



Woodstock

# VFW News

Winner of 15  
National Publication  
Awards

www.vfw5040.org

April 2004  
Vol. 49. No. 10

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

## VFW Post 5040 From the Commander

By Sid Sherwin  
Commander 2003-2004

Comrades, welcome to the April issue of the VFW News! I hope this news letter finds you well and in high spirits. Spring is definitely here, and with it we did a little spring cleaning at the post last month on March 14th. I would like to thank the following people who participated in helping to beautify the post just a little more and tidy things up:

- Mark Adolphus
- Allen Belcher
- Mike David
- Hank Enstrom
- Howard Engstrom
- Bob Gibson
- Kelly Gorham
- Charlie Mathey

If I missed anyone, my sincere apologies. On the day of cleanup, we focused on cleaning up the bar area, which included washing chairs, tables, shampooing rugs, cleaning the eating booths that are on either side of the bar, barstools, washing the paneling, and of course washing windows. Thanks to all of you that made this happen.

I would encourage our members to come out to the next meeting on April 19th. At this meeting, elections will take place for Post Officers for the 2004-05 election year. See the article inside this news letter on the nominations from last month (page 3).

One last note. Membership. Comrades, we need your full cooperation in this matter. We currently have 47 members who are delinquent in paying their dues. If you have not paid, please get your membership dues in. This is important for not only our post, but the VFW as a whole.

Have a good month and stop try to stop by the post one of these days if you get a chance. We'd enjoy seeing some old (and new) faces.

*Sid Sherwin*

## Traveling Vietnam Wall Won't Be Back Soon

In the January issue, it was mentioned that Phil Meyer was bringing back the Traveling Vietnam Wall to Woodstock. Several of you have also inquired when this would be. Unfortunately, it will not be in Woodstock for a while. All dates for the rest of 2004 and 2005 have been booked up. Unless there is a cancellation in 2005, the wall won't be back in Woodstock for at least two years. Sorry Comrades.

## Community Builders Award Given to VFW Member Alan Belcher

By Don Peasley

Alan Belcher, 1965 Woodstock High School graduate and an infantryman in Vietnam from October 1967 until May 1969, has been named recipient of the Woodstock Masonic Lodge's Community Builders Award. Henry Nulle, Master, made the presentation before the Lodge's March meeting at the Farm Bureau building.

Belcher is a counselor at Cornerstone Counseling where he specializes in family and marriage counseling and in post-traumatic stress disorder. Belcher worked in his chosen field for several years when someone approached him and told him Vietnam veterans were having problems with benefits and with readjustment.

Belcher was among those organizing a VietNow group and demanding that the federal government clean up the Veterans Administration hospital system. What started as a grassroots activism became a life of service.

In 1985 he was presented the VietNow Award. In 1987 he was given the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program Award. The Woodstock Lions Club named Belcher its Citizen of the Year in 2001. In 2003 the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce recognized Belcher's community involvement with the Harold Buschkopf Award.

Belcher's involvement in the VFW has been extensive and significant. He has served as Post Commander and returned to that office when the VFW was in a serious position with

**See Belcher, page 2.**

Henry Nulle, master of the Woodstock Mason Lodge (left), presents the Community Builders Award to Alan Belcher. Belcher's community service includes years of work with the VFW's Memorial Day programs and most recently establishing a facility for homeless veterans in Hebron. New Horizons is at capacity with 14 veterans. (Don Peasley Photo)



**VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2003 - 2004**

Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Senior Vice Commander	Mark Clawson	(815)-338-2135
Junior Vice Commander	Donald (Sully) Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Quartermaster	Thom Gillespie	(815)-597-1319
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	Charles (Chuck) Mathey	(815)-338-5374
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	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
3 Year Trustee	Bill Lyford	(815)-337-0025

**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

Woodstock VFW News is published monthly by Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098. (815)-338-5040  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Woodstock VFW Post 5040, c/o VFW News Editor, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098.

**Belcher, continued from page 1.**

the State VFW. For many years Belcher has been an active member of the Memorial Day committee. One of his proudest involvements was to be chairman when the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall came to Woodstock for Memorial Day in 2002.

