

Woodstock

VFW News

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

National VFW
Publication Winner
2001

Winner of 15
National Publication
Awards

June 2003
Vol. 48. No. 12

Another Year Gone by In Our Post

By MATT KLOS

Well comrades, we are once again closing out another chapter in our Post history. New post officers will be installed on June 1st, 2003 and we will begin a new year under new leadership. What a year it has been. Our post gained a few new members, and several long time friends and members departed our post forever.

We have seen changes in leadership, at our Post Home, in our newsletter. We made a mark on the World Wide Web by setting up a web site and saw our soldiers make their mark in Iraq. We live an ever changing world and support our country, our community; standing behind our beautiful American flag that represents the great nation that we live in.

Of course, with new leadership taking the helm for 2003-2004, we expect change and hope it takes our post in a positive direction. Best of luck to the new Post and Ladies Auxiliary officers in the coming year. They will need each member's helps in the coming year, and we need to support them the best we can.

Much of what has been reported in the VFW News over the past year only accounts for just a snippet of what goes on at the post. Many members, family of members, friends, etc. have contributed hundreds of man hours to keep the post running, planning events, staffing events to make sure that our post runs well and is an everlasting establishment in the city of Woodstock and McHenry county. On behalf of the Woodstock Post 5040, I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication. Its people like you that keep our Post going and providing a home for future veterans.

Looking forward to our new year, I hope that we can maintain and continue progress to make our post even better. I will continue to bring you the monthly news the best I can, and hope that people who have provided me with stories, comments, pictures and help in getting the newsletter out to all our members continue to do so. With out your contributions, I think the newsletter would be a bit stale.

I am positive about the coming year. I think we will see some changes around the post. Maybe this is your year to get involved as well. The post is only as strong as its members, and we all need to ask ourselves if there is something that each of us can do to make our post just a little more stronger, grow a little larger and participate in a few more things. If you haven't been around the post, come on down some night or come out for a meeting. We'd sure like to see you again. Onward we go!

Memorial Day Observed In Woodstock

By DON PEASLEY

Veterans from World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam and Desert Storm wars led Woodstock's Memorial Day observance in the Woodstock Square on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. The annual Memorial Day observance was conducted by Woodstock VFW, Woodstock American Legion, McHenry County Marine Corps League and veterans of the Vietnam War.



Allen Belcher, master of ceremonies at Memorial Day Parade in Woodstock (Photo by Matt Klos)

Alan Belcher, master of ceremonies, said the gathering was to pay homage to thousands of Americans who fought and died for our freedom. The invocation was given by Dwayne Raney, representing the American Legion.

"Several hundred more names have been added to that honor roll," said Belcher, referring to the deaths during the Iraqi war in March and April. Deaths from that military action continue to mount because of suicide bombers, accidents, faulty equipment and continued military action.

State Senator Adeline Geo-Karis asserted, "Freedom does not come free. We have to sacrifice." She referred to a parody of "In Flanders Field" Moina Michel wrote in 1915 saying "To cherish too the poppy red that grows in fields where valor led it seem to signal to the skies the blood of heroes never dies." Her inspiration led to the sale of poppies to raise money for servicemen.

"In 1922 VFW began selling poppies nationally. In 1924 they sold artificial poppies made by disabled veterans to provide support for hospitalized veterans," said Geo-Karis. This is a Woodstock VFW tradition each May the weekend before Memorial Day.

Geo-Karis was enthusiastic with the large crowd in the Woodstock Square. She recalled coming to the United States in 1922 when she was four years old.



Memorial Day program leaders wait their turn on the bandstand stage. Front row, from left: State Senator Adeline Geo-Karis, VFW Auxiliary President Nyda Fogarty, and State Senator Pamela Althoff. (Don Peasley Photo).

See **Memorial Day**, page 3

VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2003 - 2004

Commander	Jon Showers	(815)-338-4675
Senior Vice Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Junior Vice Commander	John (Sully) Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Quartermaster	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	TBA	TBA
Service Officer	Ron Nehls	(815)-338-3671
Judge Advocate	Henry (Hank) Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Bruce Shisler	(815)-338-4735
1 Year Trustee	Alan Belcher	(815)-338-7689
2 Year Trustee	Thom Gillespie	(815)-597-1319
3 Year Trustee	Jim Smith	(815)-653-9238

VFW Post 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Post Officers 2003 - 2004

President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
Senior Vice President	Bonnie Kagel	(815)-648-4958
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Secretary	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Treasurer	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Guard	Rosemary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Ruth Gehrke	(815)-338-5093
2 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	Not Available

By the Numbers...

