



# VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

## *Congratulations to our Ladies Auxiliary 5040 on reaching their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

January 29, 1947 - 2007



To kick off 2007, our Auxiliary needs to be recognized for reaching a milestone in our Post's history. This month they reach their 60th Anniversary. Congratulations to all our Auxiliary members, both past and present for helping to keep the Auxiliary organization running and performing the many activities that have served our community and veterans alike.

On January 29, 1947, the Auxiliary received their charter and Ms. Genevieve Steagall (Conway) was installed as the Auxiliary's first President.

The charter was instituted with 26 members and then was held open for three more months, which added seven more

members for a total of 33 in April, 1947. The original charter members are listed below:

- |                        |                             |                               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Martha Bennett       | • Elsie Jacobs              | • Doris Neuchiller            |
| • Loretta Brown        | • Margaret Johnson          | • Phyllis Palmquist           |
| • Grace Conway         | • Elizabeth Joorfetz        | • Lelia Pratt                 |
| • Catherine Cooney     | • Leonie Kennedy            | • Anna Purvey                 |
| • Karlen Cooney        | • Robin Kennedy             | • Edna Rainsford              |
| • Katherine Cooney     | • Eleanor Kesselring        | • Mamie Robertson             |
| • Mary Cooney          | • Agnes Liddell             | • Genevieve Roper             |
| • Lill Eckert          | • Betty Mishler             | • Grace Sohst                 |
| • Patricia Gaylord     | • Clara Mishler             | • Margaret Stamets            |
| • Mary Harriet Buckley | • Catherine Mishler Gregory | • Genevieve Steagall (Conway) |
| • Darlene Howell       | • Arline Morocili Karlson   | • Edna Thomson                |

Last year in April of 2006, the VFW celebrated its 60 year anniversary and a formal

See AUXILIARY ANNIVERSARY, page 6.



Your community blood service since 1943.

### Third annual pancake breakfast and blood drive at VFW Post 5040

By Matt Klos

Sid Sherwin, VFW Post 5040 past Commander, is chairing a blood drive for the VFW at the end of January. The blood drive is scheduled for **January 21** (that's a Sunday) from **8:30 am to 1:30 pm**. The blood collection agency that will be on site is Heartland Blood Center which will have a mobile coach in the VFW Parking lot to perform the collections.

To help replenish you after you give blood, Sid and the officers will be cooking a **Pancake Breakfast**. Even if you are unable to donate, come on down for the breakfast. This will be open to anyone. Those not donating will have to pay for a meal (\$5), but if you donate, your meal is free! If you plan to donate, remember to:

- Bring a photo ID with you.
- Be in good health and feeling well.
- Eat something before you donate.
- It must be greater than 8 weeks since your last whole blood donation.
- If you received any body piercings or tattoos for Christmas, you'll have to wait 12 months before you can donate.

Did you know:

- More than 500 blood donations are needed daily to save patient lives.

- Every 3 seconds someone needs blood.
- Blood donated to Heartland Blood Centers is provided to hospitals in Illinois and Indiana.
- Blood is needed every minute of EVERY day, summer, winter, spring and fall.
- Only about five percent of the eligible population donates blood.
- You can donate blood every 56 days.
- Donating one unit of blood can help save the lives of at least three people.

Pre-signup for donating blood is preferred. For an appointment, please contact the Woodstock VFW at 815-338-5040, or Sid Sherwin at 815-338-5573. Please bring a photo ID to the blood drive.

More information can be found on Heartland's website:

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

## VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2006 - 2007

|                       |                        |                |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Commander             | William Lyford         | (815)-337-0025 |
| Senior Vice Commander | Henry Nulle            | (815)-337-7529 |
| Junior Vice Commander | Fred Noble             | (815)-338-5655 |
| Quartermaster         | Thom Gillespie         | (815)-338-6826 |
| Chaplain              | Howard Engstrom        | (815)-338-4453 |
| Assistant Chaplain    | Charles (Chuck) Mathey | (815)-338-5374 |
| Service Officer       | Ron Nehls              | (815)-568-0708 |
| Judge Advocate        | Dick Glawe             | (815)-385-3156 |
| Post Surgeon          | Harold Irwin           | (815)-338-1264 |
| Officer-of-the-Day    | Bruce Shisler          | (815)-338-4735 |
| Adjutant              | Dwayne Raney           | (815)-338-1652 |
| 1 Year Trustee        | Allen Belcher          | (815)-338-7689 |
| 2 Year Trustee        | Arnie Doerfert         | (815)-385-2923 |
| 3 Year Trustee        | Larry Dhom             | (815)-338-4134 |

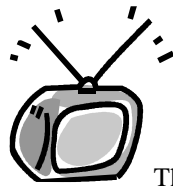
## Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2006 - 2007

|                       |                  |                |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 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                 | Margie Humphrey  | Unavailable    |
| Conductress           | Irene Brown      | (815)-459-3483 |
| 1 Year Trustee        | Lois Freund      | (815)-338-5261 |
| 2 Year Trustee        | Margaret Webb    | (815)-338-4213 |
| 3 Year Trustee        | Marie Salyers    | (815)-206-3910 |

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## Spare a couple of bucks to help get us a TV?

