

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

February 2013



January 12: [Commander Ron Link](#) conducts a [Military Services Workshop](#) at the Winter Council of Administration meeting in Williamsburg.

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Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108

COMMANDER'S REPORT

From the Commander:

I would like to thank Paul Chase and Warren Ewell for refurbishing the Post Sign in front of the building. They cleaned and repainted it and it looks great. Thank you.

The renovation of the Hall is in the final stages of completion. The total cost will be approximately \$125,000. This will bring the Hall up to current ADA requirements, the latest HVAC code requirements, and repairing the hidden flaws from previous construction. With the new configuration, we anticipate being able to seat approximately 120 to 130 people which will allow us to accommodate larger parties and increase our rental revenue. We have also installed flat screen TVs which will also make the Hall more attractive for rentals.

We anticipate having a dedication ceremony sometime in the latter part of February. If you have not seen your Post headquarters lately, now would be a good time to take a look at what has transpired over the last year.

At the Winter Council in Williamsburg, Paul Chase and Wayne Moore attended and completed Service Officer School. A Service Officer committee has been formed consisting of Steve Botello, Chair, Paul Chase and Wayne Moore. This will allow our Post to serve more veterans in the area. Once again, 7589 "Leads the Way".

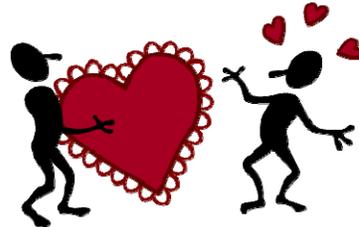
I would like to take this opportunity, to congratulate our District Commander Rick Raskin for achieving 100% membership for the District. This is something that has not been achieved for several years. Congrats to Rick.

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AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Happy Valentine's Day on February 14th. Please give your loved ones a lot of hugs and kisses.



We would like to welcome two new ladies to Francis Cannon 7589 Ladies Auxiliary. They are: **Ms. Ginger Harvey and Ms. Connie Scofield.** A reminder that the Auxiliary monthly meeting is the first Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Our next meeting will be February 4th at the VFW Post home.

The deadline for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for high school students is March 31, 2013. This is a Scholarship program from National and if the student places first at the national level, they will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. If you wish to know more about this contest, please contact Mary Corkhill at 703/361-8950 or email mcorkhill@comcast.net.

The Auxiliary is planning another yard sale in May. If you would like to donate items, please let us know.

As always, please keep collecting the Campbell's soup labels for the VFW National Home for Children. We are very happy to receive any labels from the public. Please bring the labels to the Post.

For individuals or family members who are ill or hospitalized, you are in our prayers.



A SUCCESSFUL 2013 VFW DAY ON THE HILL

By Rick Raskin — Department of Virginia Legislative Committee



The Department of Virginia Legislative Committee visited members of the Virginia Senate and House of Representatives on our annual Day on the Hill, January 10, 2013. Post Commander Ron Link and Quartermaster Rick Raskin have been

serving on the committee for several years and continued to represent our interests this year.

The agenda as reported in the January issue of [Cannon News](#) was set forth by the Joint Leadership Council, a consortium of Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

This year Rick & Ron concentrated their efforts on the Senate. They were able to meet with several Senators including Senior Senator Chuck Colgan, who is also a member of our Post.

While the issue concerning tax relief for VSOs was not paramount this year, never the less it concerns us because monies paid in taxes for items purchased not for resale could be put to better use serving veterans and their families. It is only a quirk in the law as it is presently written that keeps VSOs from receiving tax exemption. Only the 501 (c) (19) organizations are presently taxed. All other 501(c) organizations are tax exempt.

The good news is that Senator Colgan agreed with us and indicated he would draft new legislation for this session. The next day his office notified our JLC member Tom Gimble that his office was working the issue.

ANNUAL MEMBERS — PLEASE RENEW SOON

This year the VFW has changed the requirements for Posts to be recognized at the All State and All American levels. A new key component, Retention, has been introduced by Commander-In-Chief John E. Hamilton and Department Commander Margo Sheridan.

The new criteria are: All State 75% retention and 85% for All American.

Recognizing that the very life blood of the VFW is our membership, they have instituted the Retention component to encourage Posts to stop the flow of members “out the back door”.

