

Visit us online at www.vfw5040.org

5040 Club starts up By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

There is a new financial support group starting. It's called the "5040 Club". It's a group that is starting with the sole purpose of helping offset the yearly maintenance costs that our VFW runs into. The Post has several fund raisers a year with the purpose to donate money back to community and to veterans causes. However, funds are needed to maintain the Post Home. Bar sales, dinner sales and special raffles barely cover the costs of monthly utilities and general maintenance.

The 5040 Club is ideally looking for 100 individuals to donate \$100.00 per year. So far 18+ supporters have paid up. Anyone can donate; there is no special requirement that you have to be member of the VFW. A special plaque would be set up with the donors names as recognition of support. What other benefit is there for you in donating \$100 for this? Just the satisfaction and pride that you are helping the maintenance fund of the Post, which in turn benefits the community to use or rent our hall to hold meetings or celebrations.

Also planned each year for the 5040 Club is that at the end of the year, a dinner would be held to thank and give recognition to the supporters. At that time, the same supporters would be asked again to donate \$100 for the coming year. It's basically a perpetual support mechanism to ensure that a maintenance fund is available for the Post.

Some of you may think this is a steep price to pay. 100 people is a target number. Depending on interest by the members or outside supporters, this may be reduced to 50 or some other even number.

As Bud Porter, chairman of this fund, put it, "That's about \$2 per week you are donating, the cost of one drink or coffee during the week."

Think about this and maybe make a commitment. It's an idea that was thought up by Post members to ultimately support the physical building, a separate support mechanism outside the VFW membership structure.



Tickets on sale now for Nov 17 VFW turkey raffle By Post 5040 Commander, Mike David

Hard to believe, summer is about over. The days are shorter and the kids are back in school. The 2007 Turkey Raffle tickets are on sale at the bar and will be mailed out to all the membership after the September meeting.

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This is the one event during the year that raises funds to help operate the Post building. The Post has been faced with a lot of repair problems this year. We needed to improve heating facilities, painting needs to be done, and roof repairs will be performed this fall.

This year, I ask that everyone be a little extra generous when returning your ticket stubs. Tickets will be \$10 a book. Sending an additional donation of \$10 or more would be greatly appreciated.

Our Post has been in existence for 60+ years, serving the community and veterans. Many veterans and patrons have come through our Post doors, to use our facility in a variety of ways. Its important that the Post is in good working order for not only the membership, but for the public to use for now and many years to come.

I thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Turkey Raffle on November 17, 2007.

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Wednesday night dinners cancelled

Due to lack of attendance, the dinner is cost prohibitive for the Post to keep the Wednesday night dinner going. Friday dinners will continue as usual. Please make a note of this.

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary



From left, Bob Gibson, Fred Noble and Bill Lyford salute the American flag at Galt Airport on Greenwood Road for the "Flyers & Tires" show. For the show that occurred Friday & Saturday, August 11 & 12, Bob Gibson, Fred Noble, Bill Lyford & Charlie Mathey acted as the Color Guard.

> 2nd Annual Raffle & Dinner Proceeds Benefit TLS Veteran's Shelter Hebron, Illinois

Grand Prize 2007 Dodge Caliber SE - \$16,500 value



Other Prizes: Grand Prize Ticket Seller: \$100 10 Chances to win: \$200 10 Chances to win: \$100 Ticket cost: \$20, 3 for \$50, 7 for \$100; 5,000 ticket to be sold

Dinner and drawing to be held <u>Saturday, October 20, 2007</u> <u>Woodstock Moose Family Center</u>

For tickets, see Ray Benoy, Alan Belcher, Hank Enstrom, or the VFW.

<u>VFW Post 5040</u> Post Officers 2007 - 2008

Commander	Mike David	(815)-338-5341	
Senior Vice Commander	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655	
Junior Vice Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-337-8255	
Quartermaster	Ralph Ritter	(815)-338-5018	
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453	
Chaplain Asst.	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449	
Service Officer	Ted Biever	(815)-338-9292	
Judge Advocate	Dick Glawe	(815)-385-3156	
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264	
Officer-of-the-Day	Denny Burrs	(815)-338-7014	
Adjutant	Alan Belcher	(815)-338-7689	
1 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923	
2 Year Trustee	Larry Dohm	(815)-338-4134	
3 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802	

Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2007 - 2008

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	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-337-3770
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	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653

Board of Directors 2007 - 2008

President	Bud Porter	(815)-338-4781
Vice President	Hank Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Treasurer	Ralph Ritter	(815)-338-5018
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Don Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Director	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Club Manager	Becky Gillespie	(815)-338-6826

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

Ladies Auxiliary from the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2007-2008

Our September 6 meeting will be a potluck dinner at 6:15 pm. Cocktails start at 5:30 pm. Our District President will also be coming to the meeting to do her annual inspection.

