

Woodstock

# VFW News

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

National VFW  
Publication Winner  
2001

Winner of 15  
National Publication  
Awards

February 2003  
Vol. 48. No. 8

## Belcher Receives Buschkopf Award

By Don Peasley

Among VFW and American Legion veterans, Alan Belcher, 56, is well-known for his support, such as his founding the shelter for veterans in need in Hebron. Recognition of Belcher's service to the community was recognized outside the veterans' circle when the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry chose him to receive the Harold Buschkopf Award, Saturday, January 18.

The award is named after a Woodstock pharmacist who was an outstanding community leader, business promoter and civic activist. James Keefe, 71, was also named recipient of the Harold Buschkopf Award. Presentation was made by Steve Buschkopf, Harold's son.

Belcher's wife Gay was among the 120 guests at the Chamber's 58<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Keefe, who was hospitalized for surgery a few days earlier, was represented at the dinner by his four children: Erin Anderegg, Kelly Afeld, Pat Keefe and Quinn Keefe. Belcher's contribution includes service to veterans and rejuvenating the city's Memorial Day program.

In the mid-1990s he began serving as an officer of the Woodstock VFW and was elected Commander in 1999. When the Commander's chair became vacant during a crisis in June 2001, Belcher stepped forward to once again become Commander and preserve the integrity of the 55-year-old VFW.

When it seemed likely Memorial Day observances would fade away, Belcher took the lead 10 years ago to rally the VFW, American Legion and VietNow members to conduct appropriate ceremonies in the Square. A Memorial Day committee now meets virtually year-round to line up musical guests, student participants, keynote speaker and parade marshal.

One of his greatest achievements has



Alan Belcher (left) receives the Harold Buschkopf Award, presented by Harold's son, Steve. The award is the most prestigious award given by the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and recognizes community involvement. Belcher was honored for his service to veterans. His taking the lead in obtaining a shelter for homeless veterans with the purchase of a motel in Hebron was mentioned by Buschkopf as an example of Alan's dedication to serving veterans. (Don Peasley Photo)

been overcoming skepticism about helping homeless veterans. He took the lead in organizing Transitional Living Services to purchase the Hi-De-Ho Motel in Hebron as a shelter for homeless veterans. New Horizon opened July 1, 2001.

Belcher volunteers about 20 hours a week at the shelter, handling administrative duties and searching for grants. His example has inspired others to help veterans in need.

Belcher is an original member of the McHenry County Continuum of Care Board, which proposes developments to

meet housing and service needs. He has served on the McHenry County Development Block Grant Commission to obtain federal funding for agencies that serve the homeless.

As a counselor, Belcher's practice includes working with people suffering with multiple personality disorder. He gives workshops throughout the state on Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

Keefe was recognized for his community involvement in a large number of activities. As a member of the Woodstock Rotary, he was an important leader in a youth exchange program bringing students from many other countries to Woodstock. Jim and Mary Ellen Keefe provided a home-away-from-home for 16 foreign students over a period of several years.

Keefe has served on the Woodstock Public Library board, Memorial Hospital board, Woodstock Police Commissions board, and on the Woodstock City Council with Mayor Mel Stuessy and Mayor Frances Kuhn. He was a charter member and past president of the Woodstock Jaycees.

Keefe grew up in Woodstock and has been active in many programs and services at St. Mary's Church where he is a daily communicant. He may be best recognized, however, for his interest in Woodstock history. He has gathered photographs from many sources, prepared a slide show and presents it to school and club groups with a running commentary.

The award was established in 1991 following Buschkopf's untimely death. Previous Buschkopf award recipients include John Lillie, Dr. Bernard Neuchiller, Ray Benoy, Virgil Smith, Don Peasley, Cheryl Wormley, Helen Fields, Jane Griffin and Charie Zanck.

## Funding Approved at Family Alliance

By Don Peasley

The Veterans Administration has approved funding to provide day care services for veterans 55 and older at Family Alliance, Woodstock. Day care is provided on a private pay basis. Carol Louise, director, was pleased with the observation by the VA review team which visited the facility before recommending day care funding. "Review team members said Family Alliance is the best adult day program they have audited," Louise said. If a veteran at Family Alliance needs additional services those will be paid for by the individual. Veterans may learn more about this care by contacting Louise (338-3590).

