

CANNON NEWS

Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589

Manassas, Virginia

July 2012



Patriotic Art by Olivia Smith' from Osbourn Park High School won first place at the Department competition. Olivia's drawing was sponsored by Auxiliary 7589.

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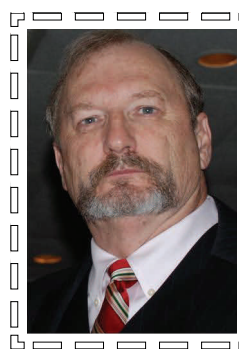
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COMMANDER'S REPORT

As we embark on a new year at 7589, there are many activities planned and a few new programs being implemented.

Activities include participation in the Fall Jubilee in October; three parades (Veterans Parade, Christmas Parade and St. Patrick's Day); visiting local schools during the week preceding Veteran's Day; our youth and educational programs (Patriots' Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, and Scout of the Year); Patriots' Art contest sponsored by the Auxiliary; and the Buddy Poppies Drives which provide funds for Post Relief Fund.

A new program which is being started is our hospital visitation program. I have asked our Post Surgeon Warren Ewell to head up this committee. Our plan is to visit Prince William Hospital and other care facilities in the area to say hello and thank the veterans there for their service. If you want to assist Warren in this endeavor, please let us know.

Congratulations to Melvin "Pete" Shusher. On June 25, 2012, Pete donated his 152nd pint of blood to the American Red Cross. This equates to 19 gallons. Congratulations also to the Auxiliary. At this year's convention, the Ladies Auxiliary really shone by receiving numerous awards for their efforts during 2011-2012. That is something of which we can all be proud.

This year's national convention is in Reno, NV. Attending from our Post will be Ron Link in his role as Department Chair of Military Services; Rick Raskin in his role as a member of the Department Resolutions Committee; and Pete MacLeod in his role as a member of the National Iraq-Afghanistan Committee. We are funded for travel by National. Our Post is becoming a force within the Department and is well known at National.

Membership meetings are on the first Monday of each month. Due to Labor Day, the September meeting will be on the second Monday that month. I hope to see you at our meetings.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to the members of the Ladies Auxiliary and the Post for their assistance and participation during 2011-2012. When I transferred to this Auxiliary, I never believed you would welcome me with open arms and make me feel right at home. I am honored to have served as your President and I look forward to continuing the support of our veterans, our community and our members.

At the Department Convention's Joint Awards Night, I accepted the following awards on behalf of the Auxiliary: Auxiliary Banner for 2011-2012; 1st Place for Best Promotion of the Patriot's Pen Program; Best Promotion of the National Citizenship Education Teacher Award; Best Promotion/Use of Buddy Poppies; 3rd Place in the Department Buddy Poppy Display Contest. Congratulations, you all deserve a round of applause for your endeavors.

The Department Youth Activities Chairman presented Ms. Olivia Smith, from Osbourn Park High School, with the 1st Place award for her entry in the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Olivia was unable to attend and I accepted the award on her behalf. The artwork of the three winners was on display at the Convention for viewing of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members. I will present Olivia with her award at our membership meeting joint session on July 2nd at 7:30 pm. I hope you will be able to attend.

The Auxiliary is in the process of planning for 2012-2013. Some of the projects we are working on are the Fall Jubilee, Wreaths Across America, Yard Sale, Scholarship Programs and many others. We would like to have your input.

Past Auxiliary President Nancy Dazzo will be chairing the jewelry table at our October Yard Sale and is requesting donations. If you

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NEW EDUCATION BENEFIT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

By "Gunny" Lewis

Are you or do you know an unemployed Veteran age 35-60?

If so, there is a new Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Labor's (DOL) education benefit program that helps train Veterans in high demand occupations.

A new benefits program is underway due to the enactment of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 last November. Included in this law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) for unemployed Veterans, which VA began accepting applications on May 15, 2012.

Under VRAP VA may provide 99,000 eligible Veterans with up to one year of training assistance, equal to the full-time monthly payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month) in order to help you earn training and certifications in high-demand job. In order to receive these benefits, you must attend a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school.

You cannot start any education or training until July 1, 2012. Up to 12 months of training assistance may be used through March 31, 2014. Sign up early as participation in the program is limited to a total of 99,000 Veterans with only 45,000 Veterans allowed to participate prior to October 1, 2012. The remaining 54,000 must apply between October 1, 2012 and October 1, 2013.

To apply or learn more information about VRAP including how to apply and eligibility requirements please visit www.benefits.va.gov/VOW



Past Commander in Chief John Moon congratulates Quartermaster Rick Raskin and Post Commander Ron Link on the Post achieving All State status for 2012.



Department Auxiliary President Robin Milewski presents Auxiliary 7589 President Mary Corkhill an Honor Auxiliary banner for 2011-2012.