A month ago Bonnie Kagel was elected to the office of Senior Vice President for this year. At our August meeting the Auxiliary voted to have a dinner on September 29 to celebrate our 60th anniversary. The Auxiliary will be furnishing the main course and everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. Dessert will be furnished also by the Post. Cocktails will be at 6:00 pm. and dinner at 7:00 pm. Please try to come and help us celebrate this big event.

The first District meeting of the year will be on September 16 at the Post in Carpentersville. A lunch will be held at 12:00 pm. and the meeting will follow.

🕆 Chaplains report 🕆 By Charley Mathey and Matt Klos **Draped Charter at August 20 meeting:** Alvie Jones Arnold Wieberg Arthur McClain • Harry O'Brien Betty Smith Fred De'Lance Roy McDaniel Edward Stanger ٠ Commander Mike David commented at the August VFW meeting that he was notified by Howard Engstrom, 5040 Post Chaplain, that Howard was considering resigning from his position as Chaplain due to the situation at home (see right column, this page). Commander David jokingly replied that Howard would have to "talk it over with the Higher Power about such a resignation."

Due to the circumstances, resignation would be the thought of anyone. However, Commander David told Howard how wonderful a job he has been doing over the years and that instead of resignation, the Post has put in place some temporary help.

Pete Lockinger has stepped up to be Co-Assistant to the chaplain. His phone is (815)-338-6449. Charlie Mathey is also stepping up to help out when he can.

Howard has faithfully served our Post by visiting, calling and writing Post veterans in hospitals and at home. This is not an easy position for anyone to take over.

Hopefully, give or take a few months, Howard will be able to return to his duties as Chaplain that the Post membership has so much appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Howard and Miriam. We wish Miriam a speedy recovery.

Thoughts and prayers needed for Chaplains wife By Don Peasley

Marian Engstrom, wife of our VFW Chaplain Howard Engstrom, is at Hearthstone Manor for physical, occupational and speech therapy following a nasty fall at her home on Wednesday afternoon, July 25. Howard tells us Marian is doing "reasonably well" but needs the most assistance at present with her speech.

Their daughter Sherryl Engstrom, who lives in Lake Geneva, is a nearly constant companion with her mother and Howard. Their other daughter, Janice Cornforth, who lives in Seattle, Washington, has also been here with her parents to assist and comfort them.

Marian had returned home from grocery shopping and walked up the few steps leading from the garage to the first floor. She prepared to take the next flight of stairs to the living quarters. Meanwhile, Howard was in the garage to put the car away when he heard Marian fall. She fell backward, banging her head hard on the tile floor. She was hospitalized at Memorial Medical Center for several days until transported to NIMC at McHenry for care and subsequent rehabilitation therapy. She was moved to Hearthstone Manor August 22, indicating progress in her recovery.

As he discussed Marian's physical condition, Howard added, "We are very appreciative of the prayers, cards and phone calls from so many people. We know your prayers help and ask you to continue remembering Marian in your prayers."

Howard has been keeping his phone answering machine updated with Marian's progress. You can reach that message by calling (815) 338-4453.

Howard, 86, served with the 8th Army Air Force in England during WWII, and has been our VFW Chaplain for four years. He does a remarkable job of visiting hospitalized veterans, keeping in contact with their families and taking an active part in many funerals for our veterans. The Engstroms moved to Woodstock in 1977 and both have been involved in Christian ministries for years.

Now, this is our time to come to Howard's aid.

Turkey Raffle tickets: in a mailbox near you after September 17

WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS

Inhofe Legislation Allows Veterans to Salute the Flag Ryan Cassin, 07.26.2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform."

"Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not."

"I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

> Current bill status: MAJOR ACTIONS:

7/25/2007: Introduced in Senate 7/25/2007: Passed/agreed to in Senate: Introduced in the Senate, read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed without amendment by Unanimous Consent.

