

Woodstock

# VFW News

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Winner of 15  
National Publication  
Awards

State Second Place  
2004

[www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)

August 2004  
Vol. 50. No. 2



Matt Klos (right) accepts VFW Department of Illinois Publications Contest Citation from VFW Post 5040 Commander Sid Sherwin (left). Klos took 2nd Place in the State of Illinois for Medium Post Awards (Matt Klos photo).

## VFW News Gets Second Place Award from State VFW

By Matt Klos

Each year, the Department of Illinois VFW holds a publication contest which invites Editors of Post newsletters to enter one copy of their publication, issued between January 1 and December 31 of the current year, in the contest. For the 2003-2004 year, the VFW Post 5040 newsletter, *VFW NEWS*, was awarded Second Place in the Medium Post category.

At the July 19th post meeting, Commander Sid Sherwin presented the award Citation to Matt Klos which was received from the Department of Illinois.

"I am honored to receive this award," Matt said after being presented with the award from Sid.

"Although I received the award, I could not have done it without the help of the Post. There are many people who have contributed to the newsletter throughout the year. Thanks to Ralph Ritter who keeps me updated with news bits from around the post and especially Don Peasley for the stories and pictures he continuously shares with me for printing in the VFW News," indicated Matt.

Matt took over the position as VFW News Editor beginning with the August 2002 issue from Don Peasley who founded the news letter in 1955.

**See Second Place, page 4.**

## Patriots Pen Chairman Needed

At the last post meeting, Jose Duran, District 5 Commander, was a featured guest speaker at the Post. One of the things that he mentioned was that it was mandatory for all posts to participate in the Patriots Pen contest. We need someone to chair this contest and get word out to the schools in our area.

Patriot's Pen, a youth essay writing contest, is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7 and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. This year, more than 116,000 students participated in the annual contest.

Contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. The first place winner receives a \$10,000 savings bond and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. The top national winners each receive a savings bond anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The 2004-2005 theme is "What Service to Our Country Means to Me." The deadline is **November 1, 2004.**

If you are interested or can help chair this event, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact the post at 815-338-5040 for more information.

## See Our Booth at Flyers and Tires

The Post will have a booth set up at Galt Airport on Saturday August 14 and Sunday, August 15 to promote the post, sign up new members, and sell Sweetheart Raffle tickets.

This is a good opportunity to introduce to the public what our post is about and what we do. It's also a good place to sign up new members for our post which we are constantly seeking out.

There will be airplanes, classic cars, motorcycles, and food and family fun at this event.

Attractions are airplane rides, helicopter rides, hot rods and classic cars, antique & military aircraft, scale model jet airplanes, burn outs and rapping, motorcycles, climbing wall, and NASCAR style r/c model racing.

Visitor entrance fees for Flyers and Tires is \$8.00 adults and \$2.00 for kids under 12 .

For more information, you can go online and visit the website at <http://flyers-tires.com>

If you have not gotten your tickets to the Sweetheart Raffle, this is a good excuse to take a drive, spend a day at the airport, see our booth and **buy a ticket** (or two).

## VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2004 - 2005

Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Senior Vice Commander	Bill Lyford	(815)-337-0025
Junior Vice Commander	Henry "Hank" Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
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	Elmer "Bud" Pflug	Not Available
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Bruce Shisler	(815)-338-4735
1 Year Trustee	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
2 Year Trustee	Larry Dohm	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Michael David	Not Available

## VFW Post 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Post Officers 2004 - 2005

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	Margaret Webb	Not Available
2 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Lois Freund	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.

## †††††††††† Chaplains Report ††††††††††

By Howard Engstrom

### Card & Phone visits:

- Ed McNett
- Leon Rahn
- Jim Shoemaker
- Joe Thiede
- Art Slack
- Marv Bohnhoff
- Ronald Bradley Family
- David Moritz Family
- Robert Greenlee Family
- Frank Carroll Family

### Draped Charter (July Meeting)

- Ronald Bradley
- David Moritz
- Robert Greenlee
- Ruth Wenk
- Frank Carroll

Please continue to call me when you know of any comrades that are ill, in the hospital, in need of a visit, etc.

## Ladies Auxiliary - From the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2004-2005

Dues notices for this coming year have not yet been sent out. They are due any time now. It is \$15.00 for the next year. This figure covers your cancer insurance and you would also be eligible for a cancer grant if you had cancer at some time.

