

# THE CANNON NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 2

September/October 2007

## GREETINGS FROM THE COMMANDER

Greetings. This is the first newsletter that it is my privilege to send as your new Post Commander. I attended the Department of Virginia's Convention this past June where I observed the new State Commander and Council of Administration sworn in. I also attended the School of Instruction held at the Mechanicsville Post this past July; the first time attending as your Post Commander. The information sure takes on more significance when you're in that position. The overall state of the post is that we are in good shape financially. We're currently sitting at 11% of our membership goal for the year. Our Life Members won't be added into our membership goals until September. Improvement is needed in member participation in Post activities. We also really need help at our Wednesday morning Bingo. Also, attendance at meetings has been lacking. The net result is that a few members determine the direction of the Post. We need some fresh ideas and the only way to get those, is by member participation.

I'm not sure how well it's going to go, but the Post is going to put on a **spaghetti dinner** on **September 29, 2007** from **5:00—8:00 PM**. This is primarily a veterans helping veterans event. The plan is for a veteran and a guest to have a free spaghetti dinner along with a salad and drink. For any additional guests it would be \$5.00 per person. I'm hoping that a number of you will step forward and volunteer to help. A signup sheet will be at the front table at the next general membership meeting on September 10. I want to try and help increase the camaraderie within the Post. And, if there is a veteran and/or spouse who just needs to talk to someone, I think the effort will have been a success.

Valerie Nealey who is a Past District President was elected as your current Ladies Auxiliary President. I want to thank former President Nancy Dazzo for all her years of service to the Post, and also thank Valerie for accepting the mantle of Ladies Auxiliary President. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

***As this Newsletter goes to print, our Great Country still has troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please keep our military in your prayers. The dreams and hopes of our country lie in the hands of these courageous men and women.***

I hope that during the upcoming year, that I can be the type of Commander that the Post needs and deserves. Sam Nealey leaves a strong legacy in the efforts he has expended on this Post for the past five years. I will strive to do the very best job I can.

Your Post Commander,

Steve Meade

**Newsletter Editors: Steve Meade—(703) 408-0875 & Valerie Nealey—(703) 368-7636**

**email: [sameade@verizon.net](mailto:sameade@verizon.net) or [cmdr7589@verizon.net](mailto:cmdr7589@verizon.net)**

***This is your Newsletter, therefore your input is not only welcome, but encouraged.***

**SICK AND DISTRESSED**

Comrades, if you know of a fellow Comrade who is ill or in need of help, please call either **Chaplain Ron Knowles @ (703) 368-4743** or **Commander Steve Meade @ (703) 408-0875**.

***“We honor the dead, by helping the living.”***

**BINGO—ALWAYS NEED HELP**

Comrades, our weekly Bingo is what is paying for our beautiful home and will enable us to meet our goals for the future. **I am looking for comrades to volunteer a few hours once a week.** Bingo starts at 8:00 AM and is finished about 12:30 PM. We have some great volunteers at present, but they have worked hard the last few years and need some help.

**Department of Gaming rules now allow for non-members to assist with Bingo. So if you have a neighbor or friend that could help, please encourage them to do so.**

**EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Executive Meetings are scheduled for the Monday the week prior to the regular Monthly meeting. The meeting is at 6:30 PM. See Calendar for dates. **Note: All officers are requested to attend, and any member is welcome to attend.**

**DISTRICT MEETING - SEPTEMBER 16TH**

The District 8 Meeting is Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 1:00 PM at Burton-Hammond VFW Post 2524, Culpeper, Virginia. Every member is invited to attend. Come out and see what is going on with other Posts in the District. **State Judge Advocate Jim Martin** will be attending.

**NOTICE \* NOTICE \* NOTICE**

**Parking is not allowed on Manassas Volunteer Fire Company property, your vehicle may get towed.** If you are visiting the Post Home, either park on our property or the city parking lot about a half block up Church Street.

**POST 7589 WEB SITE**

We now have a great web site which was established to keep you apprised of Post activities. **Commander Steve Meade and Quartermaster Rick Raskin** have worked hard to bring you the best and easily maneuvered web site, so please take a look at it and let them know if you have any suggestions or comments. All sorts of pertinent information has been placed on the site. It is an ever changing site so look at it frequently - it has pictures from past activities and copies of our sponsored show "Operation Freedom". The web site contains information on both the VFW and the Auxiliary. The address is: [www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

Comrades, I urge annual members to renew your yearly membership as soon as possible. When you receive your renewal notice, please set a little time aside and take care of this extremely important task. Remember, our Post has one of the lowest annual dues in the area due to our Bingo. So help us out, in order for us to help you out!