7/26/2007: Referred to House committee: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Fred Noble picture in State newsletter

In the state publication, *Illinois VFW News*, August/September Edition, Fred Noble of VFW Post 5040 is pictured on page 12 receiving the plaque for the National Publication Award.

There was no mention of his name, but we know who it is. Yay Fred!



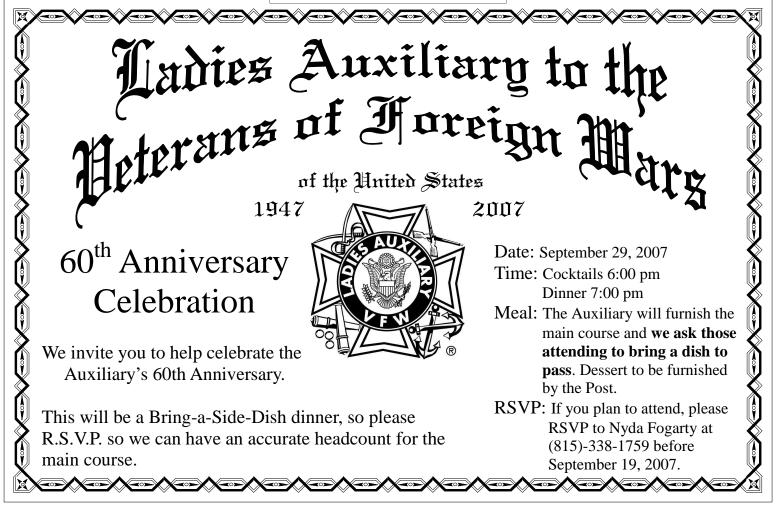
Press Release July 23, 2007

Governor Blagojevich signs legislation making Illinois smoke-free; drastically reduces the risk of second-hand smoke for workers and the public. Senate Bill 500 bans smoking in public places statewide and goes into effect January 1, 2008.

People may still smoke in their homes, cars, outdoors, private nursing home rooms, home offices not open to the public, retail tobacco shops, and certain hotel or motel rooms.

Smokers that violate the law by smoking at indoor public places can be fined between \$100 and \$250.

Establishments that violate the law can be charged an amount between \$100 and \$250 for the first violation and a minimum of \$250 for a second violation within a year. Subsequent violations within a year of the first violation will cost establishments at least \$2,500.



SEPTEMBER 2007



A Soldier's Wish Foundation P.O. Box 327 Algonquin IL 60102 877-477-2433 www.soldierswish.org





Halloween Dinner / Dance Fundraiser

<u>When</u>: Saturday, October 27, 2007 <u>Where</u>: VFW Post 5040 <u>Time</u>: 6 pm - 1 am <u>Cost</u>: \$25.00 per person

Dinner / Live Band / Cash Bar / Door Prizes / Raffle

Prize Awarded for Best Costume

Tickets must be purchased by October 12, 2007 877-447-2433



Brat-Corn-Beer tent August 18 By Matt Klos

The VFW had a brat, corn and beer tent to raise money for general funds on August 18, 2007. It turned out to be a very wet day. Thanks to Mark Adolphus for the use of his large canopy tent. It would have been a lot wetter and miserable for patrons without it.

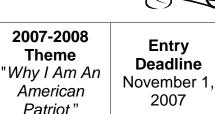
With the help of volunteers cooking brats and corn, collecting money, and serving up beer, about \$280 was collected. Each item (brat, beer or corn) was \$2, except for pop which was a \$1.

Maybe next year we'll have nicer weather.

(Back-left) Bob Gibson, Charlie Mathey, and Donna Freemen collect money and serve beer in the tent. (Matt Klos photo).

With the new season of school getting back into session, now is the time for students to start thinking about scholastic achievement and scholarships. Below are two scholarships that friends and families with school age children should look into.





Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria, is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7 and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Annually, more than 115,000 students participate 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.

For entry forms, teacher packets, and previous year winning essay, please visit **www.vfw.org** and look under the menu item "Programs".

Voice of Democracy



2007-2008	
Theme	Entry
"My Role in	Deadline
Honoring	November 1,
America's	2007
Veterans "	

The Voice of Democracy, endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria, is an audio essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12. The annual contest, which is designed to foster patriotism, allows students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three to five minute essay based on an annual theme.

Created in 1947, the scholarship program annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. Each Department's first-place winner receives an all-expensepaid trip to Washington, D.C., plus the opportunity to compete for national scholarships. The first-place national winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship.

