

# Woodstock VFW News

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Winner of 15  
National Publication  
Awards

State Second Place  
2004

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

February 2005  
Vol. 50. No. 8



## Sweetheart Raffle February 12, 2005

**Ticket Price: \$50.00 each**

The Sweetheart Raffle is finally upon us! There is still time to buy your \$50.00 raffle ticket for a chance at the big prize payouts. This could be your lucky Valentine's Day!

### Sign Up Early for Sweetheart Raffle Dinner

Choice of Prime rib or Chicken Kiev

**\$25.00 per couple** (\$12.50 single) prepaid to Post with two complimentary drink tickets (one if single).

**\$25.00 at the door without** drink tickets.

A live band will be playing, so plan for a full night of entertainment, raffle prizes, and fun. If you plan on attending the dinner, we **encourage** you to **prepay** your dinner so we can get an accurate count of how many diners we should prepare for (see page 3 for remittance form).

If you plan on only attending the raffle, you do not have to buy a dinner.

**Cocktails** will start at **6:00 pm**, followed by dinner at **7:00 pm**. Drawing for raffle prizes will begin about **9:00 pm**. Don't forget, there will be a \$100 attendance

drawing for those that show up for this. This should be a lot of fun. Please come out for this. For additional information on the Raffle, Official Rules, and a form to obtain raffle tickets from Post 5040, please see the website at: [www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org) For additional

questions, please call the post at (815)-338-5040. Hope to see you there!

## VFW Post 5040 - From the Commander

By Sid Sherwin Commander 2003-2004

Hope all of you are doing well. We had one of our quickest meetings in January which ended at 8:35 pm. We had a turnout of less than 25 members, but that is how the winter months are with Snowbirds flocking to warmer climates.

For those of you that are still in town, we need your support for the blood drive on January 30th. If you are eligible to donate, I encourage you to do so, not just because this is a post sponsored event, but you are helping to save lives by doing so. Also, as most of you are aware, February 12 is our biggest raffle we have had in a long time. The Sweetheart Raffle. I encourage you to buy a ticket, sell tickets, and come out for the dinner and entertainment that night. It will be a lot of fun with some major prize money being raffled off.

**See Commander Notes, page 3.**

## January Turkey Fry

Thursday, January 27th  
at 4:00 pm. Menu will  
be deep fried turkey,  
deep fried chips, and  
barbecued beans.

**\$4.00 per person.**

Turkeys will be fried  
*outside!*

## VFW Post 5040 - Post Officers 2004 - 2005

Commander	Sid Sherwin	(815)-338-5573
Senior Vice Commander	Bill Lyford	(815)-337-0025
Junior Vice Commander	Henry "Hank" Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
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	Elmer "Bud" Pflug	Not Available
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Bruce Shisler	(815)-338-4735
1 Year Trustee	Henry Nulle	(815)-337-7529
2 Year Trustee	Larry Dohm	(815)-338-4134
3 Year Trustee	Michael David	(815)-338-5341

## VFW Post 5040 Ladies Auxiliary Post Officers 2004 - 2005

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	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	Not Available
2 Year Trustee	Geraldine Salyers	Not Available
3 Year Trustee	Lois Freund	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.

## †††††††††† Chaplains Report ††††††††††

By Howard Engstrom

### Personal Visits

- Mrs. Art Slack

### Cards and Phone Visits

- Ray Murphy - at Hearthstone
- Joe Parker - at Hearthstone
- Earl Holm
- Clarence Peters

A reminder for us all, "I shall know but one country. The ends I aim at shall be my country's, my God's, and Truth's. I was born an American; I will live an American; I shall die an American." - Daniel Webster

## Ladies Auxiliary - From the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2004-2005

The January meeting was postponed until the following week due to the snow storm we had. The February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm. The 5<sup>th</sup> District President, Patty Jo Rapanos will be our special guest this night. Patty will be performing an inspection of the Ladies Auxiliary. Following dinner we will have our normal meeting beginning at 7:00 pm. Please attend this meeting to meet our 5<sup>th</sup> District President and come with questions to ask her.