The Post over the last year has been trying to improve its overall appearance inside and make it more "patron" friendly.

Bud Porter, one of our VFW members, has

## Ladies Auxiliary from the president

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2006-2007

The Past Presidents dinner was held at the Heritage House in Harvard on Thursday, December 14. Our Auxiliary party and dinner was on December 7 at the Post. I want to thank Chris Gehrke who took care of preparing the meat for the dinner which was a potluck. Thanks also to Viola Brown and her daughter Bonnie Kagel who were co-chairman for this event and did a wonderful job on the table decorations and prizes for games.

Everything was going fine and everyone was having a good time. In the middle of the party we were informed we had cut our celebration short as the club was closing.

This certainly put a damper on the evening. We were not informed that we would not be able to stay in the club after 9 pm., as that is when they close on Thursday nights. Depending on patronage or special arrangements, the Post could have stayed open later. We are always out before 9 pm at regular meeting nights but of course the Christmas dinner and party are exceptions. Just a miscommunication on the party this year. Next year we will make sure it goes longer.

Winners for the drawing for three free dues for next year are: Karen Wells, Geraldine Salyers and myself.

At our February meeting, District President Mrs. Lorene Anderson will be at our meeting for the annual inspection. There was a mix up for November and she did not come.

The District Voice of Democracy (VOD) Dinner will be held in Antioch on January 13, according to Gene Lewandowski, 5<sup>th</sup> District Quartermaster. The Department VOD will be on February 10.

The Ladies District meeting will be held on February 25 at Sequoit Post 4551 at Antioch.

Please see that your dues for this year are paid up as soon as possible. If you know anyone eligible to be a member of VFW Auxiliary please encourage them to join.

January 29 marks the Auxiliary's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. So, "Happy Anniversary" to our Auxiliary members!

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year for 2007!

spearheaded a fund drive to collect donations for one, possibly two, 42" flat screen televisions for the bar area. Donations are being accepted of any amount. We are looking to get this in time for Super Bowl.

The idea behind this is to make the bar area more friendly and hopefully draw more people into visiting our Post.

Any additional money collected over the cost will go to cable fees for this year. If you'd like to help out, send a contribution to: **Bud Porter, c/o TV Fund, 240 Throop St, Woodstock.**

Thanks for your help!

## My memories of Fred Wallis 1931-2006

By Harold Irwin

On December 17, 2006 a memorial service was held for Frederick "Fred" Wallis. He was a Life Member of our Post and a Korean War veteran. Representing the VFW Honor Guard, Fred Noble and I presented a folded American flag to the family at the service. I have some fond memories of Fred and I'd like to share them with you.

Many years ago I was trying to coordinate the taping program for 13 shut-ins of the First United Methodist Church. Fred helped me by using the master tape of our Church Services to make the thirteen copies we needed, on the high speed copiers at his office at our community college. He also gave me good advice as to the best blank tapes to purchase and later when we bought a tape copier, the best kind to buy. He also helped me out in other ways too numerous to mention.

After Fred retired from the college, he started keeping an address list of the members of VFW Post 5040 in his computer for the monthly mailing of the Post *VFW News*. He printed the labels off this list. I took over the monthly mailing of the news letter about seven years ago. During the last week of each month, I'd take accumulated address changes and other corrections to Fred's house, where he entered them into his computer, then printed the labels.

While his printer was working, he and I had many a good discussion about many different subjects: religion, our Faith, our community, VFW, medical problems, the military, or whatever. It was during these times that I really got to know Fred. He had a very sharp and analytical mind and was very knowledgeable about Woodstock community affairs.

I very much valued advice from him. He was a **good man** and I miss him! May God Bless his soul!

## Final roll call for our deceased members of VFW Post 5040, December 18, 2006

The following 26 VFW Post 5040 members were remembered at the last Post meeting of the 2006 year with a bell tolling. Each of the deceased Veterans will be remembered for their duty to country and the contributions they made in life. May God bless each of our departed comrades and their families:

- Vincent C. Behrens
- Max L. Cain
- Bertrand M. Emerson
- Edgar E. Gates
- Carl L. Greenleaf
- Charles M. Griswold
- Adam Hardt
- John A. Hauri
- Jerald Kehe
- Wilbur Kiefer
- Robert Kieselburg
- Richard Klasen
- William R. Leanna
- Clifford T. Mackey
- Stanley J. Malinowski
- Richard A. May
- Robert K. McConkey
- Edward L. McNett
- Raymond F. Parisek
- William Stake
- Edward R. Stanger
- Donald J. Stolz
- Frank Svoboda
- Joseph B. Thiede
- Frederick H. Wallis
- Gordon R. Wallis

## Current operations at our Post

By Becky Gillespie, club manager

First, I would like to thank Matt Klos, the membership and the Post's Officers for recognizing my efforts at the VFW. I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to have the job as the club manager. For the most part (about 99%) of the time, I have never felt "dumped on" and yes, there have been times when I felt there was so much more to do here at the Post than I could handle.