For entry forms, teacher packets, and previous year winning essay, please visit **www.vfw.org** and look under the menu item "Programs".

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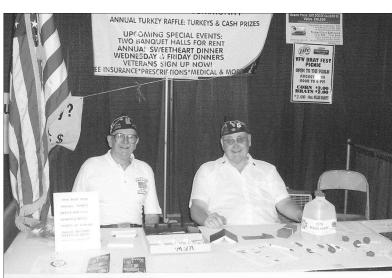
WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2007



Bernie O'Leary (left), VFW Commander Mike David, Russ Freeman and Charlie Mathey gather with Ralph Ritter who was tending the grill for the Brat-Beer-Corn tent in the VFW parking lot. (Matt Klos photo).





Fred Noble and Marv Monson man the table at the McHenry County Fair. It was reported that \$156 in Poppies were sold, \$306 in Turkey Raffle tickets sold, and \$60 in tickets sold for the TLS Veteran's Shelter 2nd Annual Raffle.

VFW members Anne Brophy (left) and Don Sword with his wife Anita staffed the VFW booth at the McHenry County Fair, August 1 thru 5, 2007. (Don Peasley photo).





Patrons take cover in the tent to eat their brats and corn sold at the VFW on August 18. (Matt Klos photo).

Pat and Bob Gaylord (seated) and Dick Glawe were among volunteers staffing the VFW booth at the McHenry County Fair. The fair booth was located in Building D and those staffing the booth deserve appreciation for selling turkey raffle tickets and soliciting membership. (Don Peasley photo).



From the Editor's desk By Matt Klos, *VFW News* Editor

cost?

Do you read it?

The new 5040 VFW leadership is now in place and already two months into conducting meetings and making changes that are in the best interests of our Post. Changes in how things around the Post are managed, office practices, Post hours, meals, etc. They have some commonality. Some of you might be able to tell by the slight undertone of this newsletter issue that there is a recurring theme around the one thing that is very near and dear to any non-profit organization: money.

As Editor, I think I have to address this topic because it bothers me and concerns me as well. One of the things relating to money each month is this newsletter that you are reading. The more pages that are created, the higher the cost to print. Continually I look for ways to cut back in price without giving up quality. I have looked at mail costs. We have raised advertising prices in response to in increased printing and mailing costs. Certain prep material costs are donated to keep costs down.

There is one question that is constantly on my mind when I send out the newsletter that leads to so many others: How many people are actually reading this newsletter? When I see the bill from the printer and calculate the postage rate, each month I think of what ways can these costs be cut down. It all comes back to readership.

Here's the scenario that I am dealing with. Each month, about 600 newsletters are mailed out to the Post members which total a little over 500 members in our Post. The Ladies Auxiliary, advertisers, and a few complimentary copies make up the rest of the readership.

So, out of this, how many issues are being read? To produce and mail each issue per person is about \$0.44 each month. Multiply this over the year and you end up with a significant amount of money that the Post pays to ensure that you are informed about what's going on with Post 5040 and know the latest things that are happening, maybe even enjoying a few photos or so.

Lucky for us, our advertisers that are listed in the newsletter each month pay for

is very much appreciated and we thank

each one for their continued support. The

other half of the cost has to come from the

Post. This is generated from bar and meal

sales, portions of raffle moneys, etc. What

can be done to offset this last part of this

This is where the creative thinking

comes into play. Again I wonder, of those

600 newsletters, how many are actually

opened and read? I know that when I get

newsletters from organizations, I don't

read a lot of them. Some I simply toss out,

not reading them at all. That's probably

what happens to a lot of the VFW News

newsletters as well I'm afraid. When I

look at the number of people that come to

the meeting each month, we are roughly

seeing about 6% of the membership. What

from the Post office with corrected ad-

dresses, temporarily away notifications,

etc. Mid-August I followed up on an un-

deliverable address and found two listings

in the phonebook for the name in a nearby

town. I called one; phone number discon-

nected, which was the address I have been

currently sending the newsletter to. The

other phone number turned out to be the

son of the member in question. The son

proceeded to tell me that the member had

been dead for 10 years and that the mem-

bers wife died last year. I don't always get

notifications that people have died and

that they should be removed from the

mailing list. I hope this was an extreme

case. Most of the time, in the situation of a

death, a member is removed from the

This got me to thinking though. How

can I find out if of the 600 newsletters, the

people receiving them actually want them

delivered to their home? This opens up

such a can of worms. One reason why

organizations keep people on mailing lists

is that they hope that sometime, someday,

the person receiving their material will

read it and maybe take an action because

of it (e.g. help monetarily, donate time,

donate items, join the organization, etc.) If

people are removed from the list, they

usually don't go out of their way to find

out what an organization is doing, no mat-

ter how readily available the information

is. I could put in a coupon in the newslet-

ter and ask that everyone that returns the

coupon will be kept on the mailing list and

receive the Post newsletter. I feel that the

response would be low, as I tried a few

years ago to get members to respond to a

survey published for several months and

mailing list within a month or two.