To that end we are asking our unpaid annual members to renew their membership as soon as possible. Any member who needs financial assistance with their renewal is encouraged to contact the Post Quartermaster.

Post 7589 does a great job recruiting new members but could do better retaining them. How can we do better? Encourage another member to become involved in Post activities. Also, when you recruit a new member invite him/her to attend the next meeting with you and to become involved.

Another issue on the horizon is a pending dues increase next year. If passed at the National Convention, dues will increase by \$10.00.

Now would be a good time to also consider upgrading to Life Membership. You could pay the fee all at once or subscribe to the 12-month installment plan. As a Life Member your dues will never increase.

For further information on any membership program please contact the Post Quartermaster at 703-361-5554 (leave a message) or email: qm7589@verizon.net.



COMRADE WORKS TO UPDATE HALL OF VALOR DATABASE

By Joel Chase—Chaplain, Post 7589

I have been retyping the General Orders for Marine Silver Star recipients for inclusion in the Hall of Valor Roll Call. Thus far, I have retyped 183 citations for WWII veterans. And, this is only for a partial alphabetical list of names beginning with the letter G.

The curator of the site is C. Douglas Sterner who started the project some years ago in an effort to recognize recipients of the three highest valor awards - and to identify cheats.

The military told Doug that the project couldn't be done, but he is doing it anyway. You may recognize his name in association with the Stolen Valor Act which the Supreme Court recently shot down as an invasion of free speech. Essentially, Doug and his wife Pam authored the original version and are in the process of rewriting it to resubmit to Congress.

[Visit: <https://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2012-Articles/VFW-Statement-on-Stolen-Valor-Case-Ruling/> for the VFW's statement about the Supreme Court's ruling. — ED]

If you want to know more about the project you can visit:

<http://militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards/>.

There you can even read the citations of those recipients with specific awards.

I am honored and humbled to help preserve the valorous acts of the Greatest Generation.

Preserving the history of valorous awards of the Silver Star and higher decorations is essential to recognizing the selfless acts of courage that members of our military have performed while serving their country. Unfortunately, the military has not attempted to document all the citations and, in fact they said it was impossible to do.

But, C. Douglas Sterner and his wife Pam have dedicated their lives to compiling just such a database. They have currently identified and documented over 150,000 of an estimated 350,000 recipients of awards higher than the Bronze Star.

Enrollment is rather easy with a copy of the General Orders for an award. Again, the website can be accessed at <http://militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards>.

If friends or relatives would like to submit the G.O. for an individual, they can mail a copy to:

Chaplain
VFW Post 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, VA 20108-0668

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Just a reminder to all, the Post will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day parade. More information will be provided later.

As always, yours in comradeship
Ron

SUMMARY OF VFW POST 7589/LADIES AUXILIARY YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF 1/17/13.

Anyone with expertise in PowerPoint please contact Pete MacLeod at 703 220-4545. We are ready to start putting the pictures with the narrative of our slideshow which was approved last September. Anyone with pictures, please email them to Pete at jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net

Can someone with knowledge of how to obtain VFW Bibles please get in contact with Mary Corkhill at mcorkhill@comcast.net or contact Pete.

We chose the following dates for events in the coming year:

- Ladies Aux. Yard Sale #1 – May 18, 2013
- Youth Comm. Yard Sale – Sept. 7, 2013, setup 9/6.
- Ladies Aux. Yard Sale #2 – Oct. 12, 2013
- Youth Awards Ceremony – Sun., Dec. 8, 2013, 4pm

Patriotic Art Entry deadline is March 31, 2013.

We discussed having someone from either the Prince William or Manassas City School Committee be the featured Awards Ceremony speaker this year; or perhaps a teacher or principal in one of the two school systems.

The themes for the VFW Education Awards for the 2013 - 2014 school year are as follows:

Patriot's Pen, Grades 6-8: "What Patriotism Means to Me"

Voice of Democracy: "Why I'm Optimistic about Our Nation's Future"

Deadline is November 1, 2013. It's never too early to start lining up schools and teachers for the fall of 2013 and the essay writing.

The next meeting of the Youth Committee is Thursday night, Feb. 21 at 7:00.