



Woodstock

VFW News

Winner of 15
National Publication
Awards

www.vfw5040.org

February 2004
Vol. 49. No. 8

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

VFW Post 5040 From the Commander

By Sid Sherwin
Commander 2003-2004

Greetings fellow Comrades! We had a good meeting in January, our first of the year. I have three items I would like to call your attention to:

1) **Please get your dues in.** We had a visit from district at the January meeting, and one of the things brought up was Post dues. We have about 75 members or so that still owe dues for the 2003-2004 year. Please get these paid up. If you owe dues, you should have received a letter from the National VFW with the amount due and the address where to send the dues to. If you have any questions on this, please call the post (see page 2 for phone numbers).

2) If you know of any family members, friends neighbors, etc. that are in the military and have served overseas, they may be eligible to join the VFW. Why not sign them up? Don't have a membership form? You probably do and don't even know it. In the National VFW magazine (January 2004 issue), on page 51 there is a membership form. In the Illinois VFW News (December 2003/ January 2004 issue), on page 3 there is a membership form. You can also visit the VFW website (www.vfw.org) for forms and even submit applications on-line.

3) In February, the post is sponsoring the use of the hall for the Illinois Firemen's Museum. They are expecting about 200 kids to come to an event they are planning. They came to us about a month or so ago asking for use of the hall. The post has decided to let them use it for the event since they needed a large hall.

4) On **March 14th, 10:00 am** the post is planning on having a cleanup day to tidy up the post, do some needed repairs and painting, etc. Please mark this on your calendar if you can help out.

That's about all I have. Until next newsletter, have a good month and maybe we'll see you down at the post.

Sid Sherwin

Bronze Eagle Presented to Post 5040

By Matt Klos

On Sunday, January 11th, Hank Nulle and Charlie Mathey



Charlie Mathey (pictured) and Hank Nulle accepted a bronze statue from the Illinois National Guard in appreciation for the support the post has given the Woodstock based unit (Matt Klos photo).

accepted a bronze eagle statue on behalf of the Woodstock VFW Post 5040 from the Illinois Army National Guard unit based in Woodstock on Sunset Ridge Road. The statue is an eagle with wings spread and claws open, almost looking as if coming in for an attack. It's a solid bronze statue, and weighs several pounds. There is also a plaque on the base of the statue inscribed with the following message, "In appreciation for your dedication and support to the men & women of the Army National Guard who serve to defend freedom."

Mathey indicated that some of the things that we had done as a post in supporting the unit was that post members went to the Armory when the unit was leaving to serve overseas and

also for the welcome home ceremony.

If you would like to see the statue, come on down to the post. It sits behind the cash register at the bar.

**Don't Feel Like Cooking?
Have Dinner at the Post!**

Wednesdays: 5-8 pm...\$7.95

Fridays: 5-8 pm - Ocean Perch Fry

All you can eat...\$5.95



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www.vfw5040.org

VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2003 - 2004

Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Senior Vice Commander	Mark Clawson	(815)-338-2135
Junior Vice Commander	Donald (Sully) Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Quartermaster	Thom Gillespie	(815)-597-1319
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Assistant Chaplain	Charles (Chuck) Mathey	(815)-338-5374
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	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

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.

Crystal Lake to Start New Post

By Matt Klos

At the January meeting, Richard Coombe, Assistant Membership Director for Illinois VFW, announced that Crystal Lake is in the process of chartering a new post. You may recall that in 2001 Crystal Lake VFW post 6004 closed down its post and transferred all membership into the Woodstock VFW Post 5040. About 104 members transferred at the time.

With a new post trying to start up in Crystal Lake, several members from District 5 headquarters have been lending a hand by canvassing neighborhoods in Crystal Lake looking for potential new members. They have signed up several new members to act as charter members for the new post.

Once caveat with starting a new post is that the charter members must be brand new members, not having been members of a previous VFW post. To date, approximately 8 more members are needed to reach the minimum 25 charter members.

One question that was asked at the meeting about Crystal Lake starting a new post was why not recruit the members into the Woodstock or other nearby posts? The answer was that State headquarters said that Crystal Lake was a large enough city and should have enough new members to begin its own post. We'll see what happens.

If a post does get established in Crystal Lake, what becomes of the members that transferred into the Woodstock Post? Nothing really. Unless existing members want to transfer, that would be up to the individual. Establishing a new post is a lot of work in the first year with much dedication needed from the charter members and district commanders to get it going.

Best of luck to the men and/or women that will be charting the new post. If help is needed in understanding meeting proceedings, record keeping, etc., I'm sure that VFW Post 5040 can give some pointers.



Chaplains Report

By Howard Engstrom

Letters and Cards:

- Ruth Wenk
- Ruth Neaveill
- Mrs. Joe Thiede
- Bob Salyers

Visit:

- Glenn Porter Family

Funeral Wake Service:

- Glenn Porter

I wish all comrades a happy and healthy New Year.
 Thanks for allowing me to serve.

St. Patrick's Day Party at Post 5040

Mark your calendars. On Wednesday, March 17th, the post will be having a St. Patrick's day party. Planned activities are Raffle Prizes, Karaoke, Fun & Games. Come on out and be Irish for a night to celebrate with fellow post members.

St. Patty's Day Menu:

Ribs & Chicken, Corned Beef
 Cabbage, Little Potatoes & Carrots

\$7.95 All You Can Eat

Special Guests at January Meeting

By Matt Klos

At the January meeting, we had several guests join us in our deliberations. Present were Raymond Bachewicz (District 5 Commander), Richard Coombe (State of Illinois Assistant Membership Director), Jose Duran (District 5 Sr. Vice Commander), and Walter Michalski (State of Illinois National Home Director).

Each of these special guests had a different reason for visiting the post. After the normal meeting proceedings, each was given time at the podium to speak about what they were there for.

Walter Michalski spoke on the VFW National Home for Children which is located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. If you are not familiar with the VFW National Home, it is a private, non-profit residential child care agency providing long and short term residency to children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members and their families, along with children of active duty military personnel.

Michalski spoke about the VFW National home, stressing that the home has about 114 residents, 23 which are under the age of 6. He asked the post for a donation and spoke about a raffle that will take place later this year on October 2 for a large screen TV or \$1,550.00 cash.

Jose Duran attended the meeting primarily to attend to some business with the Post officers. Our X-sheet, which details all the activities our post participates in for the current year, was in need of updating and he was there to see that the required documentation was being gathered and submitted to state so we could get the proper credit as a post on all the activities we have completed.

Duran also brought it to the post's attention that our post was no longer the largest post in the 5 District anymore. Our membership has been decreasing over the last several years and we have not had an influx of new members to replace departed comrades.

Richard Coombe's business was primarily with membership. With our numbers decreasing and about 75 members that have not paid dues, Richard wanted to see what the post was going to do about getting those members that have not paid to pay up. Several discussions took place about non-paying members that don't show an interest in the post, what to do with them, and how to handle their dues situation. Other discussions also talked about members who had not paid and are unable to pay their yearly dues. These issues were tabled until the next meeting and officer meeting.

Coombe mentioned the importance of membership in today's posts and how important it was for each post member to look for potential new members in each of the communities that we live in. Each year the VFW loses thousands of members, and the overall membership goes down. There are a lot of potential new members out there, but each member of the VFW needs to take it upon themselves to look for and sign up these new members.

Ray Bachewicz got to the meeting a little late and was mostly giving support to the other guests and reiterating some of the points that each of the other guests touched on.

We thank the district officers for the visit and support they have given us this last year. Best of luck to you on your quests to increase membership and raise funds for your respective causes.



Special guests at the January meeting are (left to right): Walter Michalski (State of Illinois National Home Director); Richard Coombe (State of Illinois Assistant Membership Director); Jose Duran (District 5 Sr. Vice Commander); and Raymond Bachewicz (District 5 Commander).