**VFW Post 5040**  
**Men's Post Officers**  
**2002 - 2003**

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Commander                | Jim Smith       |
| Senior Vice<br>Commander | Marvin Monson   |
| Junior Vice<br>Commander | Sid Sherwin     |
| Quartermaster            | Ralph Ritter    |
| Chaplain                 | Marvin Bohnhoff |
| Assistant Chaplain       | Chuck Mathey    |
| Service Officer          | Ron Nehls       |
| Judge Advocate           | Dwayne Raney    |
| Post Surgeon             | Harold Irwin    |
| Officer-of-the-Day       | Bruce Shisler   |
| 1 Year Trustee           | Thom Gillespie  |
| 2 Year Trustee           | Alan Belcher    |
| 3 Year Trustee           | Jon Showers     |

**VFW Post 5040**  
**Ladies Auxiliary**  
**Post Officers**  
**2002 - 2003**

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| President                | Nyda Fogarty       |
| Senior Vice<br>President | Bonnie Kagel       |
| Junior Vice              | Viola Brown        |
| Secretary                | Christine Gehrke   |
| Treasurer                | Barbara Gehrke     |
| Chaplain                 | Karen Wells        |
| Guard                    | Rosemary Hellstern |
| Conductress              | Irene Brown        |
| 1 Year Trustee           | Joyce Monson       |
| 2 Year Trustee           | Ruth Gehrke        |
| 3 Year Trustee           | Geraldine Salyers  |

## Hey...He's Changing the Newsletter Again!

By the Editor, Matthew Klos

Fellow comrades, you may notice a different look with the Post newsletter this month. I am using a different piece of software that will help me to structure the newsletter differently and also offer some functionality that I could not get with the other software I was using to put the newsletter together. I got some tips from a neighboring newsletter (thank-you to Mike Bitton, editor of the Moose Call in Woodstock) that I think will help to give our newsletter a refined format.

As we start into the new year, it's a good time to introduce changes and hopefully this format will last the whole year. I am also trying a different way of printing pictures that should result in crisper, clearer pictures for you to view. This is my 7th time producing the monthly newsletter, and it has been a challenge. I have tried different things with each newsletter, such as formatting and graphics, and with each one I produce I get a little better at it. Thanks for the support and comments about the paper.

When asked if I would be editor of the paper going forward after the new officers are elected, I indicated that I would continue on with being the VFW News Editor as long as the post wanted me to. It is a neat opportunity for me to be involved with the post. It takes time to put this together, but the end result is quite rewarding knowing that other post members depend on me to take their stories, contributions, and thoughts and get them into a written format for all of our post members to enjoy. Ralph Ritter and I have more ideas for media, not just a newsletter. Look for a short story in this newsletter about it.

Like I have mentioned before, its not just a single person that makes a post run. It takes a lot of people to keep things run-

ning at the post. People like you who are reading this paper are needed to help at the post in any capacity that you can. With the elections coming up soon, there are several officer positions that need to be filled and it would great if we could have several people nominated for each position, not just single individuals.

Maybe this is the year that you can make a difference at the post. Maybe this is the year that you can get involved just a little more to help you fellow veterans out. Think about it. If you want to get involved, let us know. We could really use the help.

We have a large membership in the Men's Post, currently 500 or so members. The paper alone is sent to about 700 addresses. At the last Post meeting in on January 20th, we only had about 30 members show up. That is only about 6% of our members coming out for a post meeting to decide on issues, decide how money should be used, and deciding the future events that shape our post.

We really need you to come and participate. I call on each one of you to see what you can do for a large post and a great post home that serves the VFW as well as other groups in our community. Just take a look at the calendar to see what groups meet at the post. Right now there are only a handful of member that keep our post home in working condition and are making money to barely keep our post alive. Give it some thought, talk to your fellow comrades about it, and see if maybe you can get involved. We'd love to have you join us.

In comradeship and for the good of the order, *Matthew Klos*, Editor

### Toy Donations No Longer Needed

In a recent article in one of the previous newsletters, it was mentioned that the post was seeking donations of gently used toys to provide for "kids corner" for families with young children that visit our post. A member of our post has donated several boxes of brand new toys to the post, so we are no longer in need of donations. Thank you to those that donated already.

