



Woodstock VFW News

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Winner of 15
National Publication
Awards

State First Place
2005

www.vfw5040.org

April 2005
Vol. 50. No. 10

Moving Wall Update

By Matt Klos

At the March 21st meeting, Jim Clegg reported that the Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will be arriving May 25th. Bringing the Moving Wall to Woodstock was made possible by a private donation.

The Marine Corp League has been overseeing the logistics plans and working with the city on permits to make this event happen. On May 26th, the wall will be set up. On May 27th, 7:00pm, the Dedication Ceremony will officially open the monument. The Closing Ceremony will take place on June 1st.

Many volunteers will be needed for the setup, the take down, and of course guard duty. The wall will have guards posted 24 hours a day, with guard shifts starting at two hours each. Volunteers must be 18 years or older. They can be Veterans or Non-Veterans. Beverages and snacks will be provided for the guards on duty.

If you have the capacity to help out, please call the Post to sign up for a time slot. This is a major undertaking which is taking place over the Memorial Day weekend. Even if you can only spare one time slot, this would help out a lot.



Soup to Nuts Sale - May 6,7

By Russ and Donna Freeman



Once again, reminding you about our Soup to Nuts Sale, our annual sell-everything-in-door-garage-sale. Put aside all the old treasures you have no use for anymore. The sale will be May 6th and 7th. We will need help the 5th and 6th to pick up and also on Friday and Saturday to sell.

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

The Post does not have the storage space to hold large items, so hold on to them until they can be picked up (or dropped off) closer to the date of the sale. If you need a pick-up, call us at 815-338-3414 the first week of May.

Website Update - If know of anyone interested in renting the VFW hall for a banquet or event, rental information is now available on the VFW website.

VFW News Ranks 1st In State

By Matt Klos

On March 17, I was informed by letter that the *VFW News* was the State winner in the Department Publications Contest. It was judged First Place in the Medium Post Category for Illinois. The *VFW News* entry will be forwarded to National Headquarters for entry in the National Publications Contest.

The contest, held yearly, invites VFW Posts to submit one copy of its newsletter for entry in the publication contest. It can be any month for the previous calendar year. This year there was a total of 12 entries for the Medium Post Category. The October 2004 newsletter was submitted as our post entry.

Last year, the *VFW News* placed Second in State for the Medium Post Category. When Don Peasley was Editor, from 1955 - 2002, the *