

# **CANNON NEWS**

**Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
Manassas, Virginia  
April 2013**



**Former Department of Virginia Commander  
Rex Faris 1940—2013**

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**COMMANDER'S REPORT**

The Department of Virginia lost a dedicated comrade on March 4. Past State Commander Rex Faris passed away at his home after a long illness. Rex was a proud member of Meadows of Dan Post 8467. Rex held many offices in the VFW over his lifetime. Rex retired from the Air Force in 1980 after 20 years of service and had served both in Korea and Vietnam. His dedication to the VFW and his great sense of humor will be missed.

I would like to thank Phil Logan for his contribution of a 3rd Infantry banner. This banner was autographed by the officers and soldiers of Headquarters 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division while they were deployed in Baghdad during 2004/2005. The banner is now on display at the Post. I also want to welcome Phil as a comrade.

The Post website ([www.vfw7589.org](http://www.vfw7589.org)) has been updated by Rick Raskin. Rick has done an awesome job in putting a rotating display on the home page. Not only does it have photos showing what the post has done, it also gives a wealth of information pertinent to our membership. Our thanks go to Rick for doing a great job in maintaining our website.

On June 2, we will have our 67th Anniversary Picnic and at the same time to mark the completion of our renovations, we will have our housewarming. Not only have we added office space, we have updated the post home to meet all current building codes, ADA requirements, and the heating and air-conditioning codes.

In May, we will have our semiannual Buddy Poppy drive based around the Memorial Day weekend. We are looking to have multiple locations so that we may collect more money for our relief fund. We would greatly appreciate your support by volunteering some of your time at one of the Buddy Poppy drives. Come on out and meet the public and help our veterans assistance programs at the same time. Veterans assistance funds come largely from voluntary donations at these drives.

During the last six months, we have seen an increase in requests for veterans assistance. Our Post Service Officer, Steve Botello, has shown due diligence in investigating these requests. The Executive Board however, makes the final decision after all investigations are completed.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Ron

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



We would like to welcome Krissy Aussems as a member to Francis Cannon 7589 Ladies Auxiliary. Just a reminder, the Auxiliary monthly meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Our next meeting will be April 1<sup>st</sup> at the VFW Post home.

We would like to thank all the students for the artwork submitted to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. The Auxiliary's first place winner will be forwarded to the State level for judging. The winner at the State level will be forwarded to National headquarters in Kansas City. The winner at the National level receives a \$10,000 scholarship.

The elections for the 2013-2014 will be held at our April meeting. The newly elected officers will take their new positions after the Department Convention in June. Please consider holding a position for our Ladies Auxiliary. I would also like to remind the members who have not paid their 2013 dues, please forward your \$20 to Elanor Daczi, 7415 Roxbury Ave., Manassas, VA 20109.

We have two fundraisers scheduled for April and May. Please join us at **Nooodles & Company** on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 4-9 pm and our **Yard Sale** on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7 am-2 pm. For the yard sale, we will be taking donations on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 pm at the Post. If you can assist with both or either event, 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



Spring is here and our next VFW Virginia State Convention is right around the corner. While attending, we expect to establish even more contacts and exchange of information with other VFW Posts and their Service Officers (SO). We do this to not only bring further information to our membership, but to also grow our own SO knowledge base of the latest veteran service information, current changes and simply to better network with others who bring help to our veterans.

This past week we established and sponsored reoccurring training for a newly formed regional Veteran Service Officer training group. Our Post led the way by bringing in SOs from the American Legion Posts 10 (Manassas) and 1799 (Haymarket), DAV Post 15 (Manassas) and VFW Posts 7589 (Manassas) and 3103 (Fredericksburg).

We will be conducting this training as we move into the 2013 – 2014 year. By doing this we take the lead with helping and assisting veterans in the Prince William and Northern Virginia area. This is what we do!

Also as our State Convention draws closer our SO's will be lining for further training from the Virginia Department of Veteran Affairs. Our goal is simple. We want to take care of all our veterans with the greatest level of service that our resources will allow.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach us at our VSO phone line: 703—659-0849 or Email: [SO7589@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:so7589@verizon.net)**

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2013-2014

At the March membership meeting nominations for 2013-14 officers were enacted. The following comrades have been nominated to date:

Commander	Ron Link
Senior Vice	Pete MacLeod
Junior Vice	Steve Botello
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin
Judge Advocate	Steve Meade
Surgeon	Warren Ewell
Trustee 3	Robert Crowder

Nominations will remain open until the April meeting at which time elections and installation shall follow. Anyone wishing to run for an office is encouraged to submit their names at that meeting. Self nomination is permitted.

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## POST REACHES 100% MEMBERSHIP BUT STILL NEEDS TO WORK ON RETENTION

100%! We achieved that goal this month and we'll be recognized at the Department Convention. 100% means that our paid membership has reached the same level as last year. However, for us to be considered for an All-State award we need to achieve 75% retention. To receive an All-American award the percentage increases to 85%. (See the article on page 11).

Our present membership statistics are as follows:

Membership: 100.89

Retention: 68.97

We need to get 9 more members to pay their dues to achieve the 75% retention level, and 23 renewals will get us to 85%.

Do you know an annual member who has not renewed? Give him/her a call. For a list of unpaid members contact the Post Quartermaster: [qm7589@verizon.net](mailto:qm7589@verizon.net)

## 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](mailto:rchristovich@yahoo.com), cell: 571-241-8561.

Additional information is available on the web at:

[www.loc.gov/vets](http://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

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## AMERICAN LEGION POST 10 OPEN HOUSE TO INCLUDE VFW

The open house is scheduled for May 18. We'll be having a recruiting table inside the reception hall where we can show off our stuff. Lots of other organizations will also be there, including the DMV who will offer services, including registration for Veteran ID Cards.

There will be outside activities for adults and children. Food will also be available in the pavilion.

We would be grateful if you could volunteer an hour or two to help out with our booth or other support of the event.

This is an excellent opportunity for our Post to get out and meet the community and recruit new members.

Mark your calendar!

## POST SELECTS 2013 SCOUT OF THE YEAR

By Ron Knowles  
Department of Virginia Scouting Team

On Saturday, March 9, Ron Knowles along with eight judges selected the 2013 Scout of the Year at Post 7589. The Post received three applications from local Scouts. The recipients are:

First Place: Benjamin Weimer, Troop 670

Second Place: Matthew Zackschewski, Troop 924

Third Place: Anthony Applewhite, Troop 1577

One of the key components in judging is the Eagle Scout Project.

Benjamin Weimer designed and constructed a drawbridge spanning a small pond at Verdun Adventure Bound, a small non-profit located in Culpeper, Va.

Matthew Zackschewski volunteered as the Youth Representative for the City of Warrensburg, Mo. and was instrumental in getting many disinterested citizens to participate, resulting in an 8.6% increase in population.

Anthony Applewhite designed and built picnic tables and benches for the Kings Chapel in Clifton, Va. During construction he led over 50 children and adults through the various stages of construction.

Post 7589's Scouting Committee Chair Ron Knowles will present awards at the annual Bull Run District Eagle Scout breakfast at the City Tavern on May 4th starting at 8:30 AM.

The cost is free to new Eagle Scouts in 2012; all others \$20.00. Those interested in attending must contact Dennis DuBois at 703-794-0139 or via email [dennisdubois@comcast.net](mailto:dennisdubois@comcast.net).



## SUMMARY OF VFW POST 7589/LADIES AUXILIARY YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING OF 3/21/13

The meeting began at 7:00 pm with Dawn Moore, Robert Punihaole, Ron Knowles and Pete MacLeod in attendance.

The committee voted 4-0 to accept Building Manager Wayne Moore's idea to display the winning Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essays in a special case on the wall in the new expanded Post Home. We will start working on that right away.

