

# Woodstock VFW News

Winner of 15  
National Publication  
Awards

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

March 2004  
Vol. 49. No. 9

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

## VFW Post 5040 From the Commander

By Sid Sherwin  
Commander 2003-2004

Greetings fellow Comrades! I have a few items to touch on this month that need your attention.

**Nominations for the 2004-2005 Post Officers** will be taking place at the March meeting, with elections to take place in April. As in the past, we have had a tough time filling these positions. Please give some thought to possibly stepping up and taking on a position for this next year. We could really use your help and/or expertise to help the post out.

We will be having a **Post Clean Up Day on March 14th**. Volunteers are needed. If you plan on attending this, please bring dish to pass, as we will be having lunch after the cleanup. Plan to be at the post by 10:00 am and staying to 1 or 2.

I attended the District 5 February meeting last month. One of the main points that was stressed was membership. This is a tough subject, as our membership in the post and across the nation becomes fewer with each passing year. If you know a person that may be eligible for membership, please ask them to consider joining the VFW. If you need help with this, please contact any of the officers. They can get forms out to you if you need them or point you in the right direction for more information. If you have internet access, forms are available on the National VFW website at [www.VFW.org](http://www.VFW.org).

Finally, I would like to recognize Anna Mae Weber for her volunteer work at the post. She has helped in serving meals, helps with the kitchen and is always doing something at the post. We thank you for your hard work and dedication that you have given to the post.

*Sid Sherwin*

Sid Sherwin, Commander of the Woodstock VFW (right), makes a \$500 donation to Family Alliance to assist in the organization's service to veterans at the adult day care center. Accepting the contribution is Howard Engstrom, public relations director at Family Alliance (left). (Don Peasley Photo)

## Ladies Auxiliary From the President

By Nyda Fogarty  
President 2003-2004

We are sorry we have lost our bingo on Friday nights and that there isn't enough ladies to take it over. We are talking over options for money making projects to take the place of monies received from Bingo. If anyone has any ideas, please let us know.

Our pot-luck has been postponed from March 4 until April 1st.

Two new applications have been approved for membership. They are from Lois Freund and Louise Salyers of Woodstock. They will be initiated at the next meeting for March 4th. Welcome!

*Nyda Fogarty*

## Historical Society to Preserve Don's Pictures

By Don Peasley

A fundraiser to help the McHenry County Historical Society preserve a historical photo collection will be held Saturday, March 27, 2004, 6:00 p.m. at the Bull Valley Country Club. Don Peasley, McHenry County journalist, photographer and editor for 57 years, is donating his photos and negatives to the Historical Society. Funds are needed to help pay for the

See **Pictures**, page 2.



Visit our post on the web:  
[www.vfw5040.org](http://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.

### **Pictures, continued from page 1.**

8 x 10 prints of several thousand negatives and to identify the historical significance of the photo together with names of any people shown in the picture.

This opportunity to preserve photos of significance is of special value to the Woodstock VFW because Don has photographed many major events regarding veterans' activities in his production of the monthly Woodstock VFW News magazine.

"The VFW News provides an ideal source of information about each picture," said Peasley. "The photos have been filed by month and year to make them accessible to chronicle for the Historical Society."

The dinner will be at 7 p.m. The tickets are \$150 each with funds earmarked for the photo

project and operating costs of the Historical Society Museum at Union. Tickets may be obtained by calling the Historical Society at (815) 923-2267.

The photos show many Post and Auxiliary activities. One memorable photo shows the VFW sponsoring the Fourth of July Festival in the city park in the early 1950s. Many photos highlight the VFW V-J Day Parade on the Square and the Pageant of Drums at the high school football field.

Photos also show many of the members through the years including such milestone gatherings as the charter member group picture during the 40th anniversary of Post 5040 in 1986. The VFW involvement in sponsoring a bowling league, helping start the Woodstock Little League and financing the Teen-er League are among other notable photo highlights.

Nancy Fike, museum director, said photos in the Don Peasley Photography Archive Collection will be available for those conducting historical research and will also be used for educational programs for school groups.

[Editors Note: Don has done a wonderful job capturing McHenry county history as well as the VFW. The historical society needs \$150,000 to preserve this precious collection of photography. The post salutes you Don, one of our own members, in this achievement.]