*Nyda Fogarty*

## Give Blood...The Gift of Life ...And Enjoy a Pancake Breakfast Too!



**Heartland  
Blood Centers**

Your community blood service since 1943.

AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks), in conjunction with America's Blood Centers and American Red Cross, is celebrating National Volunteer Blood Donor Month (NVBDM) in January 2005 to encourage donors to give or pledge to give blood.

Heartland Blood Centers will be on site **January 30** with Heartland's Mobile Coach located at the Woodstock VFW in the parking lot. Every Heartland Blood Donor receives a **\$25 gift certificate** from Restaurant.com.

In addition to the blood drive, the VFW will be cooking up an **All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast** for \$5.00 per person. Donation time and the Pancake Breakfast will be from 10 am to 3 pm. Even if you don't donate, please come down for the breakfast and support the post and donors who are giving blood. We need donors!

Traditionally, blood is in short supply during the winter months due to the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. January, in particular, is a difficult month for blood centers to collect blood donations. A reduction in turnout can put our nation's blood inventory at a critical low.

Every day in our country, approximately 38,000 units of blood are required in hospitals and emergency treatment facilities for patients with cancer and other diseases, for organ transplant recipients, and to help save the lives of accident victims. Our goal is to help ensure that blood is available to patients whenever and wherever it is needed because it is the blood on the shelves that helps saves lives.

A photo ID is required to donate. **Contact Sid Sherwin (815-338-5573) or the VFW Post (815-338-5040) to schedule a donation time slot.** If you have questions on eligibility, contact Heartland Blood Center at 1-800-7 TO-GIVE (1-800-786-4483) or visit their website at [www.heartlandbc.org](http://www.heartlandbc.org)

### Commanders Notes, continued from page 1.

Now, on to business. Comrades, I know that for some of you making it down to the post for a monthly meeting may be out of the question due to health or where you live. Helping out the post during events we have scheduled may also be hard for some of you to do. However, this newsletter goes out to close to 500 Woodstock VFW Post 5040 members. Where are you all? Some of you we have not seen in many years and some of you we've seen locally at the stores and around town. Why not come to a meeting to support your post? After all, you are a member of the VFW. You are member of this post.

Some of you have done more than your share when you were active in the post. The Post truly thanks you for that because we still have what you started. You can still make a difference by supporting the post through monetary contributions.

For those of you that do send in contributions and support the post through raffles, having dinner at the post, volunteer your time for chairing events, working on committees and in leadership positions, and looking after the physical upkeep of our Post home, I thank you and the Post thanks you for doing so. Without you we would be in much worse shape.

Many of the raffles and other functions we have benefit such things as Veterans Relief Funds, monetary donations made by the Post to civic and local school organizations, and sponsoring a host of community organizations through the use of our building and facilities. Monetary donations allows the Post to do these things.

Yearly dues made by post members are not enough to support the post for the year. Wednesday and Friday night dinners generally cover enough for food, paid help, and facility expenses. Even these sometimes operate at a loss due to low turnout. We don't have money pouring in as some of you might think.

The foundation on which our VFW was built was four pillars: Service to Veterans, Service to Youth and Families, Service to our Community, and Patriotism. This was true when our Charter was signed on March 4, 1946 and is still true today. You are still a VFW member and are called upon by this organization to help any way you can.

Perhaps many years ago you were very active at the post and now expect a new generation of veterans to take an active part in the VFW. The fact remains today that new generations of veterans aren't pouring through our doors to be part of the VFW. We have a hard time recruiting these new generations of soldiers. The sole existence of Woodstock VFW Post 5040 falls to a select few who, out of respect, pride, and belief that the VFW is a quality organization, dutifully continue to help out the post by donating time, volunteering their skills, and patronize the post canteen.

So where does this put us? Reliance on you. Even if you cannot make it down to the post for a monthly meeting, for a dinner, a refreshment at the canteen, then why not show your support by donating to the post in the form of a check? Even

if its only a small amount of money that you can give monthly, quarterly, or yearly, this would help your post. And its tax deductible because we are a non-profit organization! Want to make a more significant impact? Support our raffles. These raise money so we can maintain those four pillars.