This post needs it's members to survive. There are so many people that are here, day in and day out, volunteering their time, doing what it is that they do best, doing the things that are important to them, and in the timeframe that fits their life and lifestyle that keeps this place going. For all of that, I am very thankful to each and everyone.

It is that 99% of the time, that is the best part. I really do enjoy what you (the Post) let me do here. It doesn't have anything to do with the "paycheck". If anyone really took the time to see what I am paid here, they would very easily see that I make only about half of the Federal minimum wage based on the hours that I put in. A very good friend of mine (our Bar Manager "Miss Wonderful" aka Peggy) has a saying, "Sometimes, less is more". That sentiment is so accurate about how I feel about working at the VFW. I receive so much more back from spending time at the Post than money could ever buy. Less is definitely more!

Matt is also right that the Post is getting back on solid ground. As of last December, the bar/canteen account held only about \$675. As of the first week this De-

ember, it's balance was just below \$6,000. It has also for the first time in many years been paying for all of it's own fees, such as licenses and fees needed to operate under federal, state, county and city ordinances as well as the workman's compensation insurance. In the past few years, the Post account has had to not only cover these expenses, but also transfer anywhere between \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month to continue the operation of running the bar and kitchen.

In reviewing the income and expenditures for all of the Post's accounts from January 1, 2006 to November 30, 2006, the Post's overall outflow exceeded it's income by \$19,352.03. Of this figure, \$9,416.18 was spent on renovations to the building while another \$3,259.17 was spent on updating the furnaces. The renovations and upgrading the furnace have greatly improved the overall appearance as well as reduced the cost of our gas bill. However, the bottom line is that the expenditures still exceed our income by \$6,676.68.

The Post Donated \$600 to the VFW 5th District, \$266 to Adult and Child Rehab Center, \$100 to Christmas Clearing House, \$275 to American Legion/Boys State, \$850 to TLS, \$200 to Westlake Church, \$123 VFW National Home, \$300 to Little League totaling \$2,714 from January 1, 2006 to November 30, 2006. For this same period of time, the Relief Fund has had \$2,045.11 in expenditures.

Other than the above mentioned expenditures, all other expenses are bills that are necessary for the Post to continue operating the building. These are not bills that we can just say "I think it costs too much or I think I'll pay it later. Everyone knows that property taxes, utility bills, insurance,

repairs and maintenance are not "optional" nor do we get to say what we are "willing" to pay for these things.

We have opened our doors to many organizations that meet at the Post on a very regular basis. No organization is made to feel that they are more or less important than any other. The VFW Board of Officer's is responsible to see that the operation of the building is being handled properly. Based on the amount of expenditures, the post needs to bring in approximately an additional \$20 per day to maintain the operation of the building for it's future to continue. If it doesn't, at the rate of excess from January to November 2006, the post will run out of funds in the savings account in approximately 3 years. At that time, it is very possible that there won't be a building for any of the organizations to meet at.

There are many things that these organizations can do to help us maintain our building and keep our costs in line. Most of these things are as simple as letting us know what time frame your group will be in the building, or if your group is not going to make it in on a given night, and simply cleaning up the area you were in before you leave. These things may seem small and petty, however, they are issues that cost the post money (utility, employee, taxes, and insurance expenses to name a few) that could be used in a better manner.

While reading this, it may seem bleak, however, it is anything but. We had very few hall rentals for private parties this last year. We already have more bookings scheduled for the next few months than we had altogether last year. I also have a few that are still in the works for other dates.

We are now also hosting a monthly dinner for the McHenry County Marine Corps League. The National Guard board is also now meeting here on occasion at the post. We are bringing more and more veterans in general to our post. They may or may not be eligible as members to the VFW, but they are veterans none the less, and above all, deserve respect.

**Happy 2007 VFW  
Post 5040 and  
Auxiliary!**

From your Post  
and Auxiliary Officers

## Ideas for Post and Auxiliary activities

Commentary by Dwayne Raney

Various groups that meet in the post on a regular basis can't, don't and won't ever provide sufficient income via the bar. What is needed are more ways and ideas, new and old, to help maybe change that picture.

Yes, there is food served on Wednesday and Friday nights, but no more bingo players ordering and taking their meals upstairs before and while they played bingo on Fridays!

Case in point, when was the last time Tom and Jerry's were served, say around Thanksgiving and Christmas like it use to be done on a regular basis?