The \$1550 drawing was another great success this year. Ray Benoy was presented with a Service Award and there was a good turnout for the dinner and drawing. This year we gave away \$3,750 in prizes and the post profit was \$4,610. Thank you to all that contributed.

Poppy Day turned out to be a prosperous donation time. We had contributions of \$4,151.61 in total. Thank you to all volunteers that helped make Poppy Day a success.

32 members attended the May 19th meeting.

Available for use for members of the Post at no cost: - 3 wheelchairs

- 3 walkers
- 1 commode
- 5 pairs of crutches

Contact the post if you have a need for some of this equipment.

Would You Recognize The Changes

By RALPH RITTER

How is Post 5040 been doing over the last 18 months? How's this for progress:

- **Not one repairman has been called in - everything has been fixed by Post volunteers.**
- Painted the lower dinning hall and bar areas.
- Recovered all the bar stools and bar booths.
- New main electric panel installed.
- Replaced all the bathroom faucets toilet flushers and seats (saves on the water bill).
- Painted the entire kitchen.
- New double door kitchen refrigerator installed.
- New lighting in both the men and women's bathrooms.
- All of the floors have been waxed upstairs and down.
- New juke box, pool table and dart board installed for your enjoyment.
- New table clothes on all the dinning room tables.
- New carpet on the stage, handy cap ramp and bar area.
- New carpet scrubber.
- 4 New smoke eater fans installed (these work great).
- Reseal coated the entire roof.
- New fax machine installed.
- 2 used computers installed with printers.
- We have an Internet web site and e-mail address now.
- Parties booked almost every weekend.
- All bills paid as soon as they come in.
- All Financial records are in the Quicken computer program.
- 5th District and State now show us being 100% reported in all programs and activities.
- Our Post has achieved all state status.
- Finally the Post Mortgage on our building is paid off, around \$7,500.

Thanks to all those who donated time, materials and money to make, all this happen for our Post. We appreciate all that you have done and hope that you will continue to help us in the future.



Chaplains Report By Marvin Bohnhoff

Get well cards sent: Larry Dhom, Eugene Fuller, Jon Showers.

Sympathy card sent to: Marvin Monson on the passing of his wife.

Sympathy card was sent to the family of Floyd Wilcox.

This is my last Chaplains report for the VFW, as I will no longer be Chaplain for the coming year. I am retiring from the position after 11 wonderful and dedicated years.

God bless and best of luck to the new Chaplain, Howard Engstrom.

"The Lord bless all of our comrades."

Woodstock VFW News is published monthly by Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098. (815)-338-5040

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Memorial Day, continued from page 1

"I remember the reaction of the people aboard that ship when they saw the Statue of Liberty," she said. Her political career extends over 30 years. Geo-Karis served in the Illinois House from 1973 to 1979. She has been an Illinois senator since 1979. In 1992 she became the first woman appointed to serve as a senate majority leader.

U.S. House of Representative member Don Manzullo reminded listeners that through the years many American men and women have given their lives to preserve freedom, making the world a better place to live.

Special guests included newly-appointed State Senator Pamela Althoff and veteran

State Representative Jack Franks. On behalf of the Woodstock community, Mayor Alan Cornue accepted an American flag presented to him by Mike Hooper, Woodstock Moose Lodge governor. Phil Meier, World War II veteran who was influential in bringing the Vietnam Traveling War to the Square a year ago, served as parade marshal.



Distinguished participants in Woodstock Memorial Day program Monday, May 26 include from left: State Representative Jack Franks, Parade Marshal Phil Meier and Mayor Alan Cornue. (Don Peasley Photo).



Rifle Squad members pay tribute to veterans during Memorial Day service. From left: Bill Lyford and Bruce Shisler. (Don Peasley Photo).

