

Woodstock

VFW News

Winner of 15
National Publication
Awards

www.vfw5040.org

January 2004
Vol. 49. No. 7

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

VFW Post 5040 From The Commander

By Sid Sherwin
Commander 2003-2004

Greetings Members,

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. Another year has come and gone. Last year was a great year filled with lots of fun events and successful fundraisers. I would like to thank everyone that participated and volunteered their time in all of our club events. You all have made the last year a huge success! As we look forward to the new year, we will strive just as hard to do even better than the last. I know that with the dedication that everyone has shown that we can achieve any goal that we strive for.

We have many exciting changes to look forward to. Our **new bar hours for Saturday's will be from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm** effective February 7th. Another change that will be taking place is the **cancellation of Bingo on Friday evenings**. We hope that we will be able to find a way to bring bingo back if participation rates warrant it. We're going with the flow, and as the season comes to us we can modify this decision if needed.

Sid Sherwin

Ladies Auxiliary From the President

By Nyda Fogarty
President 2003-2004

Our Christmas party on Thursday December 4th turned out very nice. There was plenty of baked ham and the rest of the food brought by the members was enjoyed by all. There was a drawing for free dues next year for those present at the party. The winners were: Joyce Fringer, Chris Gehrke and Nyda Fogarty. Our thanks to Viola Brown for being the Chairman of the party and all her work for making it a success. Viola's daughter, Bonnie Kagel, also helped on the party.

It was decided at the meeting that our next meeting would be held on Thursday, January 8th, due to the holiday on the regular meeting night.

For the March 4th meeting, we will have a potluck prior to the meeting, so keep this date in mind.

If your current dues are not paid please send them to our Treasurer, Barb Gehrke at 846 Wicker St.

Wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Nyda Fogarty

Annual Auxiliary Teachers Tea Honors Two Teachers

By Don Peasley

The Woodstock VFW and the Woodstock VFW Auxiliary continued a tradition started in 1956 in naming two veteran teachers to receive the accolade, "Teacher of the Year," at the annual Teachers Tea Thursday, November 20.

Vincent Malek, Marian Central Catholic High School chemistry teacher, and Chris Strong, Woodstock High School (WHS) English teacher, were named winners. Chairman Nyda Fogarty explained, "We had so many excellent nominees we decided to recognize the accomplishments of two teachers this year."

Fogarty said the VFW and its Auxiliary want to focus attention on the importance of teachers shaping the lives of so many children in this profession.

"We are the only Woodstock organization besides the District 200 school board with a formal program honoring teachers," Fogarty added.

On the committee with Fogarty were Chris Gehrke, Barbara Gehrke, Rosemary Hellstern, Geraldine Salyers and Karen Wells.

Malek has 39 years' experience as a teacher, 34 years at Deerfield High School, and the past 5 ½ years at Marian Central. Strong has been a WHS teacher for 35 years. He has

See **Teachers**, page 3.



Woodstock VFW Auxiliary announced its Teachers of the Year during the annual tea at Post 5040 on November 20. From left: Nyda Fogarty, Vincent Malek, Marian Central Catholic High School chemistry teacher; Chris Strong, Woodstock High School English teacher; and Chris Gehrke. Fogarty and Gehrke were co-chairmen honoring all Woodstock area public and private school teachers. (Don Peasley Photo).

VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2003 - 2004

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Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	Charles (Chuck) Mathey	(815)-338-5374
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Judge Advocate	Henry (Hank) Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
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2 Year Trustee	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
3 Year Trustee	Bill Lyford	(815)-337-0025

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

Farewell to Our Departed Comrades

At our December meeting, the post members paid one last tribute to the members of our post who died during this past year in 2003. Each name was read off aloud to the members attending the meeting and a bell was rang following each name. Our sympathies to the families, may we someday meet with our departed comrades once again.

- John W. Hinner
- Eugene Dangerfield
- Conrad Kornatowski
- Larry A. Jones
- Laurene W. Porter
- Garnet C. Glass
- Clifford Klabunde
- Thomas R. Nelson
- Howard F. Book
- Floyd Wilcox
- Thomas Herdklotz
- Salvadore Cassata
- Harold G. Knutson, Sr.
- Gerald F. Palmquist
- Glen Porter
- Howard L. Scott
- John D. Case
- Charles L. Fish
- Robert C. Bishop, Sr.
- Francis J. King
- Elwood Sherwin
- Robert Kramer

Sign a Plane...

Don Sword will be looking for people to take to the Landings Airport, Huntley, to sign the WW2 vintage airplane (T-6). This trip would be sometime on a Saturday in January. This plane is part of a rebuild program that is currently touring and being signed by service members throughout the world. Sign up at the bar or call Don at 815-338-0068.

Around the Post...

Contributed by Ralph Ritter

• Security Enhancements...

We installed new security cameras at the Post. We will have a 72-96 hour backup tape. The camera system has 4 cameras and is like the ones you see in a bank, gas station or restaurants. The camera system was provided to the Post by the Antique Motorcycle Club.

• What's up with the Parking Lot?

The City of Woodstock's lease on our parking lot will end on August 31, 2004. The Post leased this land to the city back in 1984. The city paid for the improvements and we leased the land to them for one dollar. When the lease ends, we will then have about 30 parking spaces for post patrons only. This will be a big help for our parking problems.

• **Tool Show A Success:** The post had the tool show again on December 31, 2003. It was a big success once again. Thank you to the volunteers that worked on New Years Eve so we could have the show.

• Traveling Wall Back in Woodstock?

Phil Meyer from Quality Water will be bringing back the Traveling Vietnam Wall again to Woodstock. The date has not been set as of yet. Thanks Phil.

• Get your morning coffee...

Jack Fish is still having coffee and rolls for anyone that wants to come down to the Post on Monday mornings. You will be amazed how much you can learn in 2 hours. So come on down and visit Jack from 8-10 a.m. on Mondays.

• Laptop Needed...

If anyone has an old laptop computer that they would like to donate to the post, we sure could use it. The one that we have been using to keep track of the dinners has broken down.

• Still Looking for new members...

Do you know of anyone that wants to become a VFW member, or transfer to our Post? We are looking for new members all of the time.

• Thanks to the Corp...

Thanks to the McHenry County Marine Corp League for your donation to the Post.

• Drawing held at the bar...

Everyone is invited to come down to the Post for the 4 o'clock drawing on Saturdays. We give away 90% of the pot, a six pack and a free drink. We have a great time, so come join us.

• And finally...

Remember that the Post is your Club. When was the last time you came down for a meal or a drink? We need your support. Please visit.

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.

Teachers, continued from page 1.

incorporated literature, radio, television and filmmaking and operation of the school's FM station (89.1) as part of his instruction.

"Strong's passion for teaching English is reflected in the outstanding programs he has developed over the years," said Dean Schultz, WSH principal. "His personal and professional qualities enable him to lead the staff and students in a favorable environment of technology and music in the English curriculum."

Strong began his teaching career at Abingdon High School in 1966 following his graduation from Western Illinois University. He came to WSH in 1969. Reflecting on his extensive career Strong said one difference today from his first years as a teacher is the diversity among students ethnically and economically.

"Vincent Malek is an outstanding educator. His enthusiasm about science has infected his students with a joy of learning," said Charles Rakers, Marian principal.

Malek was winner of the 2001 Davis Award, an award given to one Illinois teacher each year by the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois for excellence in teaching chemistry.

Malek and his wife Victoria have two sons and a daughter. Richard is in production with a radio station in Denver. Darren is in custodial work in Woodstock. Lauren is married to Dr. Mark Hanson and lives in Bloomington.

Voice of Democracy Winner Announced

By Don Peasley

This year's Voice of Democracy theme was "My Commitment to America's Future." The winning school was Marengo High School. The counselor that helped to get the winning student involved with this was Mrs. Mary Noe. Finally, the winning student of the VOD was senior Nicole Becklinger.

Nicole was honored at the December 15 VFW meeting. She will compete in the Fifth District contest in January.

From left: Chris Gehrke, Nicole Becklinger, her mother Kathie Becklinger; her high school teacher Mary Noe; and Bill Lyford. Gehrke and Lyford were contest co-chairmen. (Don Peasley Photo).

[The **Voice of Democracy** is an annual national audio essay contest that is designed to foster patriotism by giving high school students in grades 9 through 12 the opportunity to voice their opinion about their personal obligations as an American and address their responsibility to our country.

The 2004-2005 theme is "Celebrating Our Veterans' Service" Deadline for entries is **November 1, 2004**. - VFW Website]



American Legion Post 412 Places Plaque on Woodstock Square

By Don Peasley

Woodstock Mayor Alan Cornue joins American Legion members at the unveiling of a Woodstock American Legion plaque in the Square honoring all veterans.

The Woodstock VFW placed a similar memorial honoring veterans in the Square west of the Civil War Statue in 1996.

Many members of VFW Post 5040 are also members of the American Legion Post 412.

From left: Darrell Baxter, Henry Nulle, Jack Reinert, Mayor Alan Cornue, City Councilman Jim Prindiville, Dwayne Raney, Jim Hodges, Woodstock American Legion Commander Dick Schoeder, Marvin Munson and Jim Zoia. Zoia prepared the plaque and placed it on the marble near the Civil War Statue (shown in foreground). (Courtesy Photo).