During the presentation of the Community Builders Award, Nulle pointed out Belcher's determination to help homeless veterans in McHenry County. He organized a board, established New Horizons corporation, purchased the Hi-De-Ho Motel in Hebron and turned it into a home for 14 veterans.

The program includes job training, such as mastering the computer, and transportation in the search for jobs.

Belcher and his wife, Gay, live in Woodstock. Gay is a schoolteacher at Clay Street School.



**Chaplains Report**  
By Howard Engstrom

**Personal Visits to Hospital:**

- Bruce Shisler
- Ken Korst

**Card and / or phone call:**

- Joe Thiede
- Charles Mathey
- Bruce Shisler
- Ken Korst
- Otis Setser
- Delmar Hiedenreich

For our ill comrades:

**Psalm 38:21-22:** "O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God. Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior"

God bless them and give the peace.

**Soup to Nuts Sale April 30 and May 1**

By Russ and Donna Freeman

Just a reminder from Russ and Donna Freeman to be thinking of things you no longer want and to put them aside for the VFW Soup to Nuts Sale to be held on **April 30** and **May 1**.

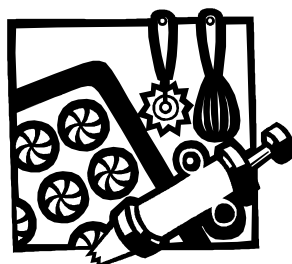
This is a change from the past years in which the Soup to Nuts Sale usually been held on Saturday and Sunday. Usually after Bingo, setup would occur. However, due to the Post no longer having Bingo on Friday nights, the date has changed. Setup will now take place on April 29th (Thursday).

Contact the Freemans' after April 15th if you have items that need to be picked up. They will also need help setting up on Thursday and workers for Friday and Saturday morning. Thanks for any help you can give.

As a reminder, items should be clean and in good working order. Suggested items are: books, dishes, curtains, bedspreads, appliances, tools, furniture, etc. The Freemans' can be reached at (815)-338-3414.

**Ladies Auxiliary to Hold Bake Sale at Soup to Nuts Sale**

By Chris Gehrke, Ladies Auxiliary Secretary



We are planning to have a Bake Sale at the Soup to Nuts Sale . We need donations of food and workers. Please call Barb Gehrke (815)-338-1546 or Viola Brown (815)-338-1446 or Chris Gehrke (815)-338-3533 if you can provide baked goods to sell.

Suggested items for the bake sale are bread, cookies, cakes, pies, coffee cakes, fudge, rice crispy treats or cupcakes.

## Results of the January 2004 Survey

By Matt Klos, Editor

The results are in, the data tabulated. I want to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey that appeared in the January, February, and March issue of the VFW News. Some interesting figures came out of this survey along with positive feedback. For the record, officially we have 525 members belonging to the post. I received 96 surveys which is 18.3% of the post. Not bad comrades. I expected more, but this is a lot. Here is the tabulation of the questions asked:

Question (results based on 96 surveys)	Yes	No	na <sup>1</sup>	Not <sup>2</sup>
Do you read the VFW News monthly?	97.9%	2.1%		
Do you want to continue to receive the VFW News?	96.9%	3.1%		
Do you have internet access?	24%	76%		
Would you prefer to visit the website instead for post information?	6.3%	88.5%	5.2%	
Do you find the information helpful in the VFW News?	96.9%	3.1%		
Can you help out with activities at the post?	12.5%	39.6%	4.2%	43.8%
Do you feel that the Woodstock VFW is contributing to the community effectively?	91.7%	1%	7.3%	
If you do not attend the monthly meetings, what is your primary reason for not attending?	77.1% responded with the below:		22.9%	
Can have more than one answer per person	Not Interested	3.1%		
	Conflicts of schedule	15.6%		
	Physically can't get to the post	25%		
	Conflicts with certain individuals	2.1%		
	Other (many were 'out of state' or "health problems")	46.9%		
Does the post website help you or provide you with additional information?	12.5%	41.7%	45.8%	
1- (na) No Answer    2-(Not) Not at this time				

I thought the members might be interested in some of the comments that were included in the survey.