Nyda Fogarty, president of the Woodstock VFW Auxiliary, placed a wreath at the foot of the Civil War monument, carrying on a tradition established by the VFW and American Legion more than 50 years ago.

Before the closing prayer by the VFW chaplain Marvin Bohnhoff, Lieutenant Colonel Jackie Lyons of the Pacific Command of the Army Reserve, explained the symbolism represented by doves shortly before releasing several doves from a cage near the grandstand.

Soup to Nut Sale (May 3-4 2003)

By BOB and PAT GAYLORD

To those who donated to the sale, those who were customers, and all the volunteers who assisted with the sale - it could not have been done without you - THANK YOU !! We were very successful, with a total of \$1779.25

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ruth Gehrke | Margaret Lange | George Keifer |
| Margaret Webb | Ed Lange | Betty Huebch |
| Nick Stemper | Millie Johnson | Howard Engstrom |
| Irene Gaylord | Ken Korst | Chuck Gehrke |
| Sid Sherwin | Helen Lee | David Clinge |
| Angela Mackey | Viola Brown | Marvin Munson |
| Cliff Mackey | Bonnie Kagel | Betty Smith |
| | Sally Shoemaker | |

Volunteers who helped to sell we give our thanks:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Mary Stompanoto | Bill Lyford |
| Bob Gibson | Dona Freeman |
| Annamae Weber | Russ Freeman |
| Harriet Pope | Joe Thiede |
| Don Sword | Chuck Mathey |
| Anita Sword | Caroline Stolsyske |
| Dorothy Thomas | Lyle Bungard |
| Walter Thomas | |

Also to the following volunteers who helped sell, gave extra time to transport donations, sort and price the donations, set up the sale after Bingo on Friday night, and pack up the items left on Sunday. We give much thanks:

And Jack Fish who besides helping on all of the above, kept the volunteers supplied with endless cups of coffee and donuts.

Thousands of dollars have been earned to assist our VFW Post over the past twenty some years to help make your VFW Post a place to be proud of.

Sincere thanks, Bob and Pat Gaylord, Co-Chairmen Soup to Nuts.

[Editors note: Bob and Pat have been running the Soup to Nuts Sale for the past 20 years or so. This will be the last year that they will be coordinating the event. It takes a lot of work and is physically challenging. Next year they plan to help out, but we will be looking for other Post members to chair the event. This something you can do next year? Let the post know if you would like to step up and be chairman of this event.]

Can you help?

All post members play an important role at the VFW, and it take all kinds of people to keep your post running smoothly. 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: _____

Happening Things at the Post

By RALPH RITTER

- The credit card machine is up and running. You can charge you meals and drinks on your Visa or Master card.
- All of the bathroom toilet seats are brand new and white instead of black in color. This is a big improvement as to the appearance of cleanness to our restrooms.
- Sorry we missed naming Chuck Mathey as one of our helpers when we painted the kitchen. Chuck we do thank you for the many things you do around the post every week not for just painting the kitchen.
- The health Department gave us a 100% for the last kitchen inspection.
- Marv Monson Post 5040 Sr. Vice Commanders wife passed away. Our hearts and prayers are with you Marv.
- The KIDS CORNER has gone over very well. We have children playing there every week, so bring your grand, great grand kids down for a Wednesday or Friday meal.
- Ralph would like to get a group of guy's together to paint the outside of the Post later this fall. I would like to see at least 10 people volunteer to help. If you want to help let one of the present or newly elected officers know you want to help. We should be able to get this done in one weekend. The building is starting to look pretty washed out and faded.
- We are going to have a volunteer's party at the Post in August. Date is to be determined. This will be drinks and food for all that volunteered this last year. Easy things to fix like corn on the cob, brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, beans and paper plates. So get on the volunteer wagon ASAP.
- We still need someone to take care of the rear of the building.
- We have a 4 PM drawing every Saturday now. It is only \$1.00 to get in. If you want to sit down get there early. We have lots of fun.
- As you are reading this newsletter, when was the last time YOU were in your post home for a drink or a meal? Come on down have a drink and support your or your husbands Post.