Every month I get back address labels

does this mean for the newsletter?

received less than 20% response from the entire mailing list of addresses.

We could charge for the newsletter each year. I figure with the advertising help to offset costs, if each member was charged \$3.00 per year, this would greatly help to cover the cost of newsletter. But how many would respond to this? Is that really fair to the membership to pay for a newsletter they never asked to receive? 50 years ago, it probably would not have been appropriate. Today, possibly.

I also thought that maybe I could call each person in the mailing list and ask them if they wanted to still receive the newsletter. I could do 10 calls a day for 60 days. The only cost to me is time. The phone calls would cost me pennies. However, is this practical to do?

When surfing other VFW sites on the internet, when I come across to a VFW Post that has a newsletter, I am always curious to what it looks like and how they present it. I see all sorts, from color to black and white, some with lots of color photos to others with very little content.

One theme I have seen more frequently is that Posts have gotten to the point that they cannot afford to send out the newsletter via paper copy. It's just too expensive. They have gone online and made members read the newsletter on their website. Even our own website stores all issues since August of 2002 for anyone to read.

But this has its disadvantages too. A lot of our members (WWII, Korea, Vietnam) don't have access to a computer or don't use it on a regular basis. Right away you can see a huge decline in readership of the newsletter if we were to go to an on-line version only of the newsletter.

What about printing costs? Cheaper paper? Different layout format? Issue occurrence (Bi-monthly? Quarterly?)? There are so many considerations, pro's and con's to each of them. I take pride in creating the newsletter, trying to put in stories and information that the membership might want to know and let the membership know what's going on at the Post and what we are doing. Frankly, I don't care if you read some of it, all of it or none of it at all. There is a lot of news sources out there and so much information to read about.

However, if this this paper newsletter is something you aren't interested in, let me know. I will gladly take your name off the address list for the newsletter. There is no shame in it.

What do you think? Anyone have a suggestion that might help this situation? I'd like to hear comments. Thanks. -*MBK*.

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****	1		1	sing times vary depend		
Closed	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	3:00 pm - 7:00 p
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	子门 Friday Dinner Special: Lasagna (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm	Saturday Raffle 4 p
2	3 Labor Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm	4 Jaycees 7 pm	5	6 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm (<u>For the Auxiliary</u> <u>Members only</u>): Cocktails at 5:30 Potluck dinner at 6:15 pm	7 Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm	Saturday Raffle 4 p
9	10 VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm Little League 7 pm American Legion 7:30 pm	11 VFW Board Mtg. 7:00 pm Patriot Day	12 Cub Scouts - 7 pm	13	14 Friday Dinner Special: Prime Rib (\$12) 5 - 7:30 pm	Saturday Raffle 4 p
16	17 VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. Deadline for October 2007 VFW News items	18 Jaycees 7 pm	19 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	20 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	21 Friday Dinner Special: BBQ Ribs (\$10) 5 - 7:30 pm National POW / MIA Recognition Day	2 Saturday Raffle 4 p
23	24	25	26	27	28 Friday Dinner Special: Meat Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm	Ladies 2 Auxiliary 60th Anniversau Dinner ^{Cocktails: 6 pr Dinner: 7 pm}
30	1	2	3	لِلَّے VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	5	

Help for upcoming events By Post 5040 Commander Mike David We have a lot of events coming up in the fall that center around our Post, and two of those days in November are particularly important. Veterans Day on Sunday, November 11 and a week later

the Turkey Raffle, November 17. As is customary with our Post, we have a committee of people working on these events, but what we really need is volunteers to help us with these events.

I want you to be thinking of these events ahead of time so you might consider helping out in some way, with setup, serving food, or helping out in the cleanup effort. We can always use the help. If this is something that you would be interested in helping with, please give me a call. (815)-338-5341. Thanks for your consideration.





WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS

