



# VFW News

Visit us online at [www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

## VFW Post 5040 officers elected for 2010-2011

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Many of you were not present at the April VFW meeting, but that didn't stop the annual VFW election of officers from taking place at the VFW in Woodstock.

If you read last month's newsletter, you may have noticed some new and younger veterans vying for the top officer spots in the Post. In April, they were voted into these spots. Here is the rundown of the results of the April election:

- Commander: **Brian Ritter**
- Sr. Vice Commander: **Lawrence Gordon**
- Jr. Vice Commander: **Robert James**
- Quartermaster: **Mark Freund**
- Chaplain: **Pete Lockinger**
- Judge Advocate: **Dick Glawe**
- Surgeon: **Harold Irwin**
- 3 year Trustee: **Charles Chapman**
- 2 year Trustee: **Arnie Doerfert**
- 1 year Trustee: **Larry Dhom**

Congratulations to all of you and best of luck in the new year! In an upcoming issue of the *VFW News*, you get to find out more about our Persian Gulf (1991) Commander Brian Ritter, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans Sr. Vice Commander, Lawrence Gordon, and Jr. Vice Commander, Robert James, and bio's on the rest of the officers.



The 2010 elected officers of VFW Post 5040. Back row (left to right): Jr. Vice Commander, Robert James; Quartermaster, Mark Freund; Chaplain, Pete Lockinger; Front row (left to right): Commander, Brian Ritter; Sr. Vice Commander, Lawrence Gordon. (Don Peasley Photo).



## Memorial Day Ceremony on Woodstock Square

10:00 am: Ceremony  
11:00 am: Parade

Lunch served at Post After Parade

After the ceremony, veterans will be invited to walk or ride (pending what floats we have this year) in the parade. If you would like to ride or walk, see one of the organizers on the day of the ceremony and listen for announcements.

## Poppy Days are here and we need your help to sell on May 14 & 15

By Ed Chambers, Jr. Vice Commander

The annual Poppy sale will be on **Friday May 14** and **Saturday, May 15**. We need taggers to man the locations for both days.

2-4 hour shifts are needed. Please contact me, Ed Chambers, (815)-703-9000, or sign up at the bar for times and locations.

For the individuals that traditionally man the Rt. 120 and Greenwood, this is a chance to top your best efforts of the past.

Thanks for all your help in advance and we look forward to a great Poppy Day sale this year!

## ✠ Chaplains Report ✠

By Pete Lockinger

### Charter Draped (April Meeting):

- Harold J. Cross
- LaVerne T. Emricson

## Past Commander LaVerne Emricson dies

By Don Peasley

VFW News Editor 1955-2002

Immediately after learning LaVern Emricson's death April 2, 2010, I reflected on his longtime role as a pillar in the VFW for more than 50 years.

Soon after ending his military service in 1956 he became a member of the VFW, filled positions of leadership and was elected Commander in 1964. His participation as a leader was most exemplified when current officers turned to him for advice in early 2010.

LaVern finished his military service in the U.S. Army with the Occupation in Germany 1955-1956. As Commander he helped tremendously with the success of the VFW, by sponsoring drum and bugle corps in the V-J Day Parades for 20 years, 1955 through 1974.

VFW officers remember his business sense when turning to LaVern. He was appointed an officer with the Post. Bud Porter, VFW board president, observed, "LaVern's business background helped us

receive excellent advice."

Mike David, VFW director, added "LaVern was a great help to the VFW. He was a quiet, thoughtful man. He did not have a lot to say but when he spoke, we listened."

LaVern was a determined, achievement-driven man with a business acumen exemplified by success in the machining trade.

I was privileged to be associated with LaVern in so many activities. My first memory was to take a photo of him as a handsome high school senior to promote a special exercise equipment. A recent activity with LaVern was to appreciate his contribution to discussions as a member of the board of directors at Woodstock Christian Life Services.

He became intimately familiar with the operation activities of the nursing home because of regular visits to a longtime family friend.

His daughter Shelly Eslick, one of several family members in the family business Emtech (a leading Woodstock business) describes her father as "a hard worker and very driven."