Need a copy of your military records? Surf the net and go to the following site.  
 Military Records link: [http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/vetrecs/](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/)

**Ladies Auxiliary  
FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
By NYDA FOGARTY, President 2002-2003

Voice of Democracy awards were given out to local area winners at the Post on Monday evening January 20, 2003. The next District meeting will be held on Sunday February 16 at Watch City Post #1307 Elgin, Ill. located on Weld Rd. at 1:30 P. M. In March, the Auxiliary will have a potluck dinner prior to the meeting at 6:30 P. M.

**Want to Rent the Hall?  
Make sure you have a Reservation!**

We need to let everyone or organization know that they need to reserve the date(s) for any function that they may be having at the VFW. Another organization had assumed, that dates were reserved in previous years and the hall was rented out for the date that they wanted. This causes bad feelings for the officers and membership. Anyone that needs to reserve a date should do so ASAP. The manager will not be held responsible for all organizations' previous dates or annual dates. The calendar is behind the bar for date reservations.

**Kick Start Your Mondays**

Jack Fish wants any member to come on down Monday mornings for free coffee and rolls. Doors open at 7 AM every Monday. You can just talk about old times, challenge King Charley to a game of pool, play cards or listen to Harold Irwin's old time music on the organ.

**Upcoming Dates to Remember**

- May 3 and 4 - Soup to Nuts Sale  
Bob and Pat Gaylord are going to chair the soup to nuts sales this year. The tentative date has been set for May 3rd and 4th. If you would like to help Bob and Pat please contact them at 815-338-3015. Start saving your stuff for the sale.
- May 10 - \$1550 DRAWING  
Drinks at 6:00 pm Dinner at 7:00 pm
- May 16 and 17 - Poppy Days  
Sid Sherwin is the chairman need lots of volunteers.
- May 26 - Memorial Day  
Allen Belcher is the chairman. Warm lunch served Veteran \$6.00 Non Vet \$7.00 need help in the kitchen and servers

**Come Dancing.**

**Vito Buffalo's Ballroom Dance Band**

This is a 10 piece band that does all of the ballroom dance tunes.

**Where:** VFW Post 5040 Upstairs

**When:** February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$12.00 or VFW member \$10.00

Vito Buffalo is playing the tunes for you and wants you to come out and have a fun time. The previous dances were a lot of fun and there were a lot of good dancers there. We have had many good comments from our Post members about the band, so show your support on February 9th at 4:00 p.m. and come on down. Remember Post members only pay \$10 per person with the general public paying \$12. We will have refreshments and sandwiches available for you to purchase and the bar will be open. If you are interested in dance lessons or have questions, contact Warren Spencer at 815-459-2578. Singles are welcome and we do mixers. Dress casual or semi formal – please no sneakers or jeans thank you. Public is welcome so tell your friends.



**Can you help?**

All post members play an important role at the VFW, and it take all kinds of people to make things happen. Maybe you can provide your skills to help out the post. *Thank you!*

Check the items below that interest you, clip the slip, and drop it off at the post mailbox on the outside of the front door or mail it to: Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098.

- Wednesday Dinners    Friday Dinners    Friday Bingo    Post Maintenance    Commities  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank You Woodstock VFW Post 5040

In the Northwest Herald, 12/30/2002 issue, a praise was submitted for our Post.

### VFW donated Constitution books

“The Woodstock VFW Post 5040 has donated more than 100 pocket U.S. Constitution books to Woodstock High School as part of a community wide effort in local schools.

We want to thank the VFW Post, Ralph Ritter, and the Voice of Democracy program for this invaluable teaching tool.

The books will be used in WHS classrooms and will be an important aid to seniors who must pass their U.S. Constitution class in order to graduate.”

**Chuck Wooderson  
Woodstock**



### Chaplains Report By Marvin Bohnhoff

Get well cards were sent to the following:

- Ron Nehls
- Fred Raffel

A draping of the Charter will be done at the February meeting for George Nyhus.

## Winter Safety at the Post

If you have a problem walking up and down stairs, please use the handicap entrance. You can get out of your car and walk on level ground all the way into the bar and dining areas. To use the handicap entrance, go to the back of the parking lot and then walk along side of the building. This entrance is open every Wednesday and Friday. You can call ahead to have the door opened for you. We don't need anyone slipping and falling. A lot of our members can get handy cap parking stickers, just ask your doctor for one. If we need to get more parking spaces, we will ask the city to put up more signs.