Ladies Auxiliary FROM THE PRESIDENT

By NYDA FOGARTY, President 2002-2003

Our Auxiliary has lost another member on Sunday, May 4th. We were shocked and saddened with the sudden death of our No. 2 Trustee Helen Monson. Helen had been a faithful member for our meetings and social affairs. A Memorial service was held at Memorial Park at 12 p.m. on Friday, May 9th. Helen's husband Marv is the Senior Vice Commander this year for the Post.

Our Conductress Irene Brown has been ill for quite some time and was in Centegra Hospital for a long time. She is finally out of the hospital and at home. We hope she will recover very soon and be back with us once again. We all miss you Irene.

This is the last month of our Auxiliary year. If your dues are not paid please try to get them in as soon as possible. We do not want to drop anyone from membership. The Department convention in Springfield will take place from June 18 to June 22.

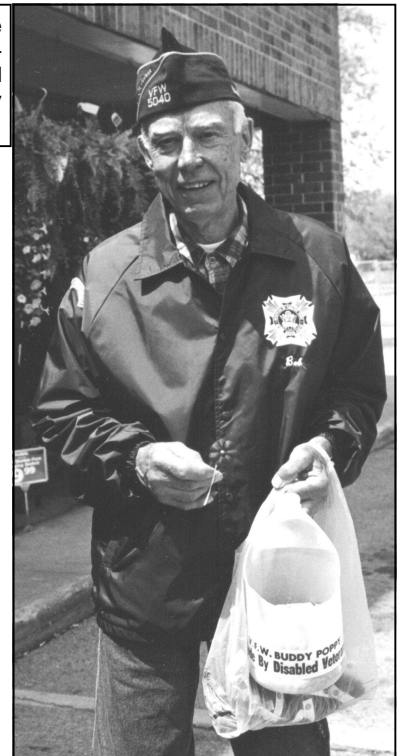
Bob Gibson stands outside the Jewel store, one of many members raising funds for disabled veterans with the Buddy Poppy program. (Don Peasley Photo).



On The Web

Our web site has not been as busy as I hoped. But then again, if I don't update it that often, why would you take a look at it? I plan to put out another page on the site with additional pics from the Memorial Day parade and also plan on having pictures of the officers taken. Look for the changes coming soon!

<http://www.vfw5040.org>



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.

June 2003

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

Closed	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Installation of Post officers and Ladies Auxiliary dinner 5:00 pm	2 Memorial Day Committee 7 pm	3 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	4 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	5 Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	6 Fish Fry 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	7
8 Vito Buffalo Ball Room Dance Band 4 - 7 pm \$10 for post members	9 Little League 7 pm	10 Little League 7 pm Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	11 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	12 Jaycees 7 pm	13 Fish Fry 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	14
15	16 VFW Meeting 7 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	17 Girls Softball 8 pm Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	18 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm Veterans Assistance Commission 7:30 pm	19 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	20 Fish Fry 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	21 Crime Stoppers Breakfast 9:30 - 11:30 am
22	23	24 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	25 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	26 Jaycees 7 pm	27 Fish Fry 5 - 8 pm Bingo 6 pm	28
29	30	1 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	2 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	3 Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	4 Independence Day	5

And Finally, On A More Serious Note...

By JAMES JOHNSON, Post 5040 Life Member

I attended the 5th District meeting in South Elgin, May 18th. I am the District adjutant, and found it quite embarrassing to be the only representative of post 5040. During this meeting, (convention) officers for the 2003 - 2004 year are nominated and elected. Post 5040, being the largest post in the 5th District and having the largest voting block can elect the District officers of their choice. At this time two candidates were nominated for the same office. The District QM office required a run-off. In that I was the only rep for the post, I had to make the choice. In view of the fact that I had this large block of votes to consider I did split the vote of the Post's voting strength so as not to show favoritism. I received pressure from both sides wanting me to vote for their candidate.

I don't hold any office with Post 5040, however since none of the top chairs of the Post can see their way clear to attend, especially for this meeting, I had to make the decision for the Post and vote the way I saw fit. The leadership of the District for the pursuing year was at stake. I honestly can't understand why someone in authority can't attend the meetings, after all there are only 4 meetings a year. The Post did have a problem in the past and the District, I am sure, helped to get the Post on an even keel. I'm just disappointed that they do not feel that it is important for at least one of the top people to attend the meetings.

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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:

matt.klos@vfw5040.org

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