January 2004

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

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	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	3
4	5 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	6 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	7 Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	8	9 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	10
11	12 American Legion 7:30 pm	13 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	14 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	15 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	16 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	17
18	19 VFW Meeting 7 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	20 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	21 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County (7:30 pm) Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	22 Jaycees 7 pm	23 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	24
25	26 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	27 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	28 Jaycees 7 pm	29	30 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	31



Patriots Pen Contest Winner At Post 5040

From the National VFW Post Website

Patriot's Pen, a youth essay writing contest, is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6,7 and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Last year, more than 100,000 students participated 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.

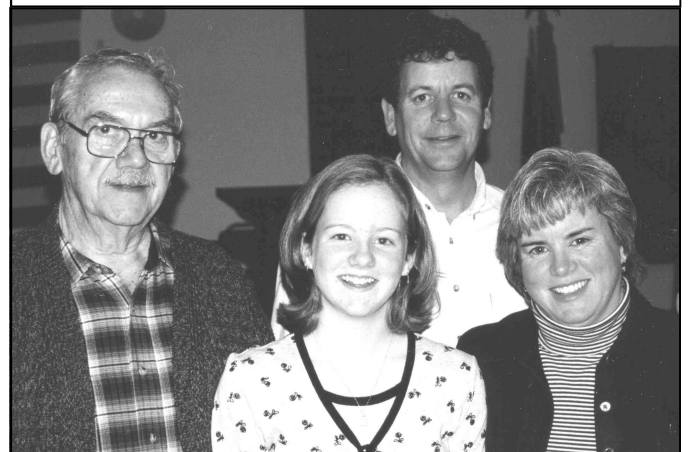
The 2004-2005 theme is "What Service to Our Country Means to Me." **The deadline is November 1, 2004.**

Maggie Dhom was honored at the VFW meeting December 15. She placed first in the Patriot's Pen contest, writing on the theme "My Dream for America."

(Below) From left: Chris Gehrke, Mary Kennelly, Maggie's teacher; Maggie with her parents David and Maribeth Dhom; and Bill Lyford. Gehrke and Lyford were co-chairmen for the contest. (Don Peasley Photo).



Larry Dhom (left) was one of the VFW members honoring his granddaughter, Maggie Dhom, at the VFW's December 15 meeting. Maggie was named winner of the Patriot's Pen contest. With her are her parents, David and Maribeth Dhom. (Don Peasley Photo).



January 2004 Survey

As Editor of the VFW News, I want to begin this year with a survey to find out what our readership level truly is and identify areas for improvement. For the months of January and February 2004, this survey will be on the last page of the newsletter. While I can't make you fill this survey out, I do ask that you at least send this survey coupon back to me **ONLY ONCE**. What will I do with the results? That depends on the responses I receive back. It could mean tailoring our VFW News mailing list to include only those names that actually respond. I really don't know until I get back the results. I am expecting at least 500 responses. I know it will cost you one stamp, but this information will be useful.

- Do you read the VFW news monthly?..... Y N
- Do you want to continue to receive the VFW News? Y N
- Do you have internet access? Y N
- Would you prefer to visit the website instead for post information?..... Y N
- Do you find the information helpful in the VFW News?..... Y N

If no, please explain:

What would help make the newsletter better? Suggestions: _____

Can you help out with activities at the post?..... Y N Not at this time.

Do you feel that the Woodstock VFW is contributing to the community effectively?..... Y N

If you do not attend the monthly meeting, what is your primary reason for not attending?

- Not Interested
- Conflicts of schedule
- Physically can't get to the post
- Conflicts with certain individuals
- Other: _____

Does the post website help you or provide you with additional information?..... Y N

Please mail your completed survey to:
VFW 2004 Survey
c/o Matt Klos
259 Dartmoor Drive
Crystal Lake, IL 60014-8607

Additional Comments: _____



From the Editors Desk

By Matt Klos

Website: www.vfw5040.org

Well, as you might be wondering, this newsletter is a little late this month. The holidays came fast and before I knew it, it was time to create another VFW Newsletter. I want to thank all of those in the post that have contributed to the paper, especially Don Peasley for his photos and stories, Ralph Ritter for keeping me abreast of changes and new things happening at the post, Howard Engstrom for his Chaplain's reports, and Harold Irwin (and wife) for getting the newsletters to the post office and keeping up with the mailing labels. 2004 looks like a better year economically, so hopefully that will help the post as well. The website continues to be up and running, and I have recently added a Message Board to the site. Want to voice and opinion? Go to the website and post a message. Happy New Year to all the members of our post. Please be sure to fill out the above survey and sent it to me. This information means a lot to me.

Regards, *Matthew*

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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

Visit our Post Website:
www.vfw5040.org

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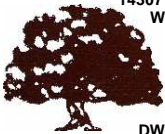
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