

Woodstock

# VFW News

Winner of 15  
National Publication  
Awards

www.vfw5040.org

August 2003  
Vol. 49. No. 2

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary



## From the Commander

By Jon Showers  
Commander 2003-2004

The Post can feel proud to have received from the Department a streamer to add to our VFW Post Colors for 100% membership during the period 2002-2003, let's keep the momentum up moving into 2003-2004.

Thank you to our member Ralph Ritter and his wife Pat for attending the State convention and bringing a streamer back signifying our participation in this year's convention and this will be added to our Post Colors as well.

July 27th the Post Flag will be flown accordingly in honor of the National Korea War Veterans Armistice Day. Stamps honoring this special occasion will be on sale at your post office. There is also a special service to be held at Burke Hall building #4 at North Chicago VA Center on Monday July 28th at 10:30AM Highway 137 and Green-bay Road.

The first 5th District meeting for the new year will be held at the Antioch Post on August 3rd starting with lunch at 12 noon. Any post member is welcomed to attend.

**IMPORTANT-** We are looking for suggestions to help raise funds for the Post. Please feel free to drop your suggestion off at the Post or call at 338-5040. Thank you.

Thank you to Richard Blietz (a new member) for offering his services to the Post on any electrical needs. We can reach Richard at 943-4273.

During our last Post meeting Don Sword was recognized for his 12 years of service to the Post Staff and Board. Don's many contributions during this period went to help our Post in so many ways. A special thanks also went to his wife Anita for her unselfish help to our Post and support of Don over those 12 years.

Please support our Wednesday night Dinners and Fish Fry on Fridays. The next post meeting will be on August 18th please come out and join in on the comradeship.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Showers

**VFW**

**104th National Convention**  
**August 23-29**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

**Ladies Auxiliary**  
**90th National Convention**  
**August 23-29**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

## Our Post Chaplain

By Don Peasley

The office of chaplain in the Veterans of Foreign Wars is an important one although the person in that position is seldom given adequate recognition.

At Woodstock, Marvin Bohnhoff served as chaplain for 11 years. Health problems prompted him to relinquish the position last month when Howard Engstrom was installed as chaplain.

Bohnhoff has been an assistant pastor and volunteer at Our Savior Lutheran Church at Grayslake and was active in Bible study at St. John's Church in Island Lake.

Engstrom served with the Eighth Army Air Force in England during World War II.

"The chaplain's duties include participation in funerals when the VFW rifle squad is asked to honor a veteran," said Engstrom. "In the first few weeks in this office I've been privileged to participate in four funerals honoring veterans. With World War II veterans dying at the rate of about 1,500 a day throughout the United States, participation in funerals is an increasing responsibility."

Engstrom said he also visits members recuperating from an illness in their homes. The Rev. Cecil C. Urch was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Woodstock when he served as Post 5040 VFW's first chaplain, 1946-1947. Engstrom was a deacon with the Evangelical Free Church of America in the 1960s and a board member in the 1970s.

Soon after Engstrom and his wife Marian moved to Woodstock in 1982, Engstrom became a staff member at Sunset Manor and Woodstock Christian Care, ministries of the Free Methodist Church. "I've been involved in Christian ministry for years," observed Engstrom. "My stewardship included speaking at Free Methodist churches in the Midwest and contributing to the Christian atmosphere at the senior citizen homes."

See **Chaplain**, page 2

## VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2003 - 2004

Commander	Jon Showers	(815)-338-4675
Senior Vice Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Junior Vice Commander	John (Sully) Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Quartermaster	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	TBA	TBA
Service Officer	Ron Nehls	(815)-338-3671
Judge Advocate	Henry (Hank) Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Bruce Shisler	(815)-338-4735
1 Year Trustee	Alan Belcher	(815)-338-7689
2 Year Trustee	Thom Gillespie	(815)-597-1319
3 Year Trustee	Jim Smith	(815)-653-9238

## VFW Post 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Post Officers 2003 - 2004

President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
Senior Vice President	Bonnie Kagel	(815)-648-4958
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Secretary	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Treasurer	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Guard	Rosemary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Ruth Gehrke	(815)-338-5093
2 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	Not Available

Woodstock VFW News is published monthly by Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098. (815)-338-5040

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Woodstock VFW Post 5040, c/o VFW News Editor, 240 Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098.

