all member records in a secure locked cabinet and will not share any information with any other party without consent from the veteran or their family in the event of his/her passing. .

If you would like us to provide you this service please send us a copy of your DD-214 or similar document to:

VFW Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108-0668

You may also email an image to the Quartermaster at:

[qm7589@verizon.net](mailto:qm7589@verizon.net).

**Cannon News**

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