

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

March 2013



In This Issue:

May Joint Open House

Call for Annual Members to Renew

Veterans History Project

Call for Resolutions

Youth Committee Update

Others Want New Medal Ranked Lower

COMMANDER'S REPORT



No One Does More For Veterans:

During the past six months, the VFW has seen a definite increase in requests for assistance from veterans. Currently the VFW has a military service department which takes care of active duty soldiers and/or reservists who have been on active duty within the last 36 months and whose situations have been created by the military. Our real concern is older veterans who have suffered either financial or medical problems and are currently not receiving any aid. Unfortunately, this puts a great burden on the various veteran service organizations, such as the VFW, American Legion, and other VSOs. As you may be aware, each VFW post has a relief fund made up of donations from Buddy Poppy events and other sources. We normally have two Buddy Poppy drives around Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Each drive is a four-hour block during which Comrades pass out Buddy Poppies and take free will donations. I would like to see us have enough comrades volunteering to staff the locations for either a one-hour, two-hour, or four-hour timeframe. This would allow us to serve more locations and have a greater chance of receiving more donations so we can help our needy veterans and the youth of the community. As a side note, it really is enjoyable passing out Buddy Poppies and seeing our friends and neighbors. Just remember, the more locations – the more monies collected – the more assistance to veterans.

Our Service Officers, Steve Botello and Wayne Moore are working diligently to assist needy veterans in our community. Steve personally, has driven veterans to Bethesda Military Hospital and Martinsburg Veterans Hospital to help them receive proper medical assistance for their service related injuries. Wayne has also driven veterans to medical appointments and assisted veterans in our area. Paul Chase visits veterans who are living at Birmingham Green on a weekly basis. We, the Comrades of this Post, owe them our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

Our Youth in the Community:

Senior vice Commander Pete MacLeod has really done an outstanding job as Youth Chairman for both the Post and the District. I know this takes an extreme amount of time to do the school visits; advertise the educational programs; judge the entries; organize and notify and the recipients; set up the awards presentation; and follow up to ensure the recipients will be in attendance. Kudos to Peter.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. The greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on March 9th at 11:00 AM. The Post and Auxiliary will be participating. Please join us in

all the fun!

We would like to welcome **Diane Victor-Zalenski** as a life member to Francis Cannon 7589 Ladies Auxiliary. Just a reminder that the Auxiliary monthly meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Our next meeting will be March 4th at the VFW Post home.

The time is growing short for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest for high school students. The deadline for this program is March 31, 2013. This is a Scholarships program from National, and if a 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.

During our April meeting, we will have elections of new officers for the 2013-2014 year. The new officers will take their new positions after the Department Convention in June. Please consider holding a position for the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is planning another yard sale on May 18th. Set up will be Friday, May 17th from 4-7 PM. Please bring your donations that evening. If you wish to donate items before the day of the yard sale, please let me 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.

Respectfully,
Mary Corkhill
Ladies Auxiliary President



SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT



Hello VFW Comrades. Our Post goal of increasing and bringing more veteran services to not only members of our Post but also other veterans in the Manassas area is growing. We have recently brought aboard another VFW Veteran Service Officer (VSO), Mr. Wayne Moore, here at Post 7589. He will be able us to bring even more direct help and resources to the veterans we service.

A point of note for all of our members we have also been asked to assist other veteran organizations in the region both in the training of their VSO's but also in providing other resources to assist them such as both the knowledge and experience we have in filing effective VA service claims and other general veteran support in order to better provide for the veterans in their service organizations.

Additionally, as the new District 8 Service Officer I just attended my first District 8 meeting this past Sunday at VFW 3103 in Fredericksburg, VA. While there we were able to both meet and offer further support to the local VFW District Posts with also providing support services to the veterans whom we service. We will be planning training and resource seminars for the District 8 VSO's during 2013 – 2014. If you have any questions please feel free to reach us at our VSO phone line of: 1-703—659-0849 or Email: SO7589@verizon.net. Thank you.

Steven M. Botello
Post Service Officer
Veteran of Foreign Wars Post # 7589
(Office) 1-703-659-0849
(FX) 1-703-991-0677
Email: SO7589@verizon.net

Need help with filing VA claims?

VA DVS AGENT SERVICE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.

PLEASE CONTACT OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER FOR CLAIMS ASSISTANCE.

Steve Botello
703-659-0849
so7589@verizon.net

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 - 6	Legislative Conference - Washington, DC
March 4	Deadline for article submissions for next issue of <u>Virginia Veteran</u>
March 9	Scout of the Year Judging (Post) - 1000 - 1200 Post Home
March 30	Scout of the Year Judging (District) - 1000 - 1200 Post Home

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER AND THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 as a part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

The mission is to collect and preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

By taking part in the VHP you are contributing to the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, one of the world's most respected research and cultural institutions. When you participate, you are making history.