### **Chaplains Report**

By Howard Engstrom

#### **Personal Visits:**

- Herb Hensel at Valley Hi
- Otis Setser at Valley Hi
- Earl Holm at home
- Ed Gates at residence

#### **Phone / Card visits:**

- Bud Pflug
- Wilbey Kiefer
- Lucille Hiedenreich

Comrades, please continue to pray for the safety and well being of our comrades overseas.

### **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:**

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No purchase necessary. Limit 1 (one) entry per person. Drawing to be held on July 5, 2004

## VFW Provides Use of Hall for Fire Museum Open House

By Don Peasley and Matt Klos

On Sunday, February 15th, about 100 children participated in an open house sponsored by the Northern Illinois Fire Museum at the Woodstock VFW. The VFW donated the use of the upstairs hall for the open house. Outside of the VFW in front of the building, three old fire trucks were on view. Visitors were invited to sit in some of the trucks to get an idea of what driving a big red rig would be like. Children were entertained upstairs in the hall with a clown blowing balloons and performing tricks. Although the event expected more participants, overall it was a success. The Illinois Fire Museum plans on making a donation to the VFW for the use of the hall. Thanks to those VFW members that volunteered their time Sunday to supervise while the event was taking place.

## Time to Think about the Soup to Nuts Sale

By Russ and Donna Freeman

Just a reminder from Russ and Donna Freeman to be thinking of things you no longer want and to put them aside for the VFW Soup to Nuts Sale to be held on **May 1st and 2nd**.

The Freemans' will be available for item pick-ups the week or two before the sale. They will also need help setting up on Friday and workers for Saturday and Sunday morning. Thanks for any help you can give.

As a reminder, items should be clean and in good working order. Suggested items are: books, dishes, curtains, bedspreads, appliances, tools, furniture, etc.

As we don't have the storage space to hold items you may have at this time, hold on to them and they will be picked up (or you may drop off) as the sale date draws closer. More information will be available in next month's issue.

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

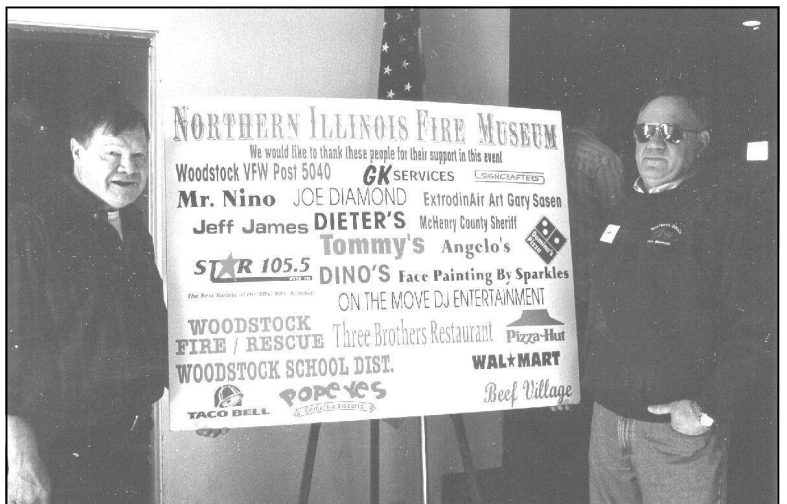
Wednesdays: 5-8 pm...\$7.95

Fridays: 5-8 pm - Ocean Perch Fry

All you can eat...\$5.95



About 100 children participated in an open house sponsored by the Northern Illinois Fire Museum at the Woodstock VFW. Three old fire trucks were on view. Jill Bryan and Annie Turgott, Hebron, stand by a 1972 Pirsch fire truck that served the community for 28 years. With them is Greg Kuhs, chairman. (Don Peasley Photo)



The Woodstock VFW provided its large meeting room for the Northern Illinois Fire Museum's open house for children. Sid Sherwin, VFW Commander (left), and Armand Ravisso, board member of the Fire Museum, stand by a board showing the many businesses making donations given to the children. (Don Peasley Photo)



The Illinois Fire Museum brought with them a total of three old fire trucks that were in use until being brought to the museum. Each was in very good condition and provided visitors an up close look at the intricacies of the fire trucks. (Matt Klos Photo)

## Its All About Membership... Membership...Membership...Membership

So, what do you think this is about? Well, membership of course! We still have many members out there that have not paid up their dues yet. We are currently at 87% paid up for the 2003-04 year. We would really like to get this to 100% (or more if we can get new members in) by the deadline of April 30th. If you have not done so, please get your membership dues in for the year. As a reminder, New Membership is \$27.00, Reinstated Membership is \$25.00, and Continuous Membership is also \$25.00.

In a recent inquiry to the National VFW, here is a list of 68 members that were listed as unpaid. If your name is listed here and you believe you have already paid your membership, please contact the post so we can check our records for payment.

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Adelman, Steve       | • Koeller, Ronald       |
| • Albin, Stanley       | • Krewer, Charles       |
| • Andrew, George       | • M'Lady, James         |
| • Andrews, Robert      | • Maloney, Thomas       |
| • Barnes, Roy          | • Molen, Dana           |
| • Barone, Phillip      | • Nelson, Eugene        |
| • Bauman, Erwin        | • Nolan, William        |
| • Beaudine, Bruce      | • Olach, Robert         |
| • Bforhardt, Orville   | • Olson, Douglas        |
| • Blietz, Richard      | • Paulsen, Brad         |
| • Brizzi, Jeremy III   | • Plancon, Paul         |
| • Cabezas, Jorge       | • Radloff, Stephen Jr   |
| • Cain, Max            | • Rasmussen, Charles    |
| • Cambora, Jeffrey     | • Reed, Jeffery         |
| • Carroll, Thomas      | • Rousey, Andrew        |
| • Casper, Michael      | • Rutkowski, Michael    |
| • Clawson, Mark        | • Ryer, Joshua          |
| • Clegg, James         | • Salyers, Robert       |
| • Costello, Francis    | • Sanborn, Bob          |
| • Covell, John         | • Schulemann, Calvin    |
| • Day, Mark            | • Shellenberger, Robert |
| • Di Bartolomeo, Rebel | • Shugart, Nathan       |
| • Dionne, William      | • Silvertsten, William  |
| • Erwin, Edward        | • Simpson, Howard       |
| • Francke, George      | • Slusser, Thomas       |
| • Gabel, John          | • Speechley, William    |
| • Gardiner, Wayne      | • Summerhill, Robert    |
| • Gaylord, Bradley     | • Thayer, Eugene        |
| • Gratz, Lloyd         | • Van Marter, Alan      |
| • Hagans, Earl         | • Walters, Harold       |
| • Hardt, Adam          | • Walters, William      |
| • Howell, Edward       | • Welker, James         |
| • Kehe, Jerald         | • Woodward, Harold      |
| • Klemke, August       | • Young, Howard         |

Don't forget, you can always become a life member and don't have to hassle with yearly renewal notices. Contact the Post or National for more information.

## Ticket Information on WWII Memorial Dedication

Posted on the National VFW Website

A Message from the Director, National WWII Memorial Dedication Washington, D.C., Jan. 21, 2004--We are fast approaching the long-awaited May 29 dedication of the National World War II Memorial. These events will celebrate our nation's newest national memorial and pay tribute to those who served during World War II on the battlefield and on the home front.

The following is important information related to Dedication Weekend, particularly since many VFW members may be planning to visit D.C. for these celebrations.

Due to the overwhelming demand for tickets to the Dedication events, the number of requests received now exceeds the number of seats available for both the Dedication Ceremony on the National Mall (106,000) and all three "Salute to World War II Veterans" shows at the MCI Center (33,000 @ 11,000 each).

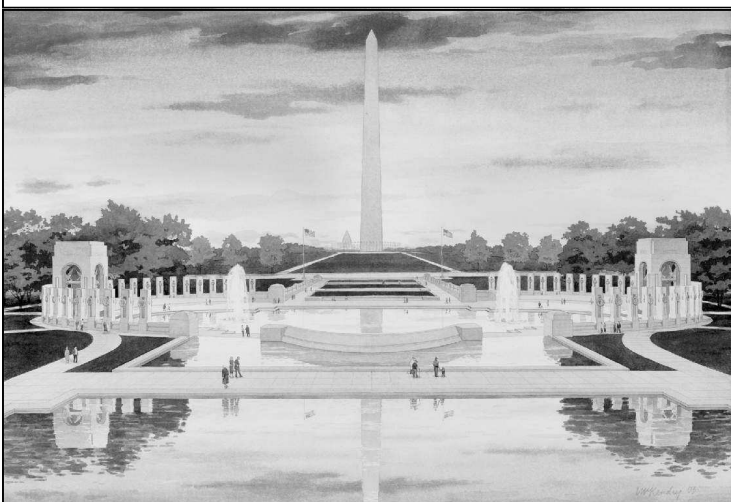
We can no longer accept requests for the Salute to Veterans shows. Demand has far exceeded the seats available, so an extensive wait-list already exists.