The Auxiliary lost their small money making project when Bingo stopped on Friday nights. Money making ideas will be discussed at our next meeting on August 5th. Our meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and they are not long meetings. Refreshments are served after every meeting so try and come out to a meeting.

*Nyda Fogarty*

## Moving Wall to Return To Woodstock

Phil Meier, of Quality Water Conditioning, will once again sponsor The Moving Wall, a 253-foot replica of the 494-foot Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Moving wall, which came to Woodstock in May 2002 was sponsored by Phil who paid \$3,000 to bring the Wall to Woodstock.

The Wall has been scheduled to appear in Woodstock on Memorial Day 2005. As with the last showing of the wall, much help will be needed in setting up, taking down, scheduling honor guards, landscaping, etc. More information will be published about this event at it unfolds in future issues of the VFW News.

For more information on the Moving Wall as well as the history behind this Memorial to the Vietnam Veterans, check out the website at <http://www.themovingwall.org>

## Informal Post Picnic Scheduled

Past Commander John Hanson is having a picnic at his house for all VFW members and their guests.

Date of the picnic is **Sunday, September 19**. Time is noon till 7 PM. Address of John's home is 2718 Deep Cut road in Woodstock.

Activities will be horse shoe pitching, baseball, volley ball and swimming in his in-ground pool. Bring your grand kids if you want to. We will be having free beer and pop. We will be cooking hamburgers, hot dogs and brats. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

If you plan on going, please R.S.V.P to John so we can get some idea of how many people may be attending. He can be reached at 815-338-7890.

You will need to bring your own bug spray.

## Craver Receives Don Peasley Award

By Don Peasley

The New Horizon Veterans Center at Hebron joined in saluting men and women in service with a patriotic celebration Sunday, June 27. Alan Belcher, president of the board which established New Horizon, took the occasion to present an award to Kevin Craver, a man who is a member of the Illinois Army National Guard.

Craver, Northwest Herald reporter, was scheduled to receive the award named the Don Peasley Award, at the Circle of Life celebration but two days before the event he was called for a short period of active duty for advanced training. His infantry regiment unit may be called to support units headed to Iraq, Craver said.

Accepting the award for Craver, Kurt Begalka, Northwest Herald journalism said, "As a friend and co-worker at the Northwest Herald I've gotten to know Kevin quite well. If I were in a foxhole, I'd want him watching my back. He is an incredibly hard worker. He is skilled at his craft and tenacious at unearthing the truth, yet, he easily disarms people with his wacky sense of humor."

Begalka said, "He told me recently, 'I'm the only reporter in the newsroom who knows how to lay a landmine.'"

"Staff Sergeant Craver could be headed for Iraq, but he takes it all in stride," said Begalka.

Craver told Begalka, he felt "weird" about getting the award. "He prefers to remain below the radar in the trenches with his men. He believes there are others more deserving.

**See Craver, page 5.**



Kurt Begalka (left) accepts an award established by the New Horizon Veteran Center at Hebron. Begalka, Northwest Herald reporter, accepts the award from Don Peasley for Kevin Craver. Craver, Northwest Herald reporter, was called to active duty two days before the June 27 presentation. Alan Belcher (right), president of the New Horizon board, named the award after Don Peasley in recognition of Don's community involvement over 57 years. Craver was recognized for his "support of veterans to make sure the active soldiers and veterans are reported in the newspaper." (Don Peasley Photo).

