



# Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Post 7327, Springfield, Virginia

# The Camaraderie

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES and the COMMUNITY



April/May 2010

Volume 3 & 4 - X

## SPRINGFIELD VFW POST 7327 IS "ALL STATE"!

### THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY

By Post Commander Wayne Yancey

Hello Comrades and Sisters:

It looks like spring is finally here and we are quickly approaching the two busiest months in the VFW calendar – May and June. It seems like there is something happening nearly every weekend in those two months. However, keeping things in perspective, I'd certainly rather be busy taking part in a VFW event every week-end than shoveling snow. I've had enough of that to last a lifetime.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2010 – 2011

Nominations and election of officers for 2010 – 2011 will be conducted at our April nineteenth General Membership (GM) meeting. Preliminary nominations were conducted at our March fifteenth GM meeting. That gave Comrade Larry Parham (Chair of the Nomination Committee) an idea of where we stand and where potential vacancies remain. There are several positions for which there is currently no candidate. So, if you are interested in serving as an officer of Post 7327, please let me or Comrade Parham know. Two critical vacancies are for Senior-Vice Commander and Junior – Vice Commander. Each candidate must accept their nomination in person or in writing before he or she can be considered an eligible candidate for the office.

#### DISTRICT MEETINGS

A successful District 10 meeting was conducted on February 21, 2010 at Woodbridge Post 7916. This was a joint meeting of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. Post 7327 and Post 7916 jointly sponsored the event and it went very well. There was a good turn-out, necessary business was accomplished and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. The District 10 winners of Patriot Pin and Voice of Democracy received their awards at this meeting. Ms. Catherine McNulty (District 10 Teacher of the Year) was also present and received recognition. Ms. McNulty teaches at Dennis J. Bishop O'Connell School and was sponsored by Post 3150 in Arlington. Ms. McNulty is also the winner of the Department of Virginia competition and will now advance to competition at the National Level. The next meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> District is the annual District Convention. It will be held at Dale City - Post 1503 on May 2, 2010 and will include nominations, election and

installation of District Officers for the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary for 2010-2011. All members in good standing of the Post or Ladies Auxiliary are invited and encouraged to attend.

#### NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The number of mailings of the newsletter will be significantly reduced with this edition of *The Camaraderie*. You may remember that in the February/March edition of the *Camaraderie* we stated that everyone that wants to continue to receive the *Camaraderie* must do one of two things. We said that each Comrade and Sister must either provide their e-mail address so that he or she can receive the Newsletter via e-mail or they must complete and return the document that was enclosed in the February/March newsletter indicating that they want to continue to receive *The Camaraderie* via U.S. mail. Thanks to those that responded. As a result of your response you will receive this edition of *The Camaraderie* by the method you selected. However; unfortunately this month the newsletter will only be distributed to approximately one third of the total membership. We have approximately 870 members collectively in the Post and Ladies Auxiliary. That breaks down to approximately 730 in the Post and approximately 140 in the Ladies Auxiliary. This month we are sending the *Camaraderie* to approximately 270 members by e-mail and approximately 30 via U.S. mail. That is a total of approximately 300; slightly more than one third of the total membership. We will certainly reach our objective to significantly reduce the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, but indications are that only about one third of our membership will receive it because the remaining two thirds did not respond to the request for information. One member of the Executive Committee pointed out that the low response could be an indication that only about one third of the members that receive the newsletter read it. I certainly hope that is not the case.

**OUR GOAL IS TO KEEP EVERY MEMBER OF THE POST AND LADIES AUXILIARY FULLY INFORMED OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE POST AND IN THE LADIES AUXILIARY. HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS THROUGH THE CAMARADERIE.**

**VOTE!**  
*Post Elections*

*April 19*



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and send us a  
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**THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTARY**

Continued from page 1

It's not too late. We will continue to update both the e-mail and the U.S. mail data bases indefinitely. If you have not let us know which method you prefer, please do so as soon as possible. You can let us know by E-MAIL, by TELEPHONE or by leaving a message with someone at the Post home. My e-mail and phone numbers are provided at the end of this article.