There hasn't been either an Easter or Christmas party held for the children and grandchildren for too long of a time now. Why not?

When did the Post last have an Appreciation Dinner for the members of the Ladies Auxiliary? A Membership Kickoff Dinner? A Halloween Party for the kids? Maybe one for the adults?

The VFW used to also have Bowling Banquets following each season in the years now long and gone.

Of course, the once biggest annual function was the annual VFW State Officers Dinner and Dance with bands playing upstairs and downstairs just prior to the VJ Day Parade and Pageant of Drums the next day and night.

True enough, most of these ideas may never be explored again, but that is life.

So, if anybody has any ideas as to what have as a social event to help raise much needed money to keep the post open, just step forward - please.

## VFW 5040 hosts Nat'l Guard Christmas

By Don Peasley  
VFW News Editor 1955-2002

Woodstock VFW leaders and especially club manager Becky Gillespie were honored to host a dinner and entertainment for members of the National Guard Delta Company at the Woodstock VFW Hall.

The December 2 event included gifts for about 20 children of National Guard members. Gillespie organized the evening's activities and arranged for help through Toys for Tots, Sam's Club, Wal-Mart and the Department of Illinois VFW for the dinner and program.

"It was a privilege to host this party for

See GUARD CHRISTMAS, page 5.

## Upcoming events in 2007- mark your calendars

By Becky Gillespie

Here are some of the upcoming events in 2007 that you might want to mark on your calendar or be aware of:

- **January 21, 2007** Sunday - 8:30 am to 1:30 pm -- Pancake Breakfast/Blood Drive \$5.00 per person for breakfast - donors receive free breakfast.
- **January 25, 2007** Thursday - 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm -- Turkey Fry \$6.00 per person.
- **February 3, 2007** Saturday - upstairs hall - Marion Central Football Team Banquet (private rental) 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.
- **February 4, 2007** Sunday - McHenry County Marine Corps League - Superbowl Party (time TBA); \$20 in advance includes beer, pop and food - \$25 at the door.
- **February 11, 2007** Sunday - upstairs hall - Cub Scouts Pack #350 Banquet (private rental); 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- **February 24, 2007** Saturday - upstairs hall - wedding reception (private rental); 4:00 pm to close.
- **March 3, 2007** Saturday - Spaghetti Dinner/Auction - Dinner 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Auction begins at 6:00 pm.
- **March 17, 2007** Saturday - St. Patrick's Day - Corned Beef and Cabbage Buffet Dinner. 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm - \$8.00 per person.
- **March 31, 2007** Saturday - Past Commander's Dinner in the works. Much more work to do to organize.
- **May 11, 2007** Weekend - Soup to Nuts - more information to follow.
- **May 18 & 19, 2007** Friday and Saturday - Poppy Days.
- **May 28, 2007** Monday - Memorial Day parade begins at 11:00 am - luncheon immediately following - menu will again, as it was last year, be determined by the Memorial Day Committee.
- **June 17, 2007** Sunday - Father's Day Pig Roast. More information to follow.

## November Turkey Raffle results

By Don Sword and Matt Klos

The numbers are in and results tabulated. After all expenses were taken care of, the Post brought in \$8,084.58. This was down from last year. We also only did 14 paddle wheel drawings instead of the usual 15.

About 300 dinners were served and we actually ran out of food at the end of the night. Helping us serve all this food was the Woodstock Little League which we thank you very much for doing.

The winners of the main prize drawings were the following:

|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| First Place (\$150.00): | <b>John Jacobs</b>                    |
| Second Place (\$100):   | <b>Merrymen Excavation, Woodstock</b> |
| Third Place (\$50):     | <b>Manning Concrete, Huntley</b>      |

Thanks to all of you that supported your post by purchasing raffle tickets. We look forward to this next November and hope that you'll help support us once again.

## VFW dues increase in 2007; both annual and life membership

If you have been saying to yourself that "this is the year" that you are going to get a Life Membership to the VFW, you might want to save some extra money before you write the check.

Effective for 2007, annual and Life Membership dues are increasing. For those of you that pay annually, dues are going up to \$30 a year, an increase in \$5. For Life Memberships, the increase has been significant, nearly doubling in price from previous years:

| Attained Age | 2006 Fee | 2007 Fee     |
|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Through 30   | \$245    | <b>\$425</b> |
| 31-40        | \$235    | <b>\$410</b> |
| 41-50        | \$215    | <b>\$375</b> |
| 51-60        | \$195    | <b>\$335</b> |
| 61-70        | \$165    | <b>\$290</b> |
| 71-80        | \$125    | <b>\$225</b> |
| 80 and up    | \$85     | <b>\$170</b> |

VFW Post 5040 still offers to pay \$50 towards your Life Membership if you want to pursue this.