From the question "Do you find the information helpful in the VFW News? If no please explain:":

"Club does nothing exciting.", "Not helpful, but really entertaining." "I get it one or two weeks into the month [late]"

Here are some "Suggestions to make the newsletter better:":

"Maybe do a blast from the past? Or cover pages from years gone by.", "It's good but we have to have trips or things of enjoyment for 56 year old member.", "Keep me up to date on departed comrades.", "Your newsletter would be more readable if you used a type face with a serif instead of all gothic (sans serif)." "For the benefit of out of state members who might come to affairs, give more advance notice of coming events."

[editor note: some of these I have put into practice already. Good suggestions though.]

See **Survey**, page 5.

### Don't Feel Like Cooking? Have Dinner at the Post!

Wednesdays: 5-8 pm...\$7.95

Fridays: 5-8 pm - Ocean Perch Fry

All you can eat...\$5.95

### Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Department Convention June 23-27, 2004

The VFW State Convention is coming up sooner than you think. If you plan to go, you need to make reservations very soon. The cut-off date for making reservations is June 1st, 2004. At this time, hotels in the area that blocked rooms for this event will be releasing them to the general public. VFW Post 5040 has a Hotel Reservation Form. If you would like a form, call or write the post. You can also call or write the Department of Illinois VFW at:

Veterans of Foreign Wars    Phone: (217)-529-6688  
3300 Constitution Drive    Fax: (217)-529-5347  
PO Box 13206  
Springfield, IL 62791-3206

### Nominations for 2004-2005 Year

At the March meeting, nominations for Post Officers for the 2004-05 year were made. Nominations take place in March, the election in April, and installation of officers will take place in May. In June, the officers will take their official positions. This is still time to be nominated if you feel inclined to be an "active leader" in the post for the coming year. The following is the list of nominees from the March meeting:

#### *Officers:*

Commander:	Sid Sherwin
Sr. Vice Commander:	Bill Lyford
Jr. Vice Commander:	Hank Enstrom
Quartermaster:	Thom Gillespie
Chaplain:	Howard Engstrom
Judge Advocate:	Bud Fluke
2 Year Trustee:	Larry Dom
3 Year Trustee:	Michael David

#### *Board of Directors:*

1 Year:	Bob Gibson
2 Year:	Ralph Ritter
3 Year:	Charlie Mathey

# April 2004

☆☆☆☆☆☆ 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	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	1 Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	2 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	3
4 Palm Sunday	5 Woodstock Memorial Day Committee 7 pm	6 Passover VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	7 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	8 Jaycees 7 pm	9 Good Friday Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	10
 11 Happy Easter!	12 American Legion 7:30 pm	13 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	14 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	15 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	16 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	17
18	19 VFW Meeting 7 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	20 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	21 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County (7:30 pm)  Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	22 Jaycees 7 pm	23 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	24
25	26	27 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	28 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	29 Setup of Soup to Nut Sale  Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	 30 Soup to Nuts Sale and Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale  Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	 1 Soup to Nuts Sale and Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale

## Rent the VFW Hall for Your Next Meeting or Family Function

The VFW Hall is again available for rent. There is a 50% discount for VFW Members. We have both the upstairs and downstairs halls available. For more information contact Tom Price at the post: 815-338-5040. If you would like to view the hall, you can do so by visiting the VFW Post 5040 web site for pictures of both the upstairs and downstairs hall.

Basic rates for hall rental are as follows:

- Rental which does not include the VFW providing alcohol or food:
  - Upstairs: \$75.00 an hour
  - Downstairs: \$50.00 an hour
- Rental which includes the VFW selling alcohol
  - Upstairs: \$50.00 an hour
  - Downstairs: \$35.00 an hour
- Three hours minimum charge.

Other charges may be incurred depending on the what your function may need. Contact the post for more details or if you have any questions about hall rental, food or beverage questions, contract questions, etc.

## Attention WWII Veterans!

From the WWII Registry on the Internet

The memory of America's World War II generation will be preserved within the physical memorial and through the World War II Registry of Remembrances, an individual listing of Americans who contributed to the war effort.

Any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, whether a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the Registry. Names in the Registry will be forever linked to the memorial's bronze and granite representations of their sacrifice and achievement.

The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win the Second World War. The Registry includes the names of Americans who are:

- Buried in American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) overseas military cemeteries.
- Memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing.
- Listed on official War and Navy Department Killed in Service rosters now held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- Honored by public enrollment in the Registry of Remembrances.

Visit the web site at [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com).



## Survey, continued from page 3.

There were a lot of Additional Comments:

"I really love the news letter and I read it the day I get and then reread it again later to make sure I did not miss anything. I would not mind reading it online, but I live out in the middle of nowhere and it would take a long time to download.", "I approve of website, even though I have no access at present.", "Hope 2004 is a better year for the club.", "I enjoy reading the VFW News. You do a great job. I'm a life member. I joined in 1957 and was involved with VFW bowling league, and then sandwiches and card games at the club afterwards. I'm too old to bowl, but why not a night of card games or more?", "While living near the post I really enjoyed fish fry's and other social activities. I miss the post but after 8 years I recognize no one - the others have passed on.", "I look forward to receiving and reading this each month. (good job thank you).", "I don't look at the website, but we

both read the VFW News.", "You are doing a good job with the current VFW News. I have a library of news from 1982 to current.", "Going electronic takes getting used to for us old boys but we're getting there.", "I get sick & tired of everyone thinking we all should have computers. Wake up. Nothing personal.", "We need new blood running the club. Time to get rid of the old regime. They have taken from the club for years. Now we need Vietnam and younger to run the club right.", "Hate to hear bingo can't continue. When I lived there never missed a Friday night. Now I make it back in April & again September. Also in November for the Turkey Raffle (weather permitting).", "My apologies for taking so long to reply. First -- I think you should be complimented for taking on (cold) the job of editor of the Post News Letter. It is a thankless job and I'm sure you get a lot of static and little help. Didn't your Drill Instructor (D.I.) warn you "never volunteer"? I say you and the Post Officers are doing a good job. The post was badly in need of younger blood, and new ideas. After the recent series of bad events, I think the Post is starting to recover nicely. I think we are on our way up again. I don't attend meetings, because my new drivers license is restricted to daylight only. Keep up the good work.", "I'm proud to be a VFW member - when I retire and have more free time, I plan on attending more meetings.", "How about playing pinochle on Wednesday at 2:30 and finish at 5 to 5:30 for dinner?", "I have no computer and don't want one. I am a continuous member since 1952. I pay my dues, eat there sometimes and have done a few other things.", "Mighty fine news magazine! It is a great informative newsletter. I read it from cover to cover. Good work.", "My wife likes to read it too.", "God bless you all for all your efforts - for maintaining and sustaining - on behalf of my husband dead these past 20 years - who was in Korea at the onset - I applaud you."

### Dues Deadline is Near!

**April 30th** is the deadline for membership for 2004. We have about 47 members who are delinquent in their dues. Members not paying will be removed from the mailing list.

We really do value your membership, but we simply cannot pay for everyone whose membership is delinquent. If you truly have some type of financial hardship, contact the post and we'll see if something can be worked out.

Please check last months news letter to see if your name was on the delinquent membership list (page 5). If you don't have that news letter, visit the post website and download the newsletter.

Again, I thank all of you for you comments, suggestions, criticism and time to respond back to me. This information was helpful. I will try to add flavor where I can. One comment about the timing of the issue. I try to have the paper to the printer the last week of the month. I try to include information from the monthly meeting, so by the time the news letter is formatted (weekends are about my only time to do this), gets printed and mailed out, you may not receive it until the first or second week of the month. I apologize for this if it has caused any problems.

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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**

Visit our Post Website:  
**www.vfw5040.org**

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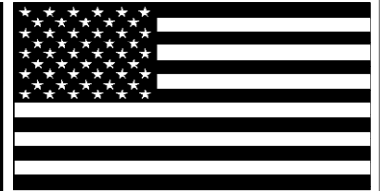
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