**UPDATE OF NEW TEMPORARY POST HOME**

Status of a new temporary Post home is pretty much the same as it was in the last edition. We are continuing to negotiate with the owner of the property at Franconia Center. However, as of this writing we are no closer to an agreement than we were at the last edition. There continues to be a considerable difference between what we are willing to pay and what the owner is willing to accept. The consensus of the membership at the last meeting is that we are not willing to pay more money for less space than we have now. The only possible advantage at Franconia Center would be location – however that would come at a significant price with less usable space and an increase in dollars.

In order to perform our due-diligence Senior – Vice Gary Kelch and I visited with our current landlord and asked for his best offer in exchange for our signing an additional three year lease. He offered to lower the rent only slightly, but also said that he would consider making reasonable improvements or modifications to the property. We owe him a “wish list” which we are working on at this time. Even working through a realtor (which we have been doing for approximately six months) we have not been able to find a property that we can afford and is more conducive to our needs. We will continue to look and negotiate.

As always if I can be of further assistance to anyone please don't hesitate to ask. My e-mail address is [W.Yancey@Cox.Net](mailto:W.Yancey@Cox.Net). My home number is 703-719-7660 and my cellular is 703-350-8409.



Errett “Sonny” Thomas, Life Member and Past All State Post Commander of VFW Post 7327 is a Sales and Leasing Consultant with Safford Dodge Jeep of Springfield. He invites you to come see him and have a look at the great selection of Dodge & Jeep Vehicles.

A donation of \$100 will be made in the name of any VFW Post or Auxiliary Member for every new or used vehicle purchased from Sonny. Please bring in your current membership card with you.

Call Sonny at 703-866-1700 Office or 703-629-4513 Cell.

**EARLY BIRD DUES SEASON IS HERE  
YEARS OF SERVICE PINS TO BE AWARDED  
LAST COLUMN THANK YOU**

Alice Merrill, Treasurer/Membership Chair

**Earlybirds:** *Annual members* can give our President and Auxiliary a 2010-11 leg up by sending in your dues now rather than when our 2011 year starts in July. Paying either your \$23 annual dues or the one-time fee to convert to a Life membership now will qualify President Linda to march in the Earlybird Parade at the June 2010 Department Convention. Please send me your dues before the end of May to guarantee Linda and Auxiliary 7327 a place in that parade!

If you have questions about life fees or other membership issues, you can contact me at 703-569-1771 or at [alice.merrill@vfwpost7327.org](mailto:alice.merrill@vfwpost7327.org). Otherwise, just send your dues to me at 6103 Backlick Rd, Springfield, VA 22150. I'll be looking to hear from you!

**News for all sisters:** We're planning to begin *awarding years of service (YOS) pins* as part of this spring's Installation and Awards Ceremony. Sisters coming to the ceremony who haven't been awarded their pin for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 years of continuous service will be awarded the most senior pin for which they're eligible.

Please come congratulate all those receiving awards for 2010, cheer those being installed in office for 2011 and, for the first time in a long time, be recognized for your continuous years of loyalty and commitment by receiving an award yourself, your YOS pin. Top it all off by enjoying the day's banquet with your sisters and comrades. Mark your calendars to be there!

**Many thanks.** One of those to be installed that day will be our *new Treasurer* since I'm stepping down to focus on other matters. With this likely being my last column, I want to thank you for trusting me to manage the Auxiliary's funds and for responding so loyally to our Membership Dues Drives and Bakeless Bake Sale Fundraisers over the years. It's been my pleasure to be your contact for renewing your commitment to veterans and community in these ways year after year and I'm going to miss that regular contact with all of you. Thank you for the privilege of letting me serve you in each of those roles.

I'd like to close with thanks to our sister, *Mary Dzerski*, who just sent us a belated but very welcome second donation to last summer's *Bakeless Bake Sale*. It gives her the distinction of putting that fundraiser's proceeds *over the \$1000 mark for the first time ever*. Thank you, Mary, and thank you to all our sisters who brought the level to such a record high that Mary's second donation tipped us over that first-ever mark.

Since it'll soon be time for this summer's Bakeless, I'm guessing this will be the final report on last summer's effort, but with the generous spirit you ladies show, who can say? You know contributions to our work are always welcome, and for everything you do to advance our cause, *thank you so much, ladies*.

## Message from Auxiliary President Linda Bond

Greetings Comrades and Sisters: Hopefully, we can say goodbye to Winter and Hello to Spring. I am looking forward to the warmer weather.