However, VFW members can call the toll free hotline at 800-639-4992, or log onto [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com), to be placed on a wait-list should tickets to the dedication ceremony become available in the coming months. Individuals and tour groups that have already requested tickets will be notified via mail by February 15 of their ticket fulfillment. Individuals on the wait-list will be notified by mail no later than March 30 if their request can be fulfilled.

It is unfortunate that not all requests can be fulfilled, but we can only put so many chairs on the event grounds. We want you to know, however, that ticket priority is being given to members of the World War II generation. In fact, for priority seating each WWII generation member is allowed only two guests so that as many WWII honorees as possible can be seated.

While tens of thousands of veterans and their families will

See **Memorial**, page 6.



## March 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
29	1 Woodstock Memorial Day Committee 7 pm	2 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	3 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	4 Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	5 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	6
7	8 American Legion 7:30 pm	9 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	10 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	11 Jaycees 7 pm	12 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	13
14 Post Cleanup Day 10 am - 1 or 2 pm Bring dish to pass as we will have lunch after the clean-up.	15 VFW Meeting 7 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	16 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	 17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> St. Patty's Day Menu, Chicken and Ribs 5 - 8 pm  Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County (7:30 pm)	18 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	19 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	20
21	22	23 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	24 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	25 Jaycees 7 pm	26 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	27
28	29	30 Dirt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	31 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	1 Ladies Auxiliary 7:30 pm Jaycees 7 pm	2 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	3

### 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.

Basic rates for hall rental are as follows:

- Rental which does not include the VFW providing alcohol or food:  
Upstairs: \$75.00 an hour  
Downstairs: \$50.00 an hour
- Rental which includes the VFW selling alcohol  
Upstairs: \$50.00 an hour  
Downstairs: \$35.00 an hour
- Three hours minimum charge.

Other charges may be incurred depending on the what your function may need. Contact the post for more details or if you have any questions about hall rental, food or beverage questions, contract questions, etc.

### Pictures, continued from page 5.

be in D.C., even more members of the WWII generation will gather with friends and family to celebrate the opening in community observances and festivities around the country, in many cases at events organized by local veteran service organizations. We will be providing a live satellite feed of the ceremony that will be available for such events, and the general public will have the opportunity to view the ceremony on live network or cable television.

You should also be aware that the city of Washington will follow the dedication with a city-wide, summer-long celebration entitled America Celebrates the Greatest Generation, a collection of more than 60 WWII-themed exhibitions, performances, walking tours, and hotel packages in Washington, D.C., and the Capital Region running from Memorial Day to Labor Day 2004. For more details, visit America's Greatest Generation ([www.washington.org/americacelebrates](http://www.washington.org/americacelebrates)) or Washington, D.C. events ([www.washington.org/index.cfm](http://www.washington.org/index.cfm)).

VFW members who do not receive tickets to the official dedication events should be encouraged to plan their trips to Washington for later in the summer when they will still be treated as honorees, but not have to endure the large crowds we expect on the Mall in late May.

It is our hope that all of these events, large and small, will  
See **Pictures**, page 7.



## January 2004 Survey

**This is the third and final running of the January 2004 Survey.** This survey has 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 81 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pictures**, continued from page 6.

help reach each member of the World War II generation so that they are appropriately honored and celebrated this summer. If you require additional information regarding Dedication Weekend, please log onto WWII Memorial ([www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com)) or contact me at 703-696-5025.

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to establish the National World War II Memorial.

## From the Editors Desk

By Matt Klos

Hope you all had a good month. Believe it or not, March 12 marks one full year that our post has been up on the web. Yes, I know many of you have not seen it. Over the course of the year we had about 2,750 unique visitors to the site. Is it worth it to keep the site up? I think yes, especially at a cost of only \$5.08 per month. A few drinks at the bar covers that cost.

**So, are you up for taking on an officer position this year?** Seriously though, the post is in major need of some people to step up and help out with being an officer for the coming year. If we don't have officers, we don't have a post. Simple as that. Yes, each position is a tough job and can require a lot of time. Is this your year to take it on? Give it some thought.

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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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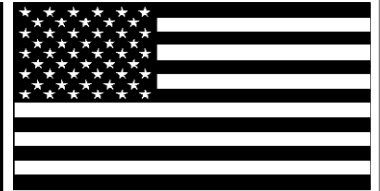
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