## 50 Unpaid Members

Wondering if you have already paid your 2006-2007 membership fee? As of December 31, 2006, the list below shows those members that have not sent in their dues as of yet. The unhappy smiley ☹ indicates that National says your 2005-2006 dues were not paid as well as your 2006-2007 dues.

| Name                     | Address               |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ☹ Aiello, Andrew C.      | Wonder Lake, IL       |
| ☹ Albin, Stanley C.      | Dixon, IL             |
| ☹ Anderson, Jeff .       | APO, AE               |
| ☹ Andrew, George R.      | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Arteaga, Carol E.      | APO, AE               |
| ☹ Barone, Phillip .      | Lake In The Hills, IL |
| ☹ Beaudine, Bruce A.     | Harvard, IL           |
| ☹ Borchardt, Orville A.  | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Brendel, Brett A.      | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Brizzi, Jeremy D.      | New York, NY          |
| ☹ Cabezas, Jorge E.      | Cary, IL              |
| ☹ Carroll, Thomas J.     | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Clawson, Mark A.       | Hundred, WV           |
| ☹ Dionne, William E.     | Marengo, IL           |
| ☹ Elsinger, Jeremiah J.  | Steubenville, OH      |
| ☹ Elsinger, Joseph A.    | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Erbstoesser, James C.  | Marengo, IL           |
| ☹ Erwin, Edward D.       | Genoa City, WI        |
| ☹ Falk, Samuel O.        | Crystal Lake, IL      |
| ☹ Fleck, Bob J.          | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Florko, Jordan C.      | Holiday Hills, IL     |
| ☹ Gardiner, Wayne J.     | Pickens, SC           |
| ☹ Gaylord, Bradley J.    | Flower Mound, TX      |
| ☹ Grell, Jonathan R.     | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Hodory, Donald J.      | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Hoholf, Brittany L.    | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Lemke, Arnold .        | Belvidere, IL         |
| ☹ Lydick, Dwayne A.      | Island Lake, IL       |
| ☹ Lynch, Michael J.      | Harvard, IL           |
| ☹ Magana, Raul .         | Harvard, IL           |
| ☹ Maloney, Thomas S.     | Lake Geneva, WI       |
| ☹ Nelson, Eugene L.      | Belvidere, IL         |
| ☹ Olson, Douglas K.      | Crystal Lake, IL      |
| ☹ Paulsen, Brad M.       | Wonder Lake, IL       |
| ☹ Pedersen, Ralph R.     | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Radloff, Stephen W.    | Trenton, IL           |
| ☹ Reichenbach, Jeffrey . | Marengo, IL           |
| ☹ Rousey, Andrew .       | Cary, IL              |
| ☹ Sanborn, Bob .         | Rochester, MN         |
| ☹ Sanborn, Everett T.    | Rochester, MN         |
| ☹ Schulemann, Calvin E.  | Lake In The Hills, IL |
| ☹ Seegert, Brad W.       | Crystal Lake, IL      |
| ☹ Shugart, Nathan S.     | Rockford, IL          |
| ☹ Sokolski, Joseph V.    | Buffalo Grove, IL     |
| ☹ Speechley, William E.  | Crystal Lake, IL      |
| ☹ Welker, James D.       | Marengo, IL           |
| ☹ Willholt, Thomas .     | Woodstock, IL         |
| ☹ Witt, Ronald W.        | Wichita, KS           |
| ☹ Wright, Harold F.      | Dunedin, FL           |
| ☹ Zoes, James E.         | Woodstock, IL         |

## Guard Christmas

Continued from page 4.

veterans and their families,” said Gillespie. “I was part of an evening that will be unforgettable. I spent an evening with men and families of all ages that made sacrifices in their lives and have served both in this country and in foreign conflicts.

“I feel fortunate to have been a part of being with these men dressed in uniforms, socializing in a manner that showed no age barriers and exhibiting the ultimate signs of absolute respect for one another.

“Most of us take for granted that our families will spend Christmas together. For Delta Company families spending Christmas together as a family may well be a luxury,” concluded Gillespie.

It’s noteworthy that several members of the Rifle Squad helped serve the dinner. Earlier in the day the Rifle Squad members provided honor guard participation at a morning funeral and at an afternoon funeral.

VFW Commander Bill Lyford welcomed the families of the National Guard and said it was an honor for the VFW to be able to welcome them to the home of Post 5040.

Members of the VFW Rifle Squad wind up a busy December 2 by serving dinner to members of the Company D National Guard at a Christmas party hosted by the Woodstock VFW. Earlier in the day, the Rifle Squad members participated in funerals for two veterans. Serving, from left: Bob Gaylord, Bob Gibson, Larry Dhom and Chuck Mathey. (Don Peasley Photo)



Woodstock VFW hosted a Christmas party for members of the National Guard, based at the Woodstock Armory, with 130 attending. From left: Becky Gillespie, VFW Club manager; First Lieutenant Zachary Thomas, executive officer of Company D; and Bill Lyford, VFW Commander. (Don Peasley Photo).