It has been rather quiet few the past few months. We are currently preparing to assist to the Comrades with the May Buddy Poppy Drive. Our Girls Scout Teen Troop #4841 will also be on hand to assist once again this year. Speaking of Girls Scouts, the troop sold cookies at Bingo sessions in the past few weeks and we received over 48 boxes of cookies to our troops. Troop leader Diana Regan and I packaged the boxes and Diana shipped them to our own Terri Andreoni.

The Boutique gals are still staying busy each Wednesday. We are so glad to see Phebe Payne back with us once again and are happy to hear that Jack is feeling better.

Commander Yancey and I presented the Post Teacher of the Year award to Ms. Marcia Bassler from Cardinal Forrest Elementary. The presentation was done at the school prior to the PTA meeting with members of the School board present. The Commander and I were treated to a song by Ms. Bassler's first grade class. They sang Gold Bless America and I assure you it was awesome.

I would like to send special thanks the Annandale Women's Club for the lap robes that they continue to make for our Vets at the VA Hospital in Washington, DC. Every few months they call me and I go and pick up the robes and our hospital committee takes them to the hospital on our quarterly visits.

In April we will have election of officers for 2010\_2011. If anyone is interested in holding an office or chairing a committee, please come to the meeting on the April 19th. If you intend to hold an office and are unable to make the meeting, please make sure that Secretary Floy Lipscomb has a letter from you stating that you are willing to run for that specific office. Unless someone steps up by April 19<sup>th</sup>, you will

be forced to put up with me for another year. Ladies, I promise that this will be the last year that I will be running for President.

In April, I will be attending the President's Homecoming and presenting Kathy Birch with her Love gifts from the auxiliaries in Virginia. I will also be attending the convention in June in Richmond.

As always, if you have some spare time and would like to work with us or if we can be of assistance to anyone, please contact me via email at [lbond@verizon.net](mailto:lbond@verizon.net) or call me on (h) 703-451-1510 or (cell) 703-407-3106.

### *Congratulations Post Teacher of the Year, Ms. Marcia Bassler of Cardinal Forrest Elementary!*



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#### Post Officers

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Sr. Vice: Gary Kelch 703-644-8485

Jr. Vice: Vacant

Quartermaster: Margo Sheridan 571-332-7109

Judge Advocate: Bud Bishop

Chaplain: Lew Lipscomb 703-866-4919

Surgeon: Ken Spielvogel

3-Yr Trustee: W.J. Leonard 703-354-0568

2-Yr Trustee: Tony Dzerski 703-451-5591

1-Yr Trustee: Larry Parham 703-569-3351

Post Adjutant: Chris Braun 703-327-3446

#### Auxiliary Officers

President: Linda Bond 703-451-1510

Sr. Vice: Shirley Cervone 703-795-0926

Jr. Vice: Shirley Norris 703-971-1939

Secretary: Floy Lipscomb 703-866-4919

Treasurer: Alice Merrill 703-569-1771

Chaplain: Diana Regan 703-719-7660

Conductress: Marcia Lohr 703-548-1698

Guard: Norma Jean Grefost 703-451-3716

3-Yr Trustee: Marcia Lohr

2-Yr Trustee: Anna Smith 703-440-8034

1-Yr Trustee: Shirley Norris 703-971-1939

*The Camaraderie newsletter is published by Springfield, Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327, a community based 501c19 not-for-profit Congressionally Chartered Veterans Organization. Mailed for educational outreach and information purposes to our members, volunteers and friends. The newsletter is distributed to over 700 individuals. We have served our community since 1946, providing programmed support to veterans, their families, active duty military and community based organizations.*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

We spend no less than \$500 every other month to print and mail the newsletter to our members who currently receive the paper through the U.S. mail. While we understand that some members need to receive the paper in hardcopy form, we believe that many more can receive the paper via an e-mail message. As a general rule, almost all new members are receiving the newsletter as an email message through our extended group code. In an effort to minimize our costs and improve service, we are asking that you receive the newsletter electronically if you have access to a computer. We will continue to mail a newsletter to each member that requests one. To continue to receive a hardcopy newsletter, fill out the form below and mail it to [Diana Regan at: 4917 Poplar Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310-1234](mailto:diana.regan@cox.net). You can also drop the form off at the Post Home. To have the newsletter e-mailed to you, just send Diana Regan a message: [oregandl@cox.net](mailto:oregandl@cox.net). Thanks to the over 200 members that currently receive the newsletter electronically. Please continue to send address changes to Diana.