Interviews are being conducted locally and will take less than an hour of your time. Locations and times are flexible. To schedule an interview contact

Rebeccah Christovich:

rchristovich@yahoo.com, cell: 571-241-8561.

Additional information is available on the web at:

www.loc.gov/vets

Stories can be told through...



Personal Narratives
audio and video-taped
interviews, written memoirs

Correspondence
letters, postcards, v-mail
personal diaries



Visual materials
photographs, drawings,
scrapbooks



Francis Cannon Post 7589

P.O. Box 10206

Manassas, VA 20108

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

It is the time of year to begin thinking about any changes you would like to see concerning the operation of the VFW at the Department and National levels. All changes must be presented in the form of a resolution and be submitted to the Department for consideration at the Department Convention.

If a Post wishes to make a resolution or by-law change, it is not necessary that a draft of the proposed new text be submitted through your District. However, by obtaining the support of the other Posts within your District you can reinforce your Post's position.

The Resolutions Committee consists of Rick Raskin, Post 7589--Chair; Mike Boehme, Post 9808; Doc Crouch, Post 3150; Tom Ferguson, Post 2239; and Ron Link, Post 7589.

Any member of the committee can assist you in drafting your resolution.

The deadline for resolutions and by-laws changes is 15 May 2013.

Send all resolutions to Department Headquarters either via U.S. mail or electronically via e-mail.

Rick Raskin, Chair, Resolutions Committee

AMERICAN LEGION POST 10 OPEN HOUSE TO INCLUDE VFW

American Legion Post 10 is planning an open house in May that will showcase local Veteran's organizations. Initially planned to highlight Post 10, it has been expanded to include VFW Post 7589 and other VSOs that wish to participate.

The event is focused on local veterans and their families as a recruiting event and to showcase local veteran resources. Each organization will have display tables to highlight their organization and the activities they are involved in.

There will also be outside activities including a barbeque in the pavilion, a bouncy house, face painting and a horseshoe competition.

Our Post usually does a recruiting event in the Spring. This would be an excellent opportunity to reach out to the community and publicize ourselves.

Our participation will be discussed at the March 4th general membership meeting.

SUMMARY OF VFW POST 7589/LADIES AUXILIARY YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF 2/21/13

The meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Members present were Dawn Moore, Mary Corkhill, Robert Punihaole and Pete MacLeod.

The committee voted 4-0 not to financially support a Youth Travel Baseball team of 7 year olds. The committee felt we should stick with the traditional Manassas youth baseball team we have supported for the past several years. Pete MacLeod will notify Coach Thomas Hessel of the committee's vote.

Power Point / "Welcome to VFW Post 7589"

New Youth Committee member Dawn Moore has said she would be willing to spearhead a drive to get a Power Point presentation on "Welcome to Post 7589" up and running by our April 18 meeting. Pete MacLeod and Robert Punihaole said they would help when needed. The presentation is aimed at youth and mainly detailing the activities of Post 7589 and its Ladies Auxiliary.

The committee agreed nothing is written in stone and the narrative can still be tweaked where necessary. Dawn asked that all pictures of Post and Ladies Auxiliary activities and other relevant photos be emailed to Dawn at deschueler@gmail.com.

We will be matching the photos to the narrative and hopefully come up with a finished product by late April. This is something we need that can be shown to students in the schools on Veterans Day and other times and can be available to show to youth groups that visit the Post. It can also be used to show Girl and Boy Scout troops what the Post and Auxiliary do. Depending on how successful this presentation is, we hope to branch out with perhaps a presentation aimed at adults for recruiting purposes and a separate power point presentation showing the military experiences of Post 7589 members.

Any member of the Post or Auxiliary interested in working on this project, please get in touch with Youth Chair Pete MacLeod at 703 220-4545. We would welcome more help and opinion.

School Essay Contests.

It was agreed that the committee will attempt to recruit a speaker for the Youth Awards Ceremony in December who is a member of either the Manassas City or Prince William County School Board. We would also again, like to have a veteran speak to the students and teachers. We are going to be brainstorming

to improve the ceremony itself which is set this school year for December 8 at 4pm. We also agreed to work hard to get Osbourn High School and Stonewall Middle School to participate in this next school year's contest.

The Essay themes for the new school year are "What Patriotism Means to Me" for the Grade 6-8 Patriot's Pen essay and "Why I'm Optimistic About Our Nation's Future" for the Grade 9-12 Voice of Democracy audio-essay. Deadline is Nov. 1, 2013.

New contest applications should be ready on the www.vfw.org website in July.