## What's on Your Plate?

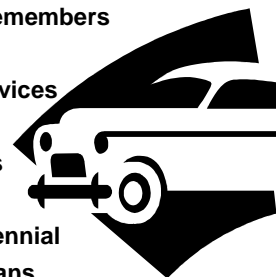
By Matt Klos

You're driving down the road, looking at the car in front of you. You notice the type of car and then your eyes scan to the license plate. First thing that catches your eye is the colors and design. Looking a little closer, you make out that it's some type of military plate. Neat, another member of our community that served in the military.

How many times has a military license plate caught your eye? Ever wonder why they got the plate or what was needed to obtain one? In Illinois, as you may know, we were re-plated about two years ago. However, you don't have to get the standard plate for your car.

Illinois offers several license plates for veterans who want something a little different than the standard plate. These include the following:

- **Armed Forces Reserves**
- **Army Combat Veteran**
- **Bronze Star**
- **Congressional Medal Of Honor**
- **Disabled Veteran**
- **Ex-Prisoner Of War**
- **Gold Star**
- **Illinois National Guard**
- **Korean War Veteran**
- **Marine Corps**
- **Pearl Harbor Survivor**
- **Pow/Mia Illinois Remembers**
- **Purple Heart**
- **Retired Armed Services**
- **Silver Star**
- **Universal Veterans**
- **Vietnam Veterans**
- **West Point Bicentennial**
- **World War II Veterans**



For most plates, there is a \$15.00 original issuance fee and renewal is \$2.00. For more information:

Write:

Illinois Secretary of State  
501 S. Second St. Rm 539  
Springfield, IL 62756

Call:

Toll Free: 800-252-8980

Visit on Web:

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

### Chaplain, continued from page 1.

Engstrom, 83, now works in public relations and fund raising at Family Alliance. This Woodstock facility provides daytime care for adults.

The VFW chaplain's duties also include leading prayers at Post meetings and at Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day observances.

The list of members who has occupied this office at Post 5040 reads like a "Who's Who" of community leaders. Following Rev. Urch as chaplain was Elmer Clausen, 1948 through 1950. Dwayne Raney answered the call in 1955 and also in 1961 and 1965. Jim Shoemaker was chaplain in 1974. He later served as Woodstock's mayor, 1985-1992. Chuck Mathey, a member of the rifle squad today, was chaplain, 1976 through 1978. Another man who filled this position with distinction was Dominic Amico. He was in the office from 1979 through 1992.

With the help of checking past VFW News, here is a list of chaplains who have served through the years:

1946-47, Rev. Cecil C. Urch	1961, Dwayne Raney	1971, Al Gignac
1948-50, Elmer Clausen	1962, Carl Olrich	1972, unknown
1951, Frank Cacci	1963, Hoyt Sherrill	1973, Bob Molthen
1952, Maynard Wilkerson	1964, Dwayne Raney	1974, Jim Shoemaker
1953, Frank Cacci	1965, Larry Kyle	1975, Seymour Mann
1954, unknown	1966, Roger Nolan	1976-78, Chuck Mathey
1955, Dwayne Raney	1967, Mike Stampanato	1979-82, Dominic Amico
1956-1958, unknown	1968, Bob Molthen	1983, Larry Kyle
1959, Hoyt Sherrill	1969, Mike Stampanato	1985-91, Dominic Amico
1960, unknown	1970, Gene Church	1992-2002, Marvin Bohnhoff



## Spotlight On...

Vernon Holm, Woodstock resident, had one of the more intriguing exhibit booths at the McHenry County Historical Society's Heritage Fair Sunday, July 13. Holm collects and sells marbles "of all sizes." Marbles on the left were manufactured by Akro Agate in Virginia. One of its most famous is a marble with a corkscrew pattern. Marbles on the right range in size from one half inch to 2 3/4 inches in diameter with latticimo or onion skin pattern. Holm's wife, Jeanne Holm, had an exhibit of handmade paper mache sculptures. Holm is a lifetime member of the VFW. He was in the Air Force from December 1950 to December 1954 and served with the occupation forces in Germany. Holm was with the 6910th Security Group with the United States Air Force Security Service and was a cryptographer. (Don Peasley Photo).

