

Out With the Old, In With the New

By MATT KLOS

Well, here it is comrades. The first issue of the VFW NEWS produced by me, your new editor. Thanks to all those that helped to get this issue out, and thanks to Don Peasley for all the great photographs. Our first month of the new fiscal year is already behind us. New officers are in place and changes are happening quicker than you can fire an M-16. I hope you enjoy my first issue. It requires a lot more work than I thought. I would really like to hear your comments on this issue, good and bad. If you would like to send me a letter, please send it to the post addressing it to the **VFW NEWS Editor, c/o Post 5040**. And for those of you with access to the internet, you can e-mail me at:

klos_m259@yahoo.com

(that character between the "s" and "m" is an underscore)

WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE POST

By HAROLD IRWIN

We will have new menus on June 19, 2002 with larger print. You will soon notice that some of the prices have been raised. We have not raised prices in a long time and it was way over due. The **Wednesday night dinner** has been raised from \$7.25 to **\$7.95**. This is still a bargain at this cost. The Friday menu has some price increases also. We also will be **closing dinner** both Wednesday and Friday at **8:00 PM**. We only get 1-2 people after 8:00 PM and it is very costly to keep things open so late. A big thank-you to the kitchen cleanup crew on Mondays and to the beer and ice machine clean up crew. Help is always needed if you can donate.

Anyone who donates time to help us out gets 2-free drink tickets for their help. Needed is someone to do some minor electrical work also for the post, contact Ralph Ritter.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

The Antique Motor Cycle club is asking for our help again this year. This is to direct traffic at the fair grounds. In past years the Post has received a donation from them. It is anticipated that we could get another donation of around \$2,000. Please contact **Sid Sherwin** if you can help on September 29. It takes around 15 people to work this event. The money we received last year was used to paint the down stairs hall and bar areas. Sid can be contacted at 815-338-5573.



Jim Smith, VFW Commander 2002-2003, and Marvin Monson, Senior Vice Commander 2002-2003 (Don Peasley Photo)

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY (VOD)

By GARY RUBOW

To summarize, I put in more hours for the VFW than I should have this past year. For the new year I want to focus on just one area -- VOD. Paul Kitterer did an outstanding job with the VOD for 5040, we do miss him. Bob Benson was my best helper for VOD over these past five years. For the national VOD, some of the awards are named after certain people. It would be nice to honor both Paul and Bob with Post level awards named after these two fellow comrades. This last VOD season it was important to honor Paul with a good VOD program. Stew Cohen, a STAR 105.5 personality, will help us again this year with VOD.

I've someone to cover the two Woodstock schools, and another to help me with the four Crystal Lake schools. I still need to have two other schools covered. Our first place winner last year came from Marengo High School and he went on to State. We could effectively utilize the help of about 10 people to share the workload for a VOD program. Solicitation of funds are needed from the local community around the county to sponsor the VOD program. If you want to help with the VOD this year please let Gary Rubow know at 847-639-3321.

Ladies Auxiliary FROM THE PRESIDENT

By NYDA FOGARTY, President 2002-2003

The Auxiliary had their delayed election of officers on Thursday night July 11th. Our most regular, faithful and long time members have taken an office position so our Auxiliary can continue this coming year. They are to be commended for offering their help at this time of need. The officers are listed in the next column.

Dues for the 2002-2003 year are now **\$15.00**. A motion to raise these was passed several months ago. We voted a couple of years ago to raise the classification of our insurance, which cost the Auxiliary a great deal of money. Members still have the benefit of Cancer Grants. Anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer can contact the Treasurer for forms to be filled out.

The August meeting will be a regular meeting at 7:30 P.M. Committee Chair will be announced and Refreshment Chairmen will be able to sign up for the coming year.

The September 5th meeting will be a **Potluck dinner** celebration of the election of officers. The Auxiliary will furnish the meat, rolls, coffee, and a decorated cake for dessert. All members are strongly urged to attend this meeting and are asked to bring their selection of salads, beans, vegetables, potato dish, casseroles or what ever they wish. Please try to attend and give your support and wish the officers well for this ensuing year.

Your Contribution Needed!