## New Bits From Around the Post

By Ralph Ritter and Matt Klos

- We have **two transfer members** from the new Crystal Lake Post (sworn in at July 19 Meeting). Sorry Crystal Lake. They came on their own (really). Welcome!
  - Pete Bruhn
  - Georg Schindelar
- The Post has an exigent **need of an Assistant Quartermaster**. Thom Gillespie, our current Quartermaster is swamped with paperwork and could use a hand. If you can spare a couple of hours a week, have a knack for organization, then we could really use your help. Contact the post at 815-338-5040 if you can help out.
- In order to provide a better atmosphere at the Canteen and for the enjoyment of our patrons, the Post is planning on having **cable TV installed**. We would like this to be sponsored so we need 12 guys or organizations to sponsor 1 month of cable TV at the post. It doesn't cost that much. Can you help out? Contact the post if you can help.
- July was Commander **Sid Sherwin's first meeting** of year as an elected Post Officer. His previous stints as Post Commander were due to voluntarily taking on the leadership responsibility when the post was without a Commander due to resignations. Congratulations to you and all the elected 2004-2005 officers.
- Come see what happens at a 5th District meeting. All post members are encouraged to participate in these meetings to give feedback to our District Leaders.
  - Genoa, IL Sunday **August 8** 1:30 PM
  - **Woodstock, IL** Sunday **November 7** 1:30 PM
- Sell those Sweetheart Raffle tickets. Did you know that the seller of a winning ticket (the Grand Prize, 2nd, 3rd or 4th prize) will get a \$100.00? That's just for selling the winning ticket! The more you sell, the better chance you have of winning some extra cash! That's four extra chances you have of winning something for every ticket you sell.
- What's this flyer in my newsletter? Don't worry, this was approved by the post to be stuffed into the newsletter. This flyer is for the **Transitional Living Services (TLS)** which helps educate, train, and provides shelter for homeless Veterans so they can get back on their feet as productive members of society. Please take a moment and read about TLS that our Past Commander, Alan Belcher, is President of. Please make a donation. You'll be glad you did for helping a fellow Veteran.
- The lease that was signed 20 years ago on the **leasing of our Parking Lot to the city of Woodstock** expires on August 31, 2004. A full story on the outcome of negotiations will be detailed in future issue of VFW News.

## August 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
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Woodstock Memorial Day Committee 7 pm	<b>3</b> VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	<b>4</b> Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	<b>5</b> Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	<b>6</b> Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> American Legion 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	<b>11</b> Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	<b>12</b> Jaycees 7 pm Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	<b>13</b> Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	<b>14</b> Galt Airport - Flyers and Tires
<b>15</b> Galt Airport - Flyers and Tires	<b>16</b> VFW Meeting 7 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	<b>17</b> Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	<b>18</b> Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County (7:30 pm) Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	<b>19</b> Jaycees 7 pm	<b>20</b> Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	<b>25</b> Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	<b>26</b> Jaycees 7 pm	<b>27</b> Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	<b>1</b> Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	<b>2</b> Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	<b>3</b> Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	<b>4</b>

### Second Place, continued from page 1.

The VFW News over the years has received 15 National Publication Awards. For different years, it has also received awards for first, second, and third place at the State level.

“Accomplishing what Don Peasley had with the VFW News is a hard act to follow,” cited Matt.

“Don is a journalist and has many years under his belt as a writer. Unfortunately, I don’t have that type of experience. However, with the help of the post, I still think we can come out on top one of these years,” Matt acknowledged to post members when asked why he didn’t get first place. “Let’s see about next year.”

As Editor, Matt has kept the masthead of the VFW News, carried over from when Don was Editor.

“I think its important to preserve what he started. Even though I am the Editor now, he’s still a large part of the paper and I want to provide the same purpose to post members as he started out doing, providing a method of keeping members informed of VFW and Auxiliary activities and to let members know how they can help veterans in need, communicate social activities, and VFW community involvement.”

One of the new methods of communication that Matt has introduced was the creation of the VFW Post 5040 website ([www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)) in March of 2003.

“Its just another means of communicating what our post

is about, not just locally, but anyone around the world can find out what our Post is like from the web pages, pictures, news letters, etc.,” Matt said of the website.

The website features web pages on Post History, Post and Auxiliary officers, Calendar of Events, current and back issues of the VFW News (last 12 issues), pictures of the post, and even a message board to post comments on.

Matt commented on his thoughts about the post having a web presence, “Today, no matter what your institution is (business, religious, educational, military), public or private, large or small, for-profit or non-profit, you have to have a web site. Its your stake in cyberspace that says ‘Here we are! This is what we’re about.’ There are about 396 VFW Posts in Illinois alone, of those only 31 have websites listed on the National VFW webpage. That’s only 8% of Illinois VFW Posts. If you want to find out about other posts, the internet is the next best thing than actually driving to the post to attend a meeting. You don’t even have to leave home for that.”

“It’s still a learning experience. I think (and hope) that with each news letter that I create that I am getting better. Its hard to come by new stories about the post sometimes. I still have a lot to learn about journalism. I’ve seen other Post’s-news letters, borrowed some ideas, and take suggestions as they come.”

Matt also stressed that if post members have committee reports of something they did, stories involving the VFW, or suggestions, please send them to the post or Editor (address on the back of this newsletter).