Please consider these words 5040 members. It takes people and monetary contributions to keep our post going. Please consider a donation.

Take care comrades and have a great month of February!

Yours truly, *Sid Sherwin*

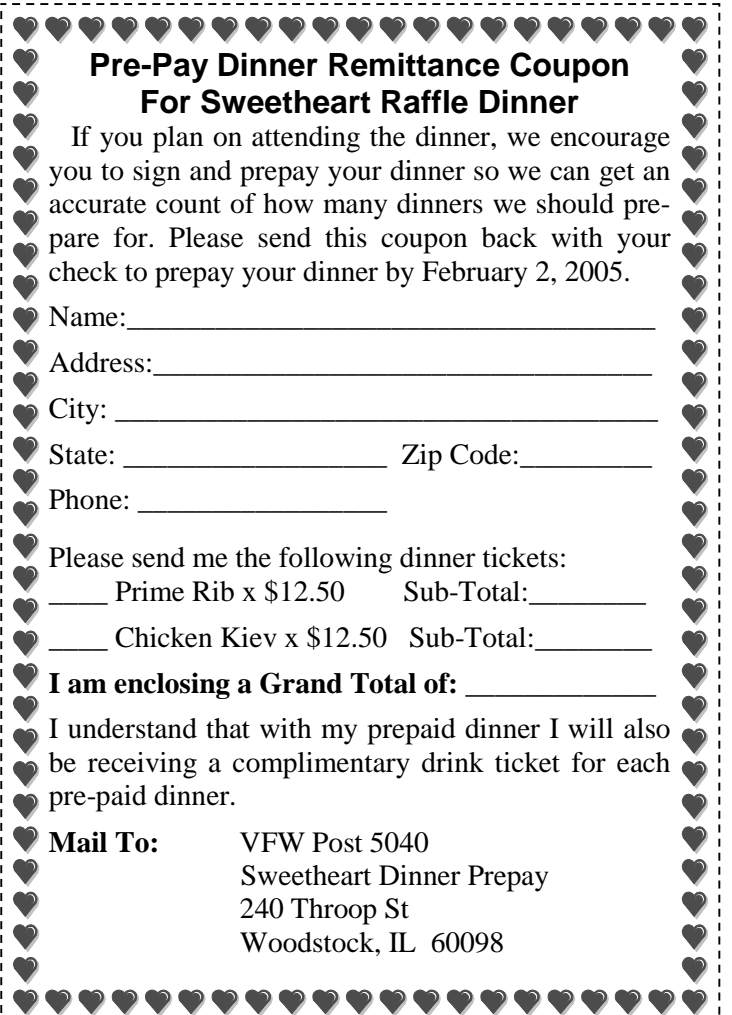
Commander

### Greetings From Iraq

Jim Smith, former VFW Post 5040 Commander, sent an email to Matt Klos on Christmas Day highlighting how the troops were celebrating Christmas Day. I will try to include his letter in next months issue.

As a side note, I asked Jim if he read the *VFW News* online while in Iraq. He stated that he has read several issues. This is one reason why having a Post 5040 website is a benefit. The *VFW News* can be read by any of our post members no matter where they are in the world.

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


**Pre-Pay Dinner Remittance Coupon  
For Sweetheart Raffle Dinner**  
 If you plan on attending the dinner, we encourage you to sign and prepay your dinner so we can get an accurate count of how many dinners we should prepare for. Please send this coupon back with your check to prepay your dinner by February 2, 2005.  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send me the following dinner tickets:  
 \_\_\_\_ Prime Rib x \$12.50    Sub-Total: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_ Chicken Kiev x \$12.50    Sub-Total: \_\_\_\_\_  
**I am enclosing a Grand Total of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 I understand that with my prepaid dinner I will also be receiving a complimentary drink ticket for each pre-paid dinner.  
**Mail To:**            VFW Post 5040  
                               Sweetheart Dinner Prepay  
                               240 Throop St  
                               Woodstock, IL 60098

## Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Essay Winners Honored at Meeting

By Matt Klos

Before the January VFW meeting, the winners of the Woodstock Post 5040 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Contest were honored with a dinner. Proud family members were in attendance as they watched Hank Enstrom and Chris Gehrke, both co-chairmen of these essay contests, honor the winners with plaques and a \$150.00 savings bond.