Heard something that the VFW Post or Ladies Auxiliary should be informed of? Have a story to contribute? Would like to have a photo printed? Have something for the good of the order? Then have it mentioned in the Woodstock VFW News! Comrades, your contribution is needed to keep this paper informative on post events and things that are constantly taking place in and around the post related to the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. As current Editor, I am only able to contribute what I know of, and most of what is included in this Newsletter is from members like you! This is your newsletter. Many post members depend on it for post information and current events that have taken place at or around the post. Do your part. Contribute to help make this a great newsletter!

- Thanks, the Editor, Matt Klos

Ladies Auxiliary Elected Officers 2002-2003

President	Nyda Fogarty
Senior Vice President	Bonnie Kagel
Junior Vice	Viola Brown
Secretary	Christine Gehrke
Treasurer	Barbara Gehrke
Chaplain	Karen Wells
Guard	Rosemary Hellstern
Conductress	Irene Brown
1 Yr. Trustee	Joyce Monson
2 Yr. Trustee	Ruth Gehrke
3 Yr. Trustee	Geraldine Salyers

Auxiliary Installation of Officers Dinner By BARBARA GERKE, President 2001-2002

Thank you ladies so very much for all your cooperation. We have new officers for the next year. The Potluck Supper will be at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Our August meeting is the first Thursday of the month which is on the 1st at 7:30 p.m. Thank you once again for all your cooperation and keep up the good work.



Family Members and many special friends join Joy Aavang to help her celebrate her arrival in the United States 55 years ago! The joyful gathering was held at the VFW where Aavang has been prominent in writing about wartime experiences of veterans. Her third book will be published later this year. From left, front: Paul and Alice Murdock, Joy Aavang, Paige Behrens, Joyce and Steve Aavang. Back: Carol Fuller, Nancy Danielson, Emma Behrens, Janet Douglas, Michele Aavang, Arlyn Roush, Linda Aavang, Gene Fuller, Kate Aavang, Cheryl Wormley and Barb Aavang. (Don Peasley Photo).

Clausen, 90 Dies July 14
By DON PEASLEY

The respect of those who knew Elmer Clausen can best be measured by the large turnout of VFW members providing the honor guard and rifle squad at his memorial service Thursday, July 18. Fifteen VFW members—four of them charter members of Post 5040 where Elmer was also a charter member—paid final respects to this World War II glider veteran.

At the close of the ceremony, Henry Nulle and Bill Lyford presented an American flag to Mary Clausen, Elmer's wife of over 40 years. Many VFW and Auxiliary members joined members of St. Ann Episcopal Church and Mary and Elmer's many friends at the church.

The fifteen men in the honor guard and firing squad were Joe Thiede, firing squad commander; Bill Lyford, honor guard commander; Bob Gibson, Dick Glawe, Harold Irwin, Charles Mathey, Jack Meyers, Henry Nulle, Bud Pflug, Art Schuld, Bruce Shisler, Art Slack, Don Sword, Gene Fuller and Jon Showers. Bob Schroeder, long-time bugler at local Memorial Day and Veteran's Day services, sounded "Taps."

I will remember Elmer Clausen as a tall, gentle man, somewhat reserved but a man with a good heart. It was Elmer, a bachelor, who found his love life with Mary Welke, whose husband Ernest died in 1955. The love led to marriage on January 2, 1960, and Elmer quickly became a father because Mary had two sons, Ernest Jr. and Ron.

I will also remember Elmer for his leadership ability in becoming the first commander of the VFW rifle squad, and for his energy in organizing the VFW ladies drill team. The rifle squad was organized soon after the Woodstock VFW was chartered March 4, 1946. Clausen soon thereafter trained the ladies drill team. The 35-member unit participated in many Harvard Milk Days and V-J Day parades.

In talking with Elmer in 1996, he told me the importance of the rifle squad. "This was after World War II and we provided a patriotic atmosphere for funerals conducted with a military ceremony. I remember how the rifle squad and honor guard lined the sidewalk when the casket came out of the church. Then we would hurry to the cemetery to provide a military setting and fire a salute to honor our departed comrade. In those years after World War II men took off from work to serve at funerals."

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 18 at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Woodstock, with the Rev. Linda Green, interim rector, officiating. Internment was in the columbarium garden at St. Ann's Church. The VFW rifle squad commanded by Joe Thiede participated in the memorial at the church.