One highlight of the National Guard Christmas party was gifts for children accompanying parents to the VFW-sponsored event. Staff Sergeant Keith Buteyn Jr. enjoys watching his daughter Emelie, 19 months, examine a package before opening it. Becky Gillespie, VFW Club manager who organized the Christmas party, watches Emelie satisfy her curiosity. (Don Peasley Photo).



## Great job, Becky!

The following is an email Becky Gillespie received Monday, December 4, two days after she hosted the Christmas party for members of the National Guard based in Woodstock. The e-mail is from Jill Winling, FRG Co-leader, Company D 1/178 INF.

Becky,

I wanted to send a quick note to you to express our thanks for everything that you did to make the Delta Company Christmas Party a huge success! It was an enjoyable night for all. The food was wonderful...the decorating was beautiful...the gifts for the kids were amazing...and the service was excellent. I can't even tell you just how enjoyable it was. You went over and above with everything that you did... and for this we cannot thank you enough. Please know that we will be expressing our thanks as a unit in another manner... but I could not pass up this chance to thank you myself.

Jill Winling  
FRG Co-Leader  
Co D 1/178 INF

# Auxiliary Anniversary

Continued from page 1.

dinner was held at the Post. This celebration also acknowledged the past presidents and charter members of the Auxiliary.

In looking back at some of the old *VFW News* issues, I found the "Reflections" column to the right in an issue from February 1972. It's a nice little "blast from the past" to bring back memories of what our Auxiliary did and how they contributed to the success of the VFW and helped in the community.

Also in this 1972 issue were some events that were highlighted throughout the years. These included Downey Hospital visits, the Auxiliarettes (dancing group of Auxiliary members who entertained for those that remember), important community service projects, and miscellaneous pictures of Auxiliary events.

In this issue and in the next month or so, vignettes of the Auxiliary over the past 60 years will be presented. If any of the Auxiliary members would like to have something included in the next few issues, please contact the *VFW News* editor, Matt Klos (see back page for address).

Again, congratulations to the 5040 Ladies Auxiliary. I hope over the next month or so that some of you reach out with a memory that you want to share with the rest of the VFW about the Auxiliary.

## REFLECTIONS "DOWN THE YEARS" WITH THE PAST PRESIDENTS

- 1947-48. Genevieve Conway** — In the first year of our Auxiliary, members went to Downey Hospital twice a month. Members were required to give pass word to the Conductress at the beginning of each meeting.
- 1948-49 Alta Kirkman** — Meeting changed from 2nd and 4th Wednesday night to the 1st and 3rd Thursdays.
- 1949-50 Irene Gorenflo** — First Carnival sponsored by Post and Auxiliary, with a profit from food stand of over \$800. We were working in the dark, not knowing anything, served frozen buns and hot pop because we had so many people and they didn't seem to mind.
- 1950-51 Robin Kennedy** — Much refurbishing of Club during this time to make it more attractive. Donation of two wheelchairs to county.
- 1951-52 Patricia Gaylord** — First time no one would accept the Presidency at the end of her year. We had to have a special meeting for nominations, or the Auxiliary would have had to give up. Only time the Festival was scheduled to run 5 days; due to poor weather, it was extended 3 more days.
- 1952-53 Ruby Wilkerson** — Picked out the dishes for the Auxiliary kitchen.
- 1953-54 Joan Mansfield** — First family potlucks started, and we didn't know how many to expect and had spaghetti coming "out of our ears."
- 1954-55 Eleanor Kesselring** — Largest crowd ever to attend installation ceremonies to that date. May 15, 1955, entertained the 5th District at our Post home.
- 1955-56 Leonie Kennedy** — Year that the first Appreciation Dinner was served the Auxiliary by the Post.
- 1956-57 Beulah White** — 10th Anniversary and honoring of Charter members.
- 1957-58, 1961-62 Naomi Olcott** — started 1st Junior Girls Unit with 52 members.
- 1958-59 Vera Erb** — Fashion show sponsored by Post and Auxiliary. Entertainment by V-Ettes, Betty Thiede and Elmer Clausen.
- 1959-60 Hazel Lappin** — Attended the National Convention during her year at Los Angeles, with Auxiliary member Elna Schmidt; they heard a talk by Vice President Nixon, and visited the VA Hospital in San Fernando Valley (which was destroyed by the California Earthquake in 1971).
- 1960-61, 1963-64 Zelma Schulz** — Donating a painting called "The Big Moment" to the Woodstock Children's Home to hang over their fireplace.
- 1962-63 Grace Hoey** — Post and Auxiliary received citation from City of Woodstock for outstanding work in Community Service, also received such a citation from the State VFW.
- 1964-65 Marguerite Lange** — Jim Bates of Woodstock was recipient of a certificate of appreciation from VA Hospital in Downey for 19 years' service of bringing orchestral entertainment.
- 1965-66 Helen Kyle** — Cancer Insurance for Auxiliary members started this year. Remodeled downstairs ladies' room.
- 1966-67, 1967-68 Glenna Cross** — Had Past President Marguerite Lange pin the 'Teacher of the Year' award on her mother, Mrs. Gladys Perkins.
- 1968-69 Yvonne Wolff** — While Yvonne was president, her husband Howie was club steward and daughter-in-law-to-be was Miss VFW. Auxiliary meetings were reduced to one meeting a month during this year. May be the only President that rode in a rumble seat in the Parade.
- 1969-70 Mary Wille** — decision to purchase new stainless steel sinks for the kitchen.
- 1970-71 DeDe Schuld** — Post celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