"My Dad was strong-willed. His keen business experience guided him when he established Trakk Industrial Park in the mid-1990s," said Shelly. His work on a farm while in high school, at G & H Production, research to establish Trakk Industrial Park and working at Auto-Lite for a

short time all contributed to his business abilities.

From his start as a machine operator at G & H Production in 1961 he advanced up the managerial ladder to purchase the company in 1984 (changing the name to Emtech). LaVern moved Emtech from a building on Illinois Route 120 northwest to the business park in 1997; today all but five of the 33 lots are occupied.

LaVern provided strong support for many community projects with financial contributions. He supported Dick Tracy Day Parades, summer entertainment in Woodstock. LaVern was in the background while providing help to many local events. He was a leader in supporting Christmas Clearing House, for example.

He and his wife Charlotte were married in 1957 soon after he returned from overseas military duty. She recalled his generosity and determination to succeed.

His son Steve remembers his Dad for his strength of character. "A handshake meant something to Dad," he said, and then he began to smile as he recalled fishing and hunting trips with his father. LaVern is in the Fisherman's Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin.

When his children were growing up LaVern coached the girls in softball. His Little League activities included coaching the Red Sox when his son Steve was playing. He was also president of the Teener League (13-15-year-olds).

LaVern was born November 2, 1934 to Thore and Hulda (Schultz) Emricson. He married Charlotte L. Hunt March 2, 1957 in Woodstock. Survivors include his wife Charlotte; a son, Steve (Melody) Emricson; four daughters, Shelly (Tom) Eslick, Woodstock; Sharon (Dan) McMillan, Harvard; Sara (Denny) Jackson, McHenry; and Susan (Andy) Jones, Harvard; and 14 grandchildren.



LaVern Emricson was the incoming Commander in 1964 when John Jenkins became the first National VFW Officer to visit Woodstock VFW Post 5040 in May 1964. LaVern is in this photo with Jenkins and several other VFW members who led our VFW Post. From left, front: Bill Mansfield, Bill Thomson, Jenkins, Arthur Schuld, present Commander; Don Wilkerson and Frank Cacci. Back: Nick Stemper, LaVern Emricson, Commander-Elect for 1964-65; Joe Thiede, Ervin Burg, Arnold Romo, Earl Holm, Dean Mishler, and Kenneth Korst. (Don Peasley Historic Photo Gallery)



**HOCKEY**

# Guns & Hoses Charity Hockey Game

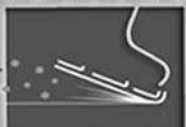
## JUNE 5TH, 2010 - 4:00 P.M.



**VS.**



CRYSTAL



ICE HOUSE

320 East Prairie Street  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
(815) 356-8500

Proceeds from the Hockey Game and Dinner Buffet will benefit the Woodstock VFW Relief Fund for the Families of Fallen Soldiers of The Woodstock Armory

**Admission: \$10**

**12 AND UNDER FREE**

### A BUFFET DINNER WILL FOLLOW THE GAME

VFW Woodstock  
240 North Throop Street  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
(815) 338-5040

Dinner tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting The VFW  
Dinner will start at 6:30 pm

\$10.00 Adults - Children 12 and under \$7.00

Thanks to our Sponsors:

**V.F.W.**



Post 5040



facebook [www.FalconsHockeyClub.org](http://www.FalconsHockeyClub.org)

## Does anyone know anything about this flag?

By Matt Klos

An email came to me this month with the following request. I asked only a few people about this, but it was unique enough that maybe someone in our organization might have come across it:

*Hello,*

*I have been doing some research and would like to know if a flag for your parade was given to you by Florence and Robert Lounsbery. Their son Thomas was killed on the Arizona at Pearl Harbor. He was my uncle.*

*Robert and Florence were my grandparents. My mother was their daughter and the sister of Tom. Could you verify this [the flag]?*

*I believe the flag was given by my grandmother but not sure when. I'm sure it was handed over personally by my grandmother. She lived in the town for 92 years until her death in 1985.*

*I also know that he, Thomas, was the 1st casualty of the war from Woodstock. I was told that it is used in the town's parade. I have two teenage sons and it might be good for them to watch the parade and maybe get to see the flag.*

*Thanks, Tom Wenzel*

If any of you reading this have any information about the whereabouts of this flag or have any information Tom might find interesting, please write a letter or send an email to the *VFW News* Editor, Matt Klos, and I will see that this gets delivered to Tom.