The Voice of Democracy ceremony and selection of the national winner from Arlington, Va. will be televised "live" on the national website at 6pm, Sunday, March 3. Any member of the VFW or Ladies Auxiliary can attend the ceremony free of charge at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City/Arlington

Ladies Auxiliary Patriotic Art Contest

Mary Corkhill reported that March 31 is the deadline for submission of Patriotic Art Work by students in the Manassas area schools. Mary also requested that Patriotic Art contest information be sent to schools along with Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year contest material.

Yard Sales

Ladies Auxiliary Yard Sale #1 – 5/18/13
Youth Committee Yard Sale - 9/7/13, setup on 9/6/13.
Ladies Auxiliary Yard Sale #2 – 10/12/13

Pete MacLeod's garage and basement are large and can be used for storage of materials for the Youth Yard Sale which is a big fund raiser for prizes for our educational contests. If anyone has anything to donate, it is never too early. We will pick it up now and store it for September. And with the larger Post 7589 floor space, the Yard Sale this year should be bigger and better than ever! Please contact Pete at 703 220-4545 or jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net if you can help us out with donated items.

The Youth meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next Youth meeting is set for Thursday, March 21 at 7pm at the Post Home.

Added Item of interest: Two of our local Post 7589 Manassas area Teachers of the Year also won the VFW District 8 competition. They were honored and given their District awards on Sunday, Feb. 24 at the Fredericksburg VFW Post. Ms. Jennifer Boaz, a 4th grade teacher at Round Elementary School in

(Continued from page 9)

Manassas and Ms. Kristen Schaffer, an English Teacher at Osbourn Park High School in Manassas were present with their families along with other educational winners from the District.

(Continued from page 2)

The Youth Committee is spearheading an effort to get more school involvement in the VFW's educational programs – which are Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year. If you are involved with one of the schools in Manassas or Prince William County, please contact Pete. Perhaps, you and he could have some influence in increasing participation from our area schools. Over the past couple of years, we have been averaging approximately 200 students participating in the Post's programs. If more schools were involved, this would increase the number of students participating and also increase the Post's community involvement. Peter needs your help!

Two of our Post 7589 Teachers of the Year also won the District 8 competition and were honored and given awards at the District meeting on February 24; Ms. Jennifer Boaz, a fourth grade teacher at Round Elementary in Manassas and Ms. Kristen Schaffer, an English teacher at Osbourn Park high School in Prince William County. Also, attending was the Principal of Round Elementary who established one of the first Veterans Day programs at the school. Also, Ms. Schaefer's husband is an active duty Air Force officer. Again congratulations to both Ms. Boaz and Ms. Schaffer.

In Our District:

At our District meeting held on Sunday, February 24th, District Commander Rick Raskin was congratulated on achieving 100% membership for the District. This achievement has not been attained for a number of years. Also, we heard from two candidates seeking the office of Department Surgeon; Michael Boehme and Tom Ferguson. Both are well qualified the position and would be capable of serving as Department Commander. Past Department Commander Tom Hines spoke on the importance of membership and membership retention.

Our Post:

Renovations are in the final phase and we have received the sign-off on the final inspection. Also, we have been inspected by the City Fire Marshall and received our occupancy for the post home. At this time, I would like to express my appreciation to Wayne Moore, Rick Raskin, and Past Commander John Gregory for their continuous support and input during the construction. Dealing with the new code requirements, ADA regulations and the various problems of renovating an older existing structure, their advice and insight was

very influential in mitigating the expense of the renovation.

We will be looking to refinish the parking lot sometime this summer. What this will entail is leveling the lot and putting down a new layer of gravel. Our current plans are not to pave in the near future because a 5-year variance was granted by the City.

At the last membership meeting, the Comrades approved a motion to pay the annual dues of any World War II annual member of the Post. It just was our way of thanking them for their service to country, service to the community, and establishing the legacy of Francis Cannon VFW post.

Within the next couple of months, we will be planning our annual post picnic which is normally held the first weekend of June. The officers of the Post hope to see you at this function.

Yours in Comradeship,
Ron

OTHERS WANT NEW MEDAL RANKED LOWER

From: VFW WASHINGTON WEEKLY, February 22, 2013

More veteran and military service organizations have joined with [the] VFW in opposing the placement of the new Distinguished Warfare Medal, which if left unchanged will rank it the ninth highest in the order of precedence---higher than the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

The VFW has been joined in our call to lower the ranking by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Association of Uniformed Services, and the Military Officers' Association of America, among others. The new medal, announced by Defense Secretary Panetta on Feb. 13, would be awarded to drone pilots and cyber warriors who are having a significant impact, but who are not required to be physically present on the battlefield.

"The VFW fully concurs that those far from the fight are having an immediate impact," said VFW National Commander John Hamilton, "but medals that can only be earned in direct combat must mean more than medals awarded in the rear."

The VFW continues to urge the Department of Defense and now the White House to reconsider the new medal's placement in the military order of precedence.