### **HAVE YOU RECRUITED A NEW MEMBER LATELY? *They are out there waiting to be asked.***

We will be having a recruitment event in front of J.E. Rice on September 15, 2007. We had another recruiting event at this same spot back in February and we recruited eight new members. We only go out for four hours max (for me). Others sign up for only two hours. Whichever you choose, we welcome your participation. It's not hard to recruit a new member. If you come out and watch QM Raskin and your Commander recruit, you'll see it's really not all that difficult. And you might even sign up that one very special person who under no circumstances wanted anything to do with the VFW.

## EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

It is late summer but already time to begin the 2007-2008 VFW Education Awards process. The first step is a letter, from Post #7589 and the Ladies Auxiliary asking permission to conduct the essay and speech competition in both the City of Manassas Schools and the Prince William County School System. Letters also go out to the private schools, such as Seton, which we work with. Once permission is granted we can contact teachers, guidance counselors and principals and bring the contest brochures to the various schools and, most important, talk to individual teachers about entering the contests as a class project.

There are 3 VFW contests: Voice of Democracy for grades 9 thru 12, Patriot's Pen for grades 6 thru 8 and Teacher of the Year (in 3 categories, K thru Grade 5, Grade 6 thru Grade 8 and Grade 9 thru Grade 12).

The oldest and "flagship" of the VFW Awards is Voice of Democracy. VOD was started by the VFW in 1947 and annually awards more than 2.5 million dollars in scholarships and incentives to more than 100,000 high school students. Students must submit an original 3-5 minute essay and record it on a cassette tape or CD. The theme this year is "My Role in Honoring America's Veterans." 120,000 students across the country took part in the Patriot's Pen competition last year. Students must submit a 300-400 word typewritten essay. This year's theme is "Why I Am an American Patriot." In the Teacher of the Year contest we look for teachers who emphasize Citizenship Education in his or her classroom. Nominations are usually made in writing by fellow teachers.

Last year at Post #7589 we had 174 students and teachers in the Manassas area who entered the VFW Education Award competition. The winners were honored at a special recognition ceremony in March by Post #7589 and the Ladies Auxiliary. Schools such as Seton, Manassas Christian, Metz Middle, Parkside Middle, and Mayfield Intermediate were represented. We have also had several home-schooled students win awards the past three years. Our Voice of Democracy winner in 2006-2007, Veronica Holmes of Seton School, was also VFW District champion.

Any student in the appropriate grade levels can enter the VFW contests thru our Post 7589. They can enter individually or thru their teachers at school. Home schooled students are more than welcome. Contact me or any of the Post #7589 and Ladies Auxiliary members for more information. The deadline for all of this year's contests is November 1, 2007.

**Your Senior Vice Commander and Education Chair, Peter MacLeod.**

**703 794-1103 (home), 703 220-4545 (cell). [jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net](mailto:jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net)**



## LADIES AUXILIARY 7589 NEWS

Editor: Valerie Nealey - 703-368-7636; [jynealey@verizon.net](mailto:jynealey@verizon.net)

Dear Auxiliary Sisters,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be Auxiliary President. I look forward to fulfilling this position to the best of my ability because I am committed to the goals of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW. I know that **teamwork** will make this a Banner Year because **teamwork** is the secret to success in an organization and I know our Auxiliary will continue to be successful!

For the first time, Sam and I attended the National Convention in Kansas City the week of August 19-23. Sam accepted the Community Service Award for the Post & Auxiliary and I joined him as our Auxiliary representative. This distinguished award is only given to one Post/Auxiliary in each state. Sam also received the All-American District Commander Award for being the top District Commander in the country in his membership category. Pam Braithwaite, Senior Vice-President/Secretary also attended as a Delegate for our Auxiliary. We gathered a wealth of information from this convention to share with the auxiliary at the September 10th meeting.

**"Tradition of Caring"** is our National President Virginia Carmen's theme and **"Faith, Hope And Love In Our Service To All"** is our Department President Ellen Stogsdill's theme. Our Auxiliary has a tradition of caring and we put faith, hope and love in our service to our veterans, youth and our community.

**Our Auxiliary** has donated \$100 to Operation Uplink for phone cards for the troops and made a \$100 contribution to SERVE, Inc. for school supplies and for backpacks for children in the Family Care Shelter and Transitional Housing.

**Past Auxiliary President Nancy Dazzo** is preparing for an Indoor Yard Sale scheduled for Saturday, September 8 at the Post Home starting at 8:00 AM. If you have any donations, please call Nancy at 703-361-6041. She is not accepting clothing or furniture.