## Attention newly elected Officers for 2010-2011

The installation ceremony for VFW Post 5040 Officers will be conducted on **June 19, Saturday**. This is the day before Father's Day.

We are also trying to see if the Ladies Auxiliary will want to join in on the installation as well.

Even if you are not an officer, you are more than welcome to attend the proceedings and short ceremony that occurs at installation.

## In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



## Burial plot and vault available

At the April VFW meeting, VFW member Ed Haldeman mentioned that he wanted to donate a burial plot and vault to VFW Post 5040.

The plot is local to Woodstock. The intention is to find a veteran, within our Post or the community, that may be in severe financial hardship and cannot afford a plot.

If you know of someone that may be in this situation and might benefit from the generosity of Ed, please contact the Post (815-338-5040) and leave a message for the Commander or contact any of the other officers on the back of this newsletter.



## Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Nyda Fogarty,  
President 2009-2010

The election of officers for next year was postponed until the May meeting as some of the officers were not present. This meeting will be on May 6.

A 45 year membership pin was awarded to Bonnie Kagel. If anyone needs a pin, please contact me. Look on your membership card for the year you became a member to determine your membership pin year.

The last District meeting of the year will be next month on May 16, 2010. The 5th District Convention will be at the Sequoia Post 4551 located at 75 North Ave., Antioch, IL 60002 with the Memorial Service at 11:00 a.m., Lunch at 12:00 p.m. and the meetings starting at 1:00 p.m.

## Need a lift?

A friend through the Post, Bill Dittman, has two sets of chair lifts he would like to sell to someone in need making the trip up and down stairs a little easier.

The lifts are Bruno Electra-Ride II, model SRE-1550.

From the Bruno website:

[www.bruno.com](http://www.bruno.com)

Bruno's Electra-Ride II straight rail stairlift combines powerful and quiet operation with reliability and safety. Don't compromise your independence! Rediscover the home you love with this efficient and attractive stair chair lift.

- Rack and pinion drive gives this chair lift a smooth ride, without hesitation when the unit starts and stops
- 350 lbs. maximum
- Swing-away arms for easy wheelchair transfers
- Mounts on either side of stair
- Flexible seating on this Bruno chair lift can be adjusted from 22 ½" to 25 ½"
- Battery operation makes installation a breeze – no need to install additional electrical outlets!
- Two wireless call/send controls make operation simple and convenient
- In case of power outage, 8 (minimum) to 20 trips on battery charge

If you are interested in this, please call the Post (815)-338-5040 and leave a message for Ralph Ritter.

## The VFW 5040 Honor Guard

By Bill Lyford

This month, we remember those veterans that died in current and previous wars and take a moment to honor them.

In doing so, perhaps the thought may have crossed your mind of what would happen if you were to die, what type of services would be available for your family to help in honoring you in death?

The VFW Post 5040 has an Honor Guard available for one hour during the wake or just before the service at the funeral home or church. For Post members, the American and Post flags would be situated on either side of the casket.

Also available at the cemetery or at the service, a rifle squad would fire three volleys. We also have a bugler that would play, and the folding and presenting of the flag to the next of kin would also take place.

We don't have a set of rules we always follow at each service and will do as little or as much as requested by the widow. Death is not easy for those left behind, but we try to honor our fallen comrades in the most dignified way possible.

It is very important that the family knows the location of the veterans honorable discharge papers (sometimes called the DD214). The funeral director must have this to obtain the burial flag and the cemetery will need it for the government furnished bronze plate.

If you don't have your discharge papers, now might be a good time to give the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of McHenry County a call. Mike Iwanicki, Superintendent of the VAC and Post 5040's Service Officer, can help track this down. For some of you, this document may already be registered with the County.