Elmer Clausen (left) was commander of the VFW Honor Guard for over 50 years. This photo shows the original eight members soon after the Post was organized in 1946. From left: Elmer Clausen, Robert Church, Frances Ditterberner, George Wilson, William Mansfield, Roy Stackhouse, Frank Cacci and Joe Thiede. Thiede was commander of the firing squad at Clausen's memorial service. Ditterberner was among those in the audience (Medlar Studio Photo).

Gobble Gobble...Turkey Means \$\$\$\$

Sid Sherwin is the Turkey Raffle chairman this year. He will be getting the tickets in late August, so people can be expecting to see them on sale then. He will also need volunteers on the day of the raffle. Contact Sid if you can help. It usually takes about 5-6 people on the day of the raffle. Sid can be contacted at 815-338-5573.

Have a Party to Throw? Celebrating an Event? We have the Facilities!

The **VFW Hall** can be **rented** for your next event to accommodate many groups of different sizes. The down stairs is \$100 and upstairs is \$150. Additional charges are:

- Air Conditioning
- Cleanup
- Security When Required
- Kitchen Use If Needed
- Bartender Charges For Upstairs
- Minimum Tip For The Bartender(s)
- Party's Start At 7PM Until 1AM (Earlier Starts Have Additional Costs)

Contact **Ralph Ritter** for dates and costs. Call the post at 815-338-5040.

V F W
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Officers

- Commander - Jim Smith
- Senior Vice Commander - Marvin Monson
- Junior Vice Commander - Sid Sherwin
- Quartermaster - Ralph Ritter
- Chaplain - Marvin Bohnhoff
- Assistant Chaplain - Chuck Mathey
- Service Officer - Ron Nehls
- Judge Advocate - Dwayne Raney
- Post Surgeon - Harold Irwin
- Officer-of-the-Day - Bruce Shisler
- Trustees - Thom Gillespie, Alan Belcher, Jon Showers

THANK YOU JOHN

Thank you to John Showers for donating 12 feet of steel shelving for the office. The safes are at a workable level now instead of being on the floor.



Dwayne Raney, VFW Commander 2001-2002, welcomes Walter Michalski to our May Monthly post meeting (Don Peasley Photo).

Where Do I Send Mail to VFW Post 5040?

If anyone wants to leave anything for the commander or quartermaster, put it in the new black mailbox by the front door. It is locked so no one can take any mail now. The Woodstock PO box has been closed and the Crystal Lake PO Box will be closed shortly. All mail for the post should be mailed to:

VFW Post 5040
240 N. Throop St.
Woodstock, IL 60098

No Leaks Here...

A **BIG** thank you to:

Charley Mathey
 Don Sword
 Dean Mishler
 Sid Sherwin
 Ralph Ritter
 Jack Fish

We seal coated the flat part of the roof July 17. We started at 8AM and were finished by 11AM. We still need to do the dome part of the roof. The Dome part is not as bad as the flat part was though. We also cut down the crab apple tree that was in the front yard.

- Ralph Ritter

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AUGUST 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 VFW 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (7:30 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	2	3
4	5 Memorial Day Committee (7:00 pm)	6 Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	7	8 Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm) Harley Hogs - McHenry Independent Riders (7:00 pm)	9	10
11	12 American Legion 412 Post Meeting (7:30 pm)	13 5040 Staff Meeting (7:00 pm) Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	14	15 Marines Meeting (7:00 pm) Marines Auxiliary (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	16	17
18	19 VFW 5040 Men's Post Meeting (dinner 6:30 pm meeting 7:30 pm)	20 Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	21 Voice of Democracy (7:30 pm) ***** Last Day to Submit articles to the VFW News *****	22 Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	23	24
25	26	27 Dirt Group (7:00 pm) Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	28	29 Woodstock JC's (7:00 pm)	30	31

A Much Deserved Thank You By GARY Rubow With Contributions From MATT KLOS

Whether you know him personally or worked with him, Gary Rubow has done his share over the past year to help the post. In turbulent times last year when a Post Quartermaster was needed, Gary stepped up and did what he saw fit to help the post get back on its feet. What he has done, along with others, has indeed helped, for the post is still alive today and probably better for the changes he has put in place. Gary did not seek reelection as Post Quartermaster for the 2002-2003 year because he wishes to pursue other endeavors within the post. **Ralph Ritter**, as you may know, was elected to fill this very important post position. To put it best, Gary speaks of what he has accomplished:

This past VFW year was too busy for [Gary], let me list some of the highlights:

- Shopped and managed the VA Hospital dinner for the 4th year in a row.
- Led the VA Hospital Bingo program several times.
- Implemented some improved security for the Post with the help of Thom Gillespie, Ralph Ritter, and a few others.
- Provided several articles for the Woodstock VFW News.
- Developed an expanded sponsor program for the Post paper and Vernon McCall ran it.
- Changed some of the work assignments for the Canteen/Bar with the help of Sue, Ralph and Pat, Vern and Bob B.
- Developed spreadsheets to help with payroll and other reports.

- Built a ramp for better access to the first floor with the help of a few others.
- Added the names of the LIFE members from Post 6004 to the LIFE board at Post 5040 with the help of Bill Lyford.
- Developed and implemented the \$50 LIFE program for our post; we now have more LIFE members at 5040 than the total population of the 2nd largest post in District Five.
- Opened another Sam's Club line of credit.
- Found a way to save about \$2,000 on the towel service.
- Lowered the insurance by \$3,000 with a new broker and then adjusted for better coverage.
- Recruited new member, Mike Iwaniky, into our post who is now helping Ralph with the QM work.
- Encouraged Matt to be the second Post News Editor.
- Prepared transition information packets for the four new check signers who were able to start signing checks on June 23rd.
- Led the VOD program. Our post had five schools participate out of eight schools. We had the 1st and 3rd place winners at the District out of the 3 winners.

Ralph and Pat were able to catch up on the filing in the QM office. **THANK YOU.** On June 22nd all the bills due up to that time were paid.

Gary has done a lot for the post as many have. I know he has made personal sacrifices for the time he has given to the post, and the post is better off for what he has done. Gary, on behalf of the post we thank you for your contributions. Your time and effort is much appreciated.

**Are You Unable to
Read *VFW NEWS*...or
Just Not Interested?**

Because of the aging of our members, we have reason to believe some of the *VFW NEWS* letters are no longer being read. We want all of our members to read and enjoy the *VFW NEWS*. However, due to escalating postage and printing costs, we would like to stop mailing those letters to those no longer reading it, whether from lack of interest or incapacitated from illness or other reasons.

If you are one who can't use the *VFW NEWS* letter anymore or are a caretaker for a member of the Post or Auxiliary, would you please be so kind as to cut off the address label from a newsletter, write briefly why it's not wanted and mail it to the Post? This will in no way affect your membership to the VFW or Auxiliary. Thank you for your cooperation.

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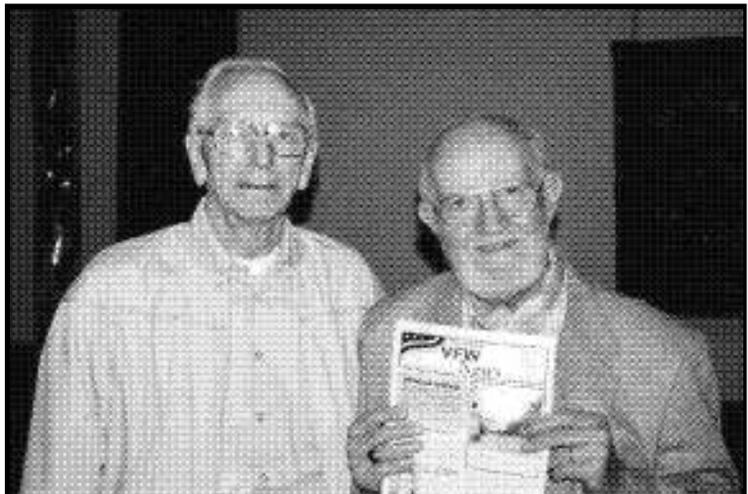


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Earl Holm (left) joins Don Peasley during an announcement that the Woodstock *VFW NEWS* won its 15th National Post publication award. Holm was Commander in 1955 when members approved the monthly publication. Presentation took place at the May 13 meeting to elect officers (Don Peasley Photo).

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