## Help On the VFW News

By Matt Klos, Editor

Fellow post members, I call on you for your help once again for the VFW News. For the second month in a row I am a little disappointed in the amount of stories for the newsletter. I apologize for this and am thankful to the contributors of the stories I do get. I am asking you to help out once again to tell me about things that are happening with you related to the post. Unfortunately, for the next five months or so I will not be able to make it to the meetings or cover events that may take place during the week. My job calls me to Baltimore during the week.

I ask each member this request. If you have any information about daily events regarding the post, a



## Ladies Auxiliary FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Nyda Fogarty  
President 2003-2004

I am sorry to report the deaths of two more of our long standing VFW Auxiliary members.

Mary Clausen passed away on July 9th at Centegra Hospital. A Memorial Service was held on July 18th. Mary's husband Elmer passed away just a year ago. They were present at most of the activities at the Post over the years.

Our Chaplain of the Auxiliary for many years was Alice McCannon. Alice passed away the last week of June and her funeral was July 7th. She lived in Crystal Lake and drove to Woodstock faithfully for the meetings. After she sold her home she moved to Hearthstone Village and then the Manor after having health problems. She was always very helpful and was always there to help out on any project the Auxiliary had. She was always a big help for the Teacher's Tea every year. We will certainly miss Alice and our sympathy to her sister Ruth Gehrke, sister-in-law Viola Brown and the rest of her large family.

The first meeting of the 5th District has now been set for August 3rd in Antioch. Mary West of Elgin is the new District president.

July starts our new year and dues of \$15.00 are now due.

The National convention will be in San Antonio, Texas from August. 24 - 29.

Our September 4th meeting will be a potluck at 6:30 P. M. prior to our meeting at 7:30 P.M.

meeting that you went to, saw something about the military (went to visit a base, toured a ship, etc.), or just want to say a few words, please send them to me. I am trying to do my best here to provide you with information about the post, but when I do not hear of things that are happening and am not told of events that take place, it makes it really hard to provide you stuff to read. The job I do as Editor for the paper is mostly formatting what post members have sent me (members such as Don Peasley, Ralph Ritter and Harold Irwin to name a few - - who have regularly provided me with information). If you have anything, write it down and mail it to me. Not only would I appreciate it, but all the people that would read your story would appreciate it too. Thanks.

815-338-0492 **ACE Hardware**



Rt. 47 - Woodstock

## Community Plumbing & Heating

326 E. Judd Street  
Woodstock, IL  
338-1039

## RAY WOLF JEWELERS

*Guaranteed  
Watch & Jewelry Repair*  
216 Main St. • Woodstock  
338-1232



**HARRIS  
BANK**  
**WOODSTOCK.**

On the Square Since 1889  
**338-3131**  
MEMBER FDIC

Schmidt Printing  
Quality Offset Printing  
130 Washington Street  
Woodstock  
815 338-0222

## Donahue's FURNITURE COMPANY

1345 South Eastwood Drive  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
**(815) 338-1086**

## Crystal Lake PONTIAC-GMC

6305 Northwest Highway  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
**(815) 477-8600**  
www.crystallakepontiac.com



**Schneider - Leucht - Merwin & Cooney**  
*Travel Home*  
Serving Your Community For Over 49 Years.  
Michael H. Cooney - Daniel P. Cooney  
1211 N. Seminary, Woodstock 815-338-1710

**Letters to the Editor...**

If you would like to send a letter to the editor, please send it to the following address (do not send it to the post address):