Department of VA officers for 2012-13



Mary Corkhill & Georgette Dausey



Ron Link and Ken Cuccinelli



As BLOG chairman, Rick Raskin reports on Internet activities.



Past Commander in Chief John Moon (R) and Department Commander Charlie Absher.



Ron Link reports on recommendations of the Resolutions Committee.

BINGO GAME CHANGES YIELD MORE PLAYERS*By Rick Raskin*

We recently modified our Bingo program after receiving suggestions from several of our players. We added a progressive game, 3-Layer Cake that begins at \$200. To win, a player must complete the top, middle and bottom row of a bingo card within a specified number of calls. Each week that the prize is not paid the call number increases by 1 and \$100 is added to the prize. The consolation prize is \$100. As of June 28, the prize had grown to \$1800.

We also modified our progressive jackpot game. Previously we paid a \$50 consolation prize. We increased that to \$100 and raised the price of the paper to \$2 per sheet. We still maintain the \$500 jackpot prize because of provisions within the Virginia Gaming Rules.

Our 90:10 jackpot where we pay 90% of the amount sold has proved especially popular. 90:10 replaced the Winner-Take-All game which was discontinued by the State several years ago.

Another change is a special admission package. Any player who purchases 2 full bingo books gets a free 1/2 book..

These changes have made our game program more appealing and has resulted in increased attendance and revenue.

Anyone who would like to help with Bingo is welcome to come by on a Wednesday morning before 8 AM. We start paper sales at 8:30 and games begin at 9:15.



ITEMS NEEDED FOR YOUTH COMMITTEE YARD SALE

The Youth Committee will be holding a yard sale at the post home in September.

Items are now being gathered and can be stored at the MacLeod garage at 8385 Sinclair Mill Rd. in Manassas.

To donate goods please call (703) 220-4545 or email jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE PATRIOT'S PEN, VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY AND TEACHER OF THE YEAR PRIZE FUND



Sixty-eight years ago (6-22-1944), President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the G.I. Bill into law—known then as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. The bill gave those service members returning home from World War II money for tuition, living expenses, books, and supplies. Learn more about the GI Bill here: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

ENTERING THE VFW ESSAY CONTEST IS EASY

By Peter MacLeod

If you have a daughter, son, niece, nephew, grandchild, or friend, and they attend a Virginia private, parochial or public school or are home-schooled they can enter the VFW Voice of Democracy or Patriot's Pen contest through Post 7589. It's as simple as that.

Often classes or individuals enter through their school and that is fine. But if you know of someone in a school that does not participate they can still enter by sending it to our post here in Manassas at:

**Youth Chair
VFW Post 7589
P.O. Box 10206
Manassas, Va. 20108**

Or you may also contact me at 703 220-4545 and I will pick it up.

You can download or just print out the entry forms by visiting the national website at www.vfw.org . Click on *Community*, and then *Programs* from the drop-down menu, and you are there!

There are interesting themes this year:

Patriot's Pen:

"What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers"

This is for grades 6-8, a 300-400 word essay.

Voice of Democracy:

"Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?"

An audio-essay of 3-5 minutes on a cassette or CD.

Deadline for both contests is November 1, 2012.

Don't forget your favorite teacher! If you know of one who emphasizes citizenship education in the classroom and also pays attention to American History and Traditions, have a fellow teacher write a nominating

essay and turn it in. The entry forms are also at www.vfw.org.

Also at the national website you will be able to look at the last school year's national winners. That will give you an idea of what the judges are looking for. The students can also win cash prizes at the local Post and the VFW District level in addition to state and national. So there are all kinds of chances to win. Every student who enters through Post 7589 gets a signed VFW/Auxiliary Certificate and we give prizes to the top three students and Honorable Mentions in each category.

We have a Yard Sale coming up ([see Page 9](#)). Please call me with badly needed donated articles we can sell with all proceeds going to the Essay prize fund.

Call me anytime for more info at 703 220-4545
Pete MacLeod, Post 7589 Youth Committee Chair
jeanandpetermacleod@verizon.net

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know of an event in which the Auxiliary can participate, please let me know. Contact me at 703-361-8950 or mcorkhill@comcast.net.

I will be attending the National Convention July 21 – 25 in Reno, NV. This convention is important because the Department of Virginia will have a candidate, Dee Guillory, running for the position of National Guard. Please keep her in your prayers.

I am very proud of this Auxiliary and if there is anything that we can do for you and your family, please let me know.

Regards,

Mary Corkhill
President
Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 7589



We again achieved All State honors. A banner was presented at the Department Convention and is now proudly displayed at the Post Home.



The Ladies Auxiliary Buddy Poppy art entry took 3rd place in this year's Department of Virginia competition.