We had someone fall on the steps recently as well as a kitchen worker. Insurance will likely be picking up the cost for these accidents, but we stress to our visitors and employees to use care while at the post. Icy winter conditions can give you a surprise when you least expect it. Please use care.



## VFW Grand Drawing - \$1550 Raffle

Saturday, May 10th, 7:00 pm. Only 200 tickets available at \$50.00 each.

You may purchase a ticket on the installment plan, but it must be paid in full by April 15th.

### \$3,750.00 IN CASH PRIZES!!!!!!

- 1st Prize \$1,550.00
- 2nd Prize \$450.00
- 3rd Prize \$350.00
- 4th Prize \$250.00
- 5th Prize \$150.00
- Every 20th drawn wins \$100.00

You need not be present to win but the five big prizes will get a \$50.00 bonus if the winner is present. There will also be an attendance drawing for \$50.00 plus any bonus money left over. Drawing benefits the Building Fund. Signup sheet will be available at the bar. Don Sword is chairman of this event.



TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING...OR WHAT WE CAN IMPROVE. YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT, AND IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND MEETINGS OR GET DOWN TO THE POST TO COMMENT ON SOMETHING, SEND IN THE SLIP (ADDRESS ON BACK OF SLIP) OR DROP IT OFF. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

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## February 2003

| Sunday                                       | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday                                      | Thursday   | Friday                                | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 26   | 27   | 28   | 29   | 30   | 31                                    | 1        |
| 2  | 3<br>American Legion 7 pm<br>Little League 7 pm  | 4<br>Dirt Group 7 pm   | 5<br>Chicken and Ribs and<br>Special 5 - 8 pm  | 6<br>American Legion 7 pm<br>Ladies Auxiliary<br>7:30 pm | 7<br>Fish Fry 5 - 8 pm<br>Bingo 6 pm  | 8        |
| 9<br>Ball Room Dance<br>4 - 7 pm             | 10<br>Little League 7 pm                         | 11<br>VFW Board Meeting<br>7 pm<br>Dirt Group 7 pm<br>Jaycees 7 pm | 12<br>Chicken and Ribs and<br>Special 5 - 8 pm | 13<br>Harley Hogs 7 pm                                   | 14<br>Fish Fry 5 - 8 pm<br>Bingo 6 pm | 15       |
| 16   | 17<br><i>President's Day</i><br>VFW Meeting 7 pm | 18<br>Dirt Group 7 pm  | 19<br>Chicken and Ribs and<br>Special 5 - 8 pm | 20<br>Marines 7 pm                                       | 21<br>Fish Fry 5 - 8 pm<br>Bingo 6 pm | 22       |
| 23<br>Little League<br>Registration 1 - 4 pm | 24   | 25<br>Dirt Group 7 pm  | 26<br>Chicken and Ribs and<br>Special 5 - 8 pm | 27   | 28<br>Fish Fry 5 - 8 pm<br>Bingo 6 pm | 1        |

★  
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MEMOR

# THANK YOU

- Fred Wallace for keeping up the mailing list and printing the mailing labels every month.
- Clean up day was a huge success this year. We cleaned the back storage room, washed every chair in the lower dinning room and striped and waxed the lower dinning room floor. We finished in less than 4 hours a person. Here is our helper list: Anna Mae Weber, Hazel Hickey, Allen Belcher, Bob Gibson, Art Stolzke, Kevin Stebbins, Bob Gaylord, Jack Fish, Charlie Mathey, Ed Haldeman and Ralph Ritter.
- Woodstock JC's - They donated a 5 CD player for the dinning room. We will now have music for our dinners. They also donated a check for \$2,238.93 to the post. We most likely will be redoing the bar room booths with this money.
- Midwest Antique Motor Cycle Club donated \$2,000.00
- Marines donated \$100.00
- McHenry County Independent Riders donated \$100.00

## Patriotic Pen Essay Contest Results for 2002-2003

By Dwayne Raney

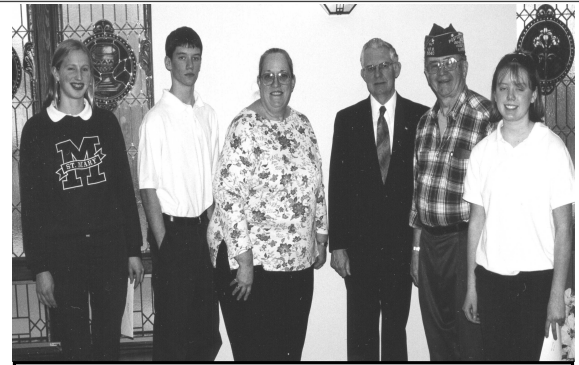
A total of 36 essay contest finalists submitted their entries for this year's Patriotic Pen Essay Contest. Co-chairperson, Barbara Gehrke, presented the awards at Olson Middle School and was assisted by Dwayne Raney. Awards were presented in the classroom.

At St. Mary's, Barbara assisted Dwayne in presenting the awards in church immediately following morning mass and assembly.

Both Barbara and Dwayne were grateful for the cooperation and support they received from the Post and Auxiliary with this being the first time essay contest of its kind in Woodstock. It was a pleasure for them to serve and work with the project together.

Bottom line is that the students and the VFW Post & Auxiliary, all benefit from engaging in such youth activities. We as Veterans Organizations also have a commitment to serve not only the veterans themselves that may or may not be hospitalized, their families, but, to also serve within & for the community that we live in as well.

\$100.00 checks were presented to the 1st place finalists, \$75.00 checks presented to the 2nd place finalists, and \$50.00 checks to the 3rd place finalists. Awards were presented at both schools.



These are Patriotic Pen Essay Contest winners at St. Mary's School with VFW leaders, sponsors of the essay contest. Theme of the essay: "My Pledge to America." From left: Katie Russell, first place; Devin Kusek, second place; Barbara Gehrke, VFW Auxiliary; Edward O'Brien, St. Mary's School principal; Dwayne Raney, VFW; and Katie



Woodstock VFW and Auxiliary recognizes winners in the Patriotic Pen Essay Contest with a program at Olson School. The theme of the essay was "My Pledge to America." From left: Patrick Howell, first place; Eric Peterson, second place; and Steven Rausch, third place. Back: Lynn Grissom, 7th grade teacher; Barbara Gehrke, VFW Auxiliary; Dwayne Raney, VFW; and George Oslovich, principal. (Don Peasley Photo).

### Post Office Positions for 2003-04

We have a commitment from the following people to run for **office positions** for 2003/2004 year:

- Commander: ..... Jon Showers
- Sr. Vice: ..... Sid Sherwin
- Jr. Vice: ..... ???
- Quartermaster: ..... ???
- Assistant  
 Quartermaster: ..... Ralph Ritter
- Chaplin: ..... Howard Engstrom
- Assistant Chaplin: ..... ???
- Service officer: ..... ???
- Post Surgeon: ..... ???
- Officer of the day: ..... ???
- Judge Advocate: ..... Dwayne Raney
- 1 yr trustee: ..... Allen Belcher
- 2 yr trustee: ..... Tom Gillespie
- 3 yr trustee: ..... ???

### Coming to a Computer Near You

We have had several people ask for the newsletter to be sent to them via e-mail. Unfortunately, the actual news letter is quite large and cannot be sent through most e-mail systems. However, your VFW News Editor is planning on taking this a step further. I plan on developing a website for Post 5040 that will include the current newsletter, pictures, calendar of events, etc. I am currently researching cost and tools to make this happen. I will keep you updated on my progress. - Matt

### Quartermaster Needed

Ralph Ritter will not be seeking election for Quartermaster for the coming year. He is willing to assist the new quartermaster, but we need to identify and have in position a new Quartermaster.

If you have an accounting or finance background, we could really use your skills. Ralph has put the books into the computer and we are using off the shelf software programs to keep the books in order. The Quartermaster is needed to write checks for expenses, write payroll checks, log entries in the computer, etc.

It's a big job and a very important one at that. Our post is a business, and we need a committed individual to step up and be our book keeper for the new election year.



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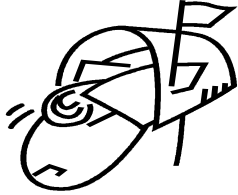
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### Letters to the Editor....

If you would like to send a letter to the editor, please send it to the following address (do not send it to the post address):

**Matt Klos**  
**VFW 5040 News Editor**  
**259 Dartmoor Dr.**  
**Crystal Lake, IL 60014**  
**(815)-479-8842**

And for those of you with access to the internet, you can e-mail me at:

**klos\_m259@yahoo.com**

## WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS

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Woodstock

Would your ad look good here? Contact the post for more information (see page 3, "Post News" for rate.)

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