Patriots Pen Essay Winner Kelsey Harding, 6th grade from St. Mary's Elementary School Woodstock. Front Row, Left to Right: Joyce Streveler (grandma), Signe Harding (sister), Jocelyn Harding (mother), Kelsey Harding (**winner**), Andrew Harding (father), Parker Harding (brother). Back Row, Left to Right: Norm Streveler (grandfather), Hank Enstrom (VFW co-chairman), Tom Harding (grandfather), Brae Hanson (friend), Chris Gehrke (Ladies Auxiliary co-chairman) (Matt Klos photo).



Voice of Democracy Essay Winner Michael Koerner, 17, Huntley High School Senior. Front Row, left to right: Bob Koerner (father), Mike Koerner (**winner**), Sherry Koerner (mother). Back row, left to right: Hank Enstrom (VFW co-chairman), Stephanie Koerner (sister), and Chris Gehrke (Ladies Auxiliary co-chairman) (Matt Klos photo).

## VFW Post 5040 Shows its Age as Xmas Plumbers Take Action

By Matt Klos

Just like your own home, the VFW needs repair, sometimes at the most inopportune times. The drain pipes in the bathrooms for the vanity and urinal were severely calcified, showing the many years of use. A few dedicated men, specifically Charlie Mathey, Bill Lyford, Sid Sherwin, Ralph Ritter, Jack

Fish, and Bob Gibson came down to the post on Christmas Eve and the following Monday to replace the pipes. This involved removing the sinks and tearing into the wall to replace the heavily corroded piping. "On both days, we spent about 4-5 hours working on this," commented Sid Sherwin, VFW Commander, "These guys took time out from being with family on Christmas Eve to perform a needed repair for the benefit of the Post."

We don't often hear about the work that goes on behind the scenes at the post, making sure that it is in working order, we just assume that because everything is working that there aren't problems. That's because members like these care about the post and do the "dirty work" to maintain our post and keep it functioning. Great job guys. Thanks for taking time out and repairing our post.



Tearing into the wall in the men's bathroom to expose calcified pipes (Ralph Ritter photo).



Plumbers for the day: Bill Lyford, Bob Gibson, Jack Fish, Charlie Mathey, Sid Sherwin (Ralph Ritter photo).



After years of use, these pipes really need to be replaced (Ralph Ritter photo).

# February 2005

☆☆☆☆☆☆ 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
30 Blood Drive at the Post  All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast open to the public, \$5.00 Donation times and breakfast from 10 am - 3 pm.	31	1 Dirtt Group 7 pm	2 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	3 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 pm	4 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	5
6	7 Woodstock Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm	8 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirtt Group 7 pm	9 Cub Scouts - ?? Pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	10	11 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	12   Sweetheart Raffle Cocktails 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Raffle at 9 pm. 
13	14 American Legion 7:30 pm Deadline for March 2005 VFW News items	15 Dirtt Group 7 pm	16 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:30 pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	17 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	18 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	19
20	21 VFW Meeting 7:30 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm	22 Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	23 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	24	25 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	26
27	28 Girls Softball ?? pm	1 Dirtt Group 7 pm	2 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	3 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 pm	4 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	5

## From the Editors Desk By Matt Klos



Well, not much to say this month. I have been trying my best to sell Sweetheart Raffle tickets. I still have a couple to sell to some co-workers. I really think that we will have a fun time at the raffle. Maybe I can meet some of you whom I never have seen before. A big thank you for the sponsors that have already returned their ad-renewal forms.

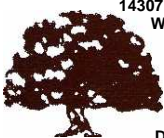
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**Letters to the Editor...**

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**  
**269 Forest Drive**  
**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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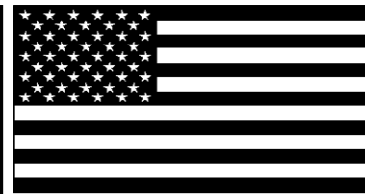
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