## PATRIOTIC AND VETERAN PROJECTS

- Sponsored first Candidate for National Mother of Year — Elizabeth Behler, 1958.
- Sponsoring with the Post, Memorial Day Services honoring the communities Gold Star Mothers Nov. 11, 1957, with Sen. Everett Dirksen as guest speaker.
- Serving many dinners in the Post home to make money, such as the Saddle Club Annually.
- Assist with providing and preparing flower baskets for the cemeteries on Memorial Day.
- Providing schools with copies of etiquette of the Stars and Stripes.
- Serving dinner for Post meetings, family potlucks, rummage sales.
- Annual trips to National Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich., donating jams, jellies and canned goods to home and remembering Illinois children with birthday cards and gifts.
- Forming Auxiliarettes, a dancing group of Auxiliary members who entertained at many special events. Auxiliarettes were: Ruby Wilkerson, Jan Riggle, Pauline O'Brien, Betty Stackhouse, Lorraine Holm, Helen Lee, Betty Mishler and Loretta Heidtke.
- Flags and markers are placed on deceased members' graves on Memorial Day.
- Annual VFW and Auxiliary picnic at City Park.
- September, 1961:** Pleasant Street was best-dressed street in town with 40 families displaying American flags. Project sponsored by Auxiliary President Naomi Olcott to comply with President John F. Kennedy's request to display flags on holidays, and they still do.
- V-Ettes, Auxiliary-sponsored drill team composed of VFW Auxiliary members. Took first place trophy in Loyalty Day Parade, May, 1961, July, 1960, Fiesta Day, McHenry, 1st place trophy for best marching Women's drill team. 1st place for general effects and best crowd-pleasing unit in Maywood. Marched in Bataan Day Parade, Sept. 1960 and participated in first Rose Festival at Roselle, Ill., August, 1960.
- Poppy Days:** Sponsored by Post and Auxiliary. Among other things money used for Downey Hospital trip expenses.
- Fish fries, tip party dinners to honor those who had helped at both dinners and fish fries.
- Installing teams of the Auxiliary has functioned at many installations.
- Many of our Auxiliary members have served as district chairmen and officers, and also at Department level.
- Sept. 16, 1958:** Fashion Show at Woodstock High School sponsored by Post and Auxiliary. Auxiliary Drill Team performed, Betty Thiede did Hawaiian Dance and Elmer Clausen sang a solo.
- Attendance yearly of the Patriotic Instructor to the Patriotic conference in Chicago each February.
- Donation of \$15 worth of scissors in 1955 to Past President Robin Kennedy, living then in the Philippines, so that many young girls on the island could learn to sew.
- Joint meetings of the Post and Auxiliary, when the Auxiliarettes help entertain.
- Auxiliary sponsored bowling teams and provided outfits for them.
- VFW Post and Auxiliary Joint Entertainment committee organized and sponsored many parties for the members social nights at the Post Home: Carson City Nights; Chinese New Year's; Hawaiian Luau; Back to School Party; Christmas Dinner Dances; Hallowe'en Parties, Valentine Party.
- 1971 Fall:** Present President Marian Long, sponsoring a Bazaar to raise money to help cover expense for the 25th Anniversary celebration. She hopes it will be an annual event.

## Congratulations on 60 years Ladies Auxiliary!

### For the record

The below list are the Presidents of the Auxiliary for the past 60 years. This list represents a lot of hard work by some very dedicated women. Congratulations.