**Matt Klos**  
**VFW 5040 News Editor**  
**259 Dartmoor Dr.**  
**Crystal Lake, IL 60014**  
**(815)-479-8842**

And for those of you with access to the internet, you can e-mail me at:

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

Visit our Post Website:  
**[www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)**

Woodstock VFW NEWS is published monthly by VFW Post 5040, 240 Throop St., Woodstock, IL 60098 (phone 815/338-5040). Matthew Klos, Editor. Founded in July 1955 by Don Peasley (Editor 1955-2002). Fourteen-time winner of the National VFW Awards for Best Post Publication. No. 1 in 1956, 1963, 1971, and 1985. Second in 1968, 1970, 1990, 1997 and 1999. Third in 1983, 1984, 1986, 1991, 2000, 2001. Voted Illinois VFW's best 28 times, including 1999-2001. Circulation: ~800.

**WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS**

240 Throop Street  
 Woodstock, IL 60098

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 338  
 Woodstock, IL 60098

815-338-6464

## BTM INDUSTRIES, INC.

604 Washington Street  
 Woodstock, IL 60098



## WOODSTOCK AMERICAN LEGION

Meets Second Monday  
 of Each Month at the VFW  
 7:30 P.M.



*Serving McHenry County*

## WINDRIDGE funeral home, Ltd.

Joseph J. Ewald, Funeral Director  
 104 High Road • Cary, IL 60013  
**800-870-9648**

Affiliated with McHenry County  
 Memorial Park

## SHERWIN DECORATING

*Interior  
 Professional*

**Painting • Wallpapering  
 Fancy Finishes • Wood Finishing**

Sid Sherwin 13700 W. South St.  
 (815) 338-5573 Woodstock, IL 60098

## POLLOCK, MEYERS, EICKSTEADT & PULAK, LTD.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

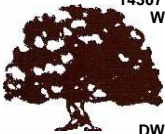
HARRIS BANK BLDG.  
 100 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
 MARENGO, ILLINOIS 60152  
 WWW.MARENGOLAW.COM

(815) 568-8071 FAX (815) 568-0003



## OAKLAND CEMETERY

14307 Kishwaukee Valley Rd.  
 Woodstock, IL 60098



DWIGHT AUSTIN, Pres.  
 Est. 1859 (815) 338-4309

## EMTECH

Machining & Grinding, Inc.

818 Trakk Lane P.O. Box 1810  
 Woodstock, IL 60098 PH. 815-338-1580  
 FAX 815-338-9339

ESTABLISHED FOR MORE THAN 114 YEARS

## Zoia Monument Co., Inc.

222 WASHINGTON STREET  
 WOODSTOCK, IL 60098

JAMES A. ZOIA PRESIDENT

PHONE 815/338-0358  
 FAX 815/338-0375

[zoiamonumentco@prodigy.net](mailto:zoiamonumentco@prodigy.net)

## Woodstock Car Wash

*(Formerly Wendt's Wonder Wash)*

**Automated Touchless Car Wash  
 Heated Bays**

218 Fair Street  
 (Back of McDonald's)  
 Woodstock  
**815/338-0115**

## BENOY MOTOR SALES, INC.

*Serving McHenry County Since 1948*

Raymond Benoy  
 President

CHRYSLER FIVE STAR AWARD DEALER

1790 S. EASTWOOD DRIVE  
 WOODSTOCK, IL 60098 (815) 338-5100

*Quality Water is Not a Matter of  
 Chance. It is a Matter of Choice,*

QUALITY WATER CONDITIONING



711 Amsterdam St. - Woodstock, IL 60098

**815-338-3344**

Rent with option to purchase

## AMCORE BANK

*Focused on You.*

225 W. Jackson St. • 815-338-6200

**www.AMCORE.com**

Member FDIC

## FRISCH & BARRETT

Insurance Agency

226 W. Main Street  
 Cary, IL 60013

PHONE: (847) 639-2134 • (815) 385-0300

FAX: (847) 639-2163

[frischbarretts@ameritech.net](mailto:frischbarretts@ameritech.net)