**Pam Braithwaite, Veterans & Family Support Chairman**, would like you to help military families overseas. Our auxiliary is sending vendors' coupons to a US Marine Corps unit in Iwakuni, Japan. Overseas military shoppers are able to use the coupons up to six months **past** the expiration date. Pam will be collecting coupons and mailing them to the unit. Please mail your coupons to **Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589, PO Box 10206, Manassas, VA 20108**, or better yet, bring them to a meeting on the first Monday of each month. Pam needs the coupons no later than two months past expiration in order to let the families have time to use them. If you would separate the coupons into food and non-food items, that would be helpful. If you have any questions, please email Pam at [mrsbapple@cox.net](mailto:mrsbapple@cox.net).

**Elanor Doczi, Americanism Chairman** is planning a Flag Etiquette Program in three elementary schools in the Fall. Elanor will also be making the wreaths for all of our wreath-laying ceremonies this year. Our first ceremony will be POW/MIA Day on Friday, September 21 at the Veterans Memorial (next to the Manassas Museum) at 8:00 AM.

**Pam Braithwaite, VFW National Home for Children Chairman** continues to need Campbell's labels for the Home in Eaton Rapids, MI. They have changed their requirements and now need only the UPC code and if there is a picture with the Campbell's soup boy holding a banner that says "Labels for Education" that is also required. The Home has been able to purchase many items including 3 vans with these labels so let's continue to help them. The labels may be dropped off at any auxiliary meeting or mailed to the **Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 7589, PO Box 10206, Manassas, VA 20108.**

Another way to raise funds for the Home is to use the search engine **goodsearch.com** when on-line. Just enter the Home as the charity of choice and for every search made, they will donate one cent to the Home. So far this year they have donated \$166.76. If you have any questions, please email Pam at [mrsbapple@cox.net](mailto:mrsbapple@cox.net).

**Angela Fromm, Membership Chairman** will be conducting a Membership Drive on Saturday, September 15 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in front of J.E. Rice in Manassas along with the Post. If you would like to help, please call Angela at 703-330-3931 or [angelafromm@gmail.com](mailto:angelafromm@gmail.com).

**Members** will be working together at the Fall Jubilee on October 6, distributing patriotic items and flags, having children recite the Pledge of Allegiance and recruiting members. If you would like to help, sign-up sheets will be available at the next meeting or call me at 703-368-7636.

**Our Auxiliary** will be assisting the Post on Saturday, September 29 with their first Spaghetti Dinner at the Post Home.

**"Coins for Cancer"** is National's new fundraising campaign for Cancer Aid & Research. At each meeting members can donate the coins that are at the bottom of their purse and all money collected will be submitted to the Department Treasurer quarterly.

**Auxiliary Members** attended our School of Instruction on August 11 at the Post Home and were given some useful tools and information about our National Programs. Now, we can start working on our banner requirements.

I am constructing a page on the Post's web site [www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org) for our Auxiliary. Take a look and let me know what you think.

**Life Member and 5-Year Member Pins** were presented at the August 6th meeting. **Life Member:** Debbie Baxter, Elanor Doczi, Angela Fromm, Michelle Levesque, Cindy McIntyre, Brenda Meade and Diane Steele. **Five-Year:** Sondra Burroughs, Jessica Keyton, Nancy Lemmon, Joanna Roberts and Yvonne Sullivan. For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting to receive your pin, it will be presented to you at the next meeting.

**Web Sites:** Post 7589 - [www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org) ; Virginia Ladies Auxiliary - [www.vfwvaaux.org](http://www.vfwvaaux.org) ; National Ladies Auxiliary - [www.ladiesauxvfw.com](http://www.ladiesauxvfw.com)

**Reminders** of Auxiliary events, meetings, updates, alerts, etc. can be sent to you via e-mail. Just send me your e-mail address at [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net).

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-368-7636 or [jvnealey@verizon.net](mailto:jvnealey@verizon.net).

**2007- 2008 AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	<b>Valerie Nealey</b>	<b>Conductress</b>	<b>Kay Yeager</b>
<b>Sr. Vice President</b>	<b>Pam Braithwaite</b>	<b>Guard</b>	<b>Patsy Gough</b>
<b>Jr. Vice President</b>	<b>Jenn Nealey</b>	<b>Historian</b>	<b>Elanor Doczi</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Pam Braithwaite</b>	<b>Patriotic Instructor</b>	<b>Yvonne Sutton</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Angela Fromm</b>	<b>Trustee 1</b>	<b>Jo Drummond</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Betty Knowles</b>	<b>Trustee 2</b>	<b>Polly Tibbs</b>
		<b>Trustee 3</b>	<b>Nancy Dazzo</b>

On August 12, there was a special District 8 meeting to elect 2007-2008 Officers. The following ladies from our auxiliary now hold a District Office: **Valerie Nealey - Secretary, Bettie Keyton - Chaplain, Polly Tibbs - Conductress, Kay Yeager - Guard, Nancy Dazzo - Trustee.**

**Fundraiser Ideas:** As of June 1, the Auxiliary no longer manages the Bingo Kitchen. This was our main source of income so we are open for other fundraiser ideas. If you have an idea, please call me at 703-368-7636.

If you know of any members or their families ill or in distress, please call **Chaplain Betty Knowles – 703-368-4743**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- √ **Auxiliary Meetings:** Monday, September 10 and Monday, October 1 at 7:30PM
- √ **Indoor Yard Sale:** Saturday, September 8 starting at 8:00 AM
- √ **Dept. President & Dept. Commander Homecoming:** Saturday, September 8 - Dale City Post 1503 - 6 PM
- √ **Membership Drive:** Saturday, September 15 - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in front of J.E. Rice
- √ **District Meeting:** Sunday, September 16 - 1:00 PM - Post 2524 - Culpeper
- √ **POW/MIA Day:** Friday, September 21 - 8:00 AM - Ceremony at Veterans Memorial next to Manassas Museum
- √ **Spaghetti Dinner:** Saturday, September 29 - Post Home - 5 PM - 8 PM
- √ **Fall Jubilee:** Saturday, October 6 - 10 AM - 5 PM - downtown Manassas

***Comrades, we mail this newsletter to approximately 300 people and keeping addresses current is difficult, so if your address changes, please let the Post know. This will save us money in postage and copies.***

***I would like to start using email to deliver the newsletter for those members who have internet access. If you haven't submitted your email address to Quartermaster Raskin, please do so.***

***qm7589@verizon.net***

**VFW 7589**

**FRANCIS CANNON POST**

**703-361-5554**

**POST OFFICERS**

Commander	Steve Meade	703-408-0875
Sr. Vice Cmdr	Pete MacLeod	703-794-1103
Jr. Vice Cmdr	Sam Nealey	703-368-7636
Quartermaster	Rick Raskin	703-369-2732
Adjutant	Rick Raskin	703-369-2732
Advocate	Norb Beville	703-361-7156
Chaplain	Ron Knowles	703-368-4743
Surgeon	Dick Lemmon	703-330-3376
Off of the Day	Roy Kennedy	703-393-9632
Guard	Dallas Kennedy	703-393-9632
Service Officer	Sam Nealey	703-368-7636
Historian	Ed Fishpaw	703-335-5422
Trustee 1 year	Brad Bradshaw	703-754-9850
Trustee 2 year	Joe Dazzo	703-361-6041
Trustee 3 year	Bob Pace	703-680-1239

**AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

President	Valerie Nealey	703-368-7636
Sr. Vice Pres.	Pam Braithwaite	703-278-8076
Jr. Vice Pres.	Jenn Nealey	703-331-1214
Secretary	Pam Braithwaite	703-278-8076
Treasurer	Angela Fromm	703-330-3931
Chaplain	Betty Knowles	703-368-4743
Conductress	Kay Yeager	703-791-6665
Guard	Patsy Gough	703-368-2697
Historian	Elanor Doczi	703-361-4795
Patriotic Inst.	Yvonne Sutton	703-392-3870
Trustee 1	Jo Drummond	703-368-5039
Trustee 2	Polly Tibbs	703-361-9462
Trustee 3	Nancy Dazzo	703-361-6041

# September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Labor Day Holiday	4 Executive Board Meeting 1830 hrs.	5 BINGO	6	7	8 Ladies Auxiliary Yard Sale
9	10 General Membership Meeting 1930 hr	11	12 BINGO	13	14	15 Recruiting J.E. Rice 0900—1300hrs
16 District 8 Meeting—Culpeper	17	18	19 BINGO	20	21	22
23	24 Executive Board Meeting 1830 hrs.	25	26 BINGO	27	28	29 Free Spaghetti Dinner at Post Home
30	1 General Membership Meeting 1930 hr	2	3 BINGO	4	5	6 Manassas Fall Jubilee 1000—1600 hrs.

## The Cannon News

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589  
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Manassas, VA 20108

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## September 2007 - October 2007

### Inside This Issue

- ⇒ *New Post Officers*
- ⇒ *Spaghetti Dinner*
- ⇒ *Our Website - [www.vfwpost7589.org](http://www.vfwpost7589.org)*
- ⇒ *Ladies Auxiliary News*