**I wish to receive the newsletter via the mail.**

**Name:**

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**Address:**

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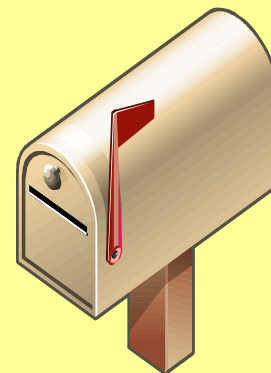
**State:**

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**Zip Code:**

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**mail to: Diana Regan, 4917 Poplar Dr., Alex., VA 22310-1234**



## **Buddy Poppy Display Contest**

**Linda Bond Auxiliary President**

Ladies: Are you creative? Let your creative juices flow and create a display for the Convention in June!

The displays can be in one of the following categories:

Category 1: Public Promotion of the Buddy Poppy Campaign

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Display

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative use of Poppies

Category 4: Memorial or Inspirational Display (Jr. Girls)

**If you would like to create a Buddy Poppy hat,  
I will be happy to wear it in the parade at Convention.**



## Update from Terri Andreoni Deployed to Iraq

By Diana Regan, Troop Coordinator



Diana-

Girl scout cookies arrived yesterday.. LOTS of smiling faces today here at work. I only took one of the boxes in, the other I'll bring in tomorrow. We haven't had tons of cookies from the Girl Scouts sent, so seeing Samoas and Thin Mints around, people keep coming by my cube seeing what's "in"...

All is well here. We're working hard, trying to figure out how to meet the drawdown requirements and still complete all of the things we're doing now. Number crunching and making hard decisions, but its for a good cause!

Here in Basra, everything is beige, except for where I live. I've got pink and green and blue all over the place its a "happy place" for the hour or so I'm there before I go to sleep. We do get to do PT every day (that we can get out of the office) and the dining facility is starting to get old, but it's good food and healthy too. We do have a basketball league on Thursdays, and we play volleyball on Sundays (sometimes).

Anyway- looks like I'll be heading back to DC in the fall of 11 or spring of 12. I need to call my branch again to get clarification. But I'm coming home!

Hope all is well- looking forward to seeing what the Post has got in store for the next year. Congrats to the new officers and I want to give a big THANK YOU to Wayne and the other officers who gave more than their share over the past years. I'll get back into the groove when I get back.

Enjoy-- I'm heading back to work!

Cheers-

Terri



Terri would love to hear from members via email or snail mail.

Terri's email [terri.andreoni@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:terri.andreoni@iraq.centcom.mil) and her regular mail address is:

OPS CO (G5), 11D Unit # 1 ID, APO, AE 09374.

No doubt other Post 7327 members are deployed overseas. Why not send us a note, pix, etc. and let us know how you are doing and if we can ship anything your way? My email address is: [oregandl@cox.net](mailto:oregandl@cox.net).

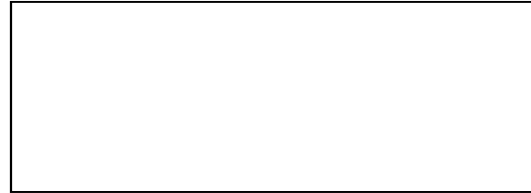


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## *The Friendliest VFW Post in Virginia*

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### *Upcoming Events and Activities*

*Mark your calendars and get involved!*

*April 12—Executive Officers Meeting*

*April 19—General Membership Meetings Post & Auxiliary*

*April 24—State Commander & State President's Homecoming, Staunton, Virginia*

*May 2—District 10 Meeting, Elections, & Installation of 2010—2011 Officers*

*Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia*

*May 31—Joint MEMORIAL DAY Service will be conducted at 11:00 AM at the*

*American Legion Post 176, Springfield, Virginia*

*June 10—13 State Convention, Elections & Installation of Officers*

*Richmond, Virginia*

*August 21—26 National Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana*

*BINGO! Every Thursday & Friday at 7 PM*

*Springfield Fire Department*

*Post Hours of Operation, Tuesday - Sunday 11:30 AM - 8:00 PM*