One final piece of information. People are not entitled to a twenty-one gun salute. Only the President is entitled to this and it is done so with a cannon. The Chief of Staff is entitled to an eighteen-gun salute. I learned this while attending the Commissioning of the new cruiser, the USS Anzio. A rifle squad at a burial may consist from five to eight riflemen and they fire three volleys.

The Honor Guard and rifle squad do not charge a fee for the services provided to our veterans, but we do accept donations to help cover transportation and meal costs.



We said "goodbye" in  
January 2009, now  
it's "Welcome Home!"  
in April 2010

VFW Post 5040 member Major Anne Brophy is back from her year long tour in Afghanistan!

VFW Post 5040 sends a heartfelt "thank-you" for serving your country and coming back home to us safely.

We hope to see you at the Post after you settle in back at home. Congrats, welcome, and great job, Anne!

WELCOME HOME, SOLDIER!

### Memorial Day Memories in 1949

This 1949 photo in front of the Miller Theater (now Classic Cinemas, Main Street) shows veteran organization leaders preparing for the Memorial Day service in 1949. From left: Gus Maxwell, WWI veteran; Brig. Gen. Christian F. Schilt, featured speaker; Vern Jensen, Navy Club; Carroll Sherburne, American Legion Commander; and Bill Mansfield, VFW Senior Vice Commander. (Don Peasley Historic Photo Gallery)



VFW Post 5040  
 "REMEMBER OUR HEROES"  
 Car Show  
 Saturday, June 26th 10AM-4PM

BIGGER & BETTER  
 EVERY YEAR HAS SOLD OUT!

\$15 non-refundable registration fee.  
 Make checks payable to:  
 VFW 5040 Car Show  
 240 Throop St  
 Woodstock, IL 60098



2010 Registration Form

Participant Information

Owner/Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Information

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the show? \_\_\_\_\_

Liability Release: By signing below, you accept responsibility for your vehicle and yourself. You release from liability VFW Post 5040, sponsors, staff and volunteers from all damages, injuries, losses and/or other claims experienced by the entrant to his/her person or property.

Owner/Participant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Show held rain or shine! (Questions? Call 815-338-5040 and ask for Bill or Jeanne.)



From the Editor's Desk By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor I cannot believe it is May already! The VFW year is almost over, as evidenced by the recent elections. I've been trying to catch up with yard work, soccer games, and before I know it another issue of the VFW News comes due. I put off this issue longer than I planned due in part to other commitments and family related priorities. Now, will the Post office get it to you in a timely fashion? Well, based on the last two months, I think not. On another topic, the Post has implemented the "Spirit Fund" drive. This drive is basically asking our members to donate money to VFW Post 5040 to help with general upkeep of the Post and operating costs. I ran out of room for a formal coupon I was going to put in, but maybe I'll do it here. I told Don Sword I'd get this in, so here it goes. (sorry for the tight squeeze!)

Count me in to help with the "Spirit Fund". I want to donate to keep my VFW home operating.

I'm sending in my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail back to: VFW Post 5040  
 Spirit Fund  
 240 Throop St.  
 Woodstock, IL 60098

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★  
**WOODSTOCK AMERICAN LEGION**  
 Meets Second Monday of Each Month  
 (Except December) at the VFW at 7:30 P.M.

# May 2010

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

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 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Memorial Day Committee 7:00 pm Little League 7:00 pm Girls Softball 7:00 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cub Scouts - 7:00 pm	<b>6</b> VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm  National Day of Prayer	<b>7</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm  Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm  Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces Signed (1945) Military Spouses Day	<b>8</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm  V-E Day Declared (1945)
<b>9</b>  Mother's Day	<b>10</b> VFW Officers Meeting 7:00 pm  American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	<b>11</b> Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> VFW Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>14</b>  <b>Poppy Day</b> 8 am - 4 pm We need volunteers Sign up a Post  <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm  Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>15</b>  <b>Poppy Day</b> 8 am - 4 pm We need volunteers Sign up a Post  Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm  Peace Officers Memorial Day Armed Forces Day
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg.  Deadline for June 2010 VFW News items	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	<b>20</b> Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	<b>21</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm  Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>22</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm  National Maritime Day
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Victoria Day (Canada)	<b>25</b> Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm  Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>29</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>30</b>  Memorial Day	<b>31</b>  <b>Day</b> Observed 10 am Ceremony on Woodstock Square 11 am Parade 12 pm Lunch at Post	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>VFW Fish Fry</b> 5 - 7:30 pm  Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>5</b> <b>Guns &amp; Hoses Charity Hockey Game</b>  Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm

**A.W.O.L. Army Surplus**  
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Zukowski, Rogers,  
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50 Virginia Street  
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014  
Ph: (815)-459-2050 / Fax: (815)-459-9057  
mcooney@zrfmlaw.com




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Woodstock, IL 60098  
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**Marine Corps  
League**  
McHenry County  
Detachment 1009  
Meets every 3rd Thursday of  
every month, 7:30 PM  
Woodstock VFW Post 5040  
240 N. Throop St.  
P.O. Box 311  
Woodstock, IL  
60098

  
**Schneider - Leucht - Merwin & Cooney**  
Funeral Home  
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Michael H. Cooney - Daniel P. Cooney  
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**WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS**  
 240 THROOP STREET  
 WOODSTOCK, IL 60098

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**Matt Klos**  
 VFW 5040 News Editor  
 269 Forest Drive  
 Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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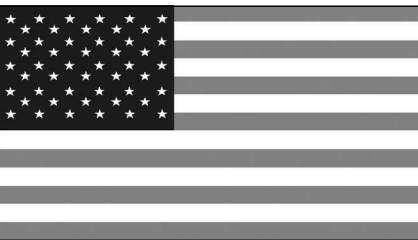
email: [matt.klos@vfw5040.org](mailto:matt.klos@vfw5040.org)

fax: 707-667-2621

**Post Website and Email:**

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

email: [vfwpost5040@att.net](mailto:vfwpost5040@att.net)



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2009 - 2010</b>		
Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Lumpp	(630)-460-8812
Junior Vice Commander	Ed Chambers	(815)-703-9000
Quartermaster	Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
Chaplain	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449
Service Officer	Mike Iwanicki	(815)-334-4229
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	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
2 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802
3 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923

<b>Board of Directors 2009 - 2010</b>		
President	Bud Porter	(815)-338-4781
Vice President	LaVern Emicson	- NA -
Treasurer	Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
Secretary	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Club Manager	Pat Auvenshine	(815)-338-5224

<b>Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2009 - 2010</b>		
President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
Senior Vice President	-- TBA --	-- TBA --
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Secretary	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Treasurer	Michelle Patnaude	- NA -
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Patriotic Instructor	-- TBA --	-- TBA --
Guard	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
1 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-206-3910
2 Year Trustee	Jessica Rathbone	- NA -
3 Year Trustee	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546

**VFW POST 5040, WOODSTOCK**  
 We are open to the public!

**This month's issue:**

- **New officers elected.**
- **Past commander LaVerne Emicson dies.**
- **Car show registration form.**
- **Welcome back Anne Brophy!**
- **And a couple of more things of interest inside...**

**Post 5040 Chartered March 4, 1946**

Woodstock VFW NEWS is published monthly by VFW Post 5040. Matthew Klos, Editor. Founded in July 1955 by Don Peasley (Editor 1955-2002). Seventeen time winner of the National VFW Awards for Best Post Publication. No. 1 in 1956, 1963, 1971, 1985, 2007 and 2009. Second in 1968, 1970, 1990, 1997 and 1999. Third in 1983, 1984, 1986, 1991, 2000, 2001. Voted Illinois VFW's best 33 times, including 1999-2001, 2005-2009.

Circulation: ≈ 525. Printed by: Minuteman Press, Crystal Lake, IL

Newsletter available online for download at: [www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry.**
- **May 6: Ladies Auxiliary 7 pm.**
- **May 14 & 15: Poppy Days.**
- **May 31: Memorial Day.**
- **June 5: Guns & Hoses charity hockey game and dinner.**