### Craver, continued from page 3.

That attitude is what makes him a great choice for this honor," Begalka continued.

Presenting the award, Belcher said, "Kevin has been an active supporter of veterans and the veterans here at New Horizon. He has gone out of his way to make sure the active soldier and veterans are represented in the newspaper."

"He serves with the U.S. Army National Guard. Craver joined the National Guard 13 years ago. In 2002 he was called up and served seven months in Germany. Kevin is just the sort of reason New Horizon wants to recognize him with the Don Peasley Award.

Belcher said the award was named after Peasley in recognition of his 57 years of community involvement which includes extensive recognition of veterans' participation in our local communities.

Belcher added, "The Don Peasley Award reflects an individual who is very much a part of the roots of McHenry County. His involvement, commitment and what he's achieved in capturing the Woodstock community is huge. This award symbolizes greatness."

The June 27 event was held at the New Horizon facilities on Route 47 north of Hebron. The former Hi-Di-Ho Motel has facilities to house 14 veterans.

Said Belcher, "We give guys who are homeless a second chance at living."

The day-long activity included music, messages and 150 vendors selling everything from military memorabilia to antiques, from pets to baked dog cookies. The program included a parade from downtown Hebron with 89 motorcyclists joining in the festivities.

## Helping Our Soldiers of Today


By Anna Sherony

I have a son who is a US Marine that returned safely from his nine-month tour in Iraq. As you know we have many Service Men and Women who have not been as lucky as my son. Liz Kehrer is a proud wife of an Air Force Vietnam Vet who served as a medic with a Marine division.

Liz and I know we all are grateful Americans that understand that our freedom is a gift from the veterans of the past, present and future. It is not you and I who has made the sacrifice to keep this country free it is the Service Men and Women that have paid the price for our freedom. Our wounded Service Men and Women need to know that we care about them and their families. Most Americans haven't seen the growing numbers of wounded troops returning from war who are cared for at military facilities sealed off from the public. Little attention has been paid to the long, difficult and very personal struggles they will endure for the rest of their lives. Our wounded soldiers need to know that we have not forgotten them.

When we started this fundraiser back in November we had 2,000 wounded. We now have 5,112 wounded soldiers and over a thousand of them have lost limbs (some of them more than one) hundreds have brain damage, badly burned, blind and/or deaf for life. We have sent over a 1,000 male and female care packages to our Heroic Soldiers that are hospitalized at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC, Brookes Medical Center and to the US Medical units in Iraq and Germany. These young men and women are truly the Heart of America.

The Wounded Soldiers project seeks to assist those men and women of our armed forces who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other hot spots around the world. Many of the injuries are traumatic amputations, gunshot wounds, burns and blast injuries that will retire these brave warriors from military service. Many wounded soldiers are evacuated straight out of the field with no possessions. Each Care Package will cost, without donations from merchant's, approximately. \$45.00. You may send a care package in your name to a wounded soldier for a \$45.00 donation. Please make checks payable to **Veterans Foundation of Illinois/Wounded Soldiers**. (This foundation is a 501c(3) organization, your donation is tax-deductible).


**Send To**  Veterans Foundation of Illinois  
P.O. Box 144  
Fairbury, IL 61739

Please mark your check for the Wounded Soldiers Program. For more information see <http://www.vfwil.org/Foundation.asp>

Any help you can provide us so we can continue supporting our wounded soldiers, would be truly appreciated. With your help and support we will continue to send care packages that include: A handwritten letter of encouragement, A Kodak FunSaver 35 Flash Camera, Pen, Chocolates / Candy / Gum, AT&T Phone Card (120 minutes), Stationary/Journal, A Men's Premium Travel Kit or a Travel Kit for Women, Razors, Q-Tips, Face wash, Fanny packs, Socks. If we raise enough money we will include Shorts, T-Shirts and Sandals in the care packages, which would truly help our wounded soldiers.

Any questions please call me, Anna Sherony at 847-456-8061 or email me at ASherony@nacolah.com . Thank you for supporting our troops.


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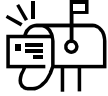
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**Letters to the Editor...**

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**  
**269 Forest Drive**  
**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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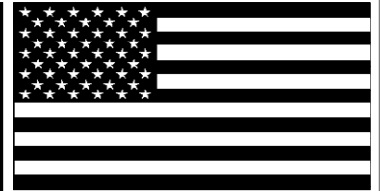
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