## Auxiliary Presidents 1947 thru 2007

|                                    |                         |                       |                         |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1947 - Genevieve Steagall (Conway) | 1959 - Hazel Lappin     | 1972 - Marian Long    | 1985 - Barbara Gehrke   | 1998 - Nyda Fogarty     |
| 1948 - Alta Kirkman                | 1960 - Zelma Schulz     | 1973 - Vera Erb       | 1986 - Cleo Engebretson | 1999 - Cathy Schmieding |
| 1949 - Irene Gorenflo              | 1961 - Naomi Olcott     | 1974 - Vera Erb       | 1987 - Cleo Engebretson | 2000 - Cathy Schmieding |
| 1950 - Robin Kennedy               | 1962 - Grace Holy       | 1975 - Zelma Schulz   | 1988 - Chris Gehrke     | 2001 - Barbara Gehrke   |
| 1951 - Patricia Gaylord            | 1963 - Zelma Schulz     | 1976 - Chris Gehrke   | 1989 - Barbara Gehrke   | 2002 - Nyda Fogarty     |
| 1952 - Ruby Wilkerson              | 1964 - Marguerite Lange | 1977 - Sue Kyle       | 1990 - Barbara Gehrke   | 2003 - Nyda Fogarty     |
| 1953 - Joan Mansfield              | 1965 - Helen Kyle       | 1978 - Nyda Fogarty   | 1991 - Cleo Engebretson | 2004 - Nyda Fogarty     |
| 1954 - Eleanor Torgeson            | 1966 - Glenna Cross     | 1979 - Glenna Cross   | 1992 - Pennie Nolan     | 2005 - Nyda Fogarty     |
| 1955 - Leonie Kennedy              | 1967 - Glenna Cross     | 1980 - Barbara Gehrke | 1993 - Barbara Gehrke   | 2006 - Nyda Fogarty     |
| 1956 - Beulah Cristy               | 1968 - Yvonne Wolff     | 1981 - Loraine Loss   | 1994 - Cathy Schmieding | 2007 - Nyda Fogarty     |
| 1957 - Naomi Olcott                | 1969 - Mary Wille       | 1982 - Chris Gehrke   | 1995 - Viola Brown      |                         |
| 1958 - Vera Erb                    | 1970 - Dee Dee Schuld   | 1983 - Mraian Long    | 1996 - Viola Brown      |                         |
|                                    | 1971 - Marian Long      | 1984 - Chris Gehrke   | 1997 - Nyda Fogarty     |                         |

# January 2007

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise - closing times vary depending on patronage) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

| 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          |
| 31  |  <p><b>Happy New Year - 2007</b></p>                                | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Dirtt Group 7 pm</p>  | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>Wednesday Dinner Specials - BBQ Ribs (\$10) or Fried Chicken (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p> <p>Cub Scouts - ?? pm</p>  | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm</p>                               | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p>             | <b>6</b>          |
| <b>7</b>  | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm</p> <p>American Legion 7:30 pm</p>   | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>VFW Board Mtg. 7pm</p> <p>Dirtt Group 7 pm</p>                          | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Wednesday Dinner Specials - Prime Rib - 10 oz cut (\$10) 5 - 8 pm</p>   | <b>11</b>  | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>Friday Dinner Special: Meat Loaf (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p>              | <b>13</b>         |
| <b>14</b>   | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:30 pm - Floor mtg.</p> <p><b>Deadline for February 2007 VFW News items</b></p> | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>Dirtt Group 7 pm</p>   | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>Wednesday Dinner Specials - BBQ Ribs (\$10) or Fried Chicken (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p> <p>Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:30 pm</p> | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Marines 7 pm</p> <p>Marines Auxiliary 7 pm</p>                     | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p>            | <b>20</b>         |
| <p><b>Annual 21 Blood Drive and Pancake Breakfast</b></p> <p>Complimentary breakfast for blood donors. Donation times from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm</p>  | <b>22</b>  | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>VFW Board Mtg. 7:00 pm</p> <p>Jaycees 7 pm</p> <p>Dirtt Group 7 pm</p> | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Wednesday Dinner Specials - Pork Chop (\$8) or Seasoned Chicken Breast (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p>   | <p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Turkey Fry</b></p> <p>5:00 pm to 8:00 pm \$6.00 per person.</p> | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>Friday Dinner Special: Lasagna w/Garlic Bread (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p> | <b>27</b>         |
| <b>28</b>   | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>Little League 7 pm</p> <p><b>Ladies Auxiliary reaches their 60 year anniversary today!</b></p>                                   | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Dirtt Group 7 pm</p>   | <p><b>31</b></p> <p>Wednesday Dinner Specials - Butterfly Shrimp (\$8) or Fried Chicken (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p>  | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm</p>                               | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) 5 - 8 pm</p>             | <b>3</b>          |

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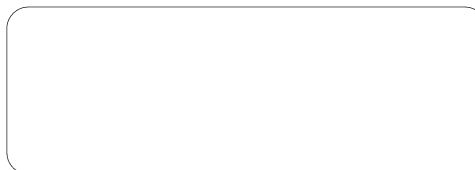
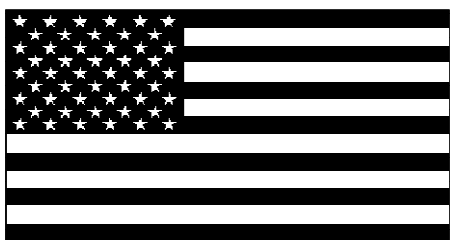
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