Message to the VFW Ad Sponsors

For all the businesses that have an ad in the VFW News, please remember to submit your current payment for the 2004 calendar year. A letter was sent to each ad sponsor in December/January with details of ad cost and a detail sheet for changes that are needed (if any). Due date for this is February 15th. The VFW has received about half of the ad sponsor renewals back, so if you have not done so already, please remember to send your payment to the Woodstock VFW post. Thank you to all that have renewed for 2004!

Woodstock Memorial Day Plans are Underway

By Dwayne Raney

The Woodstock Memorial Day Committee will meet next on Monday, February 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs hall of the Woodstock VFW Post 5040. Richard (Dick) Schroeder, American Legion Post 412 Commander, the committee's acting chairman, urges all committee members, and others interested, to be in attendance, as there's much more planning needed to be finalized for this year's observance to be held on Monday, May 31st, which is the date of the national observance this year and not on the usual 4th Monday in May.

If you want to help in planning this event, the committee will be meeting the first Monday of each month. Please contact the post or Dick Schroeder of the American Legion by leaving a message at the VFW Post. The American Legion meets at the VFW post, so any messages left for Dick will be given to him.

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

Rent the VFW Hall for Your Next Meeting or Family Function

The VFW Hall is again available for rent. There is a 50% discount for VFW Members. We have both the upstairs and downstairs halls available. For more information contact Tom Price at the post: 815-338-5040. If you would like to view the hall, you can do so by visiting the VFW Post 5040 web site for pictures of both the upstairs and downstairs hall.



The Woodstock Square was all aglow with beautiful lighting of trees and tops of buildings with coordination of this project by the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Four organizations which helped finance the Victorian Christmas theme were honored in late December by the Chamber of Commerce. From left: Quinn Keefe, interim Chamber director holding the plaque given the Northwest Herald; Anthony Diasio, Amcore Bank vice president; Marge Alexander, marketing consultant for Star 105.5; and Ellen Hervatin, sales manager for Neumann Homes. (Don Peasley Photo).

Around the Post...

By Matt Klos

What other things are going on down at the Post?

- Riverboat Casino Trip Planned for Sunday, April 25th. The post is planning a trip to the Mississippi Belle II Riverboat Casino. More information to visit: mississippibelle.casinocity.com on the internet. Call the post for more details.
- Karaoke is coming to the VFW Post 5040 in February. Stay tuned for more...
- Saturday bar hours have changed from **2:00 - 6:00 pm** to **3:00 - 7:00 pm**.
- Post Cleanup day is scheduled for **March 14th at 10:00 am**.
- Did you know that our website will be on the internet for one year on March 12, 2004?
- As many of you may know, the Post is no longer having Bingo on Friday nights. This was due to lack of participation and competition with other Bingo halls in the area having Bingo the same night.

January 2004 Survey

This is the second running of the January 2004 Survey. This survey will run January, February, and March. 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**. I have gotten a lot of good feedback and also found out some interesting information based on the statistics of the questions below. In April, I will publish the statistics. There are several reasons for collecting the information which I will share in the future issue. For now, rest assured that the printed copy that you receive will not be going away. I am expecting at least 500 responses (so far 45 people have responded). 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

Website: www.vfw5040.org



By Matt Klos

I appreciate all those that responded to the above survey last month. I got a lot of good comments and several suggestions. One thing that I will share right now as a result of the survey is that many of the responses said they did not have internet access. So why do I push the website so much? Several reasons. In today's world, there are a lot of people that have computers in their homes and have internet access. They use it for information, shopping, paying bills, etc. One benefit having our own post website is that if any potential new members in the armed services want to find out about our post and what we do, they can visit our website to get a no pressure glimpse of our post. Ever want to visit another post somewhere in the country? The other day I went out to the National VFW web site and counted up the number of posts that had web sites (by state). There were 485 post and district websites (California - 43, Hawaii - 29, Florida - 28, Illinois - 25, Virginia - 23) around the United States that you could visit. We even get points on our X-sheet for having a website. So, even though you may not visit the site, somewhere there may be a potential new member whose first visit to the post could be through our web site.

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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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