Dawn Moore gave the committee an update on her work on Power Point project, "Welcome to VFW Post 7589." She brought her portable computer and showed us a broad outline of what she wants to do. She is taking the Draft #8 and not changing anything but tweaking things to make them flow better and showing us the great pictures she has already compiled. She has broken the presentation down into these sections: What is the VFW?, VFW Members, What makes us different, Who is Francis Cannon, What is the Ladies Auxiliary?, What do we do for the community and schools, How can you get involved, Who can participate, What about your teachers?, Other ways to get involved, School visits, Come and visit!, What do we do to help other veterans?,

What about the active military?, We are on TV!, Wreaths Across America, What is a Buddy Poppy?, Joe Dazzo, VFW

Again, the wording approved in September is not being changed, just set up a little differently to flow with the pictures and remember, this is a presentation for youth. We may come up with one aimed at adults after this one is finished. We will use flash drives so that four or five VFW members can present this Power Point project to different school classes at the same time. We will have a meeting either on April 18 or May 16 at which time the committee and Commander Ron Link will give final approval to the project. You've heard of the adage in real estate: Location, Location, Location! Well our cry is: Pictures, Pictures, Pictures! If you have any pictures of Post activities or photos of Arlington, Quantico, monuments on the National Mall, please email them to Dawn at [deschueller@gmail.com](mailto:deschueller@gmail.com) or send her a DVD with photos to Youth Committee, VFW Post 7589, P.O. Box 10206, Manassas, Va. 20108. You also can call anytime at 703 220-4545 for more information. We will be sending out a draft of the new Power Point setup sometime in the next month so everyone can get a look at it.

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#### School Essay contests

Permission letters will be sent to the Prince William County and Manassas City Schools in the next few weeks for permission to conduct the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year contests next school year. We also agreed to work on getting a member of either the Prince William or Manassas city school committee to speak to the Awards Ceremony and to have a veteran also speak as we did last year. We will also include information and ask for permission to conduct the Ladies Auxiliary Patriotic Art contest during the next school year. Deadline for this year's Patriotic Art is March 31.

#### Scouting Report from Ron Knowles

Judging for the Virginia Scout of the Year candidate from Post 7589 was held at the Post Home on March 9. Ben Weimer of Troop 670 was selected to represent Post 7589. The VFW District 8 Scout of the Year judging will be March 30 at the Post 7589 Post Home. State judging for Va. Scout of the Year will be at the Mechanicsville Post on April 6.

#### Yard Sale

Robert Punihaole will work on putting together a circular to advertise the Sept. 7 Youth Committee Yard Sale. He works in the city of Manassas and will try and get word to businesses and agencies in the city. Ron Knowles presented a used TV in great condition as the first donated item for the Yard Sale along with two good as new photo albums. All items are being stored in the MacLeod basement and garage. Dawn Moore said she would think about ideas for additional fundraisers.

#### Important Dates:

Ladies Aux. Yard Sale #1 – 5/18/13

Youth Committee Yard Sale – 9/7/13, setup on 9/6.

Ladies Aux. Yard Sale #2 – 10/12/13

Youth Awards Ceremony – Sun., 12/8/13, 4pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next Youth Committee meeting is Thurs., April 18 at 7pm at the Post Home.

**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.

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](mailto:qm7589@verizon.net).

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**GET 28% DISCOUNT ON A VETERAN'S APPRECIATION LIVING HISTORY CRUISE MAY 11**

The restored WWII Liberty Ship, S.S. John W. Brown, currently docked in Baltimore, will conduct a Veteran's Appreciation Cruise in the Chesapeake Bay May 11 at a 28% discounted price of \$100 (Normally \$140). Any veteran of WWII or the Korean War will instantly recognize this ship for what it is - the emergency mass-produced cargo ship that won the Battle of the Atlantic (because we built them faster than the Axis could sink them!). Now fully restored and 100% operational, the John W. Brown sails with a volunteer crew composed of Veterans, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners down to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge - a six-hour cruise that includes breakfast and lunch, WWII Re-enactors, singers and performers, and a simulated dog fight between restored WWII Allied and Japanese aircraft.

To order tickets call 410-558-0164 or visit [www.liberty-ship.com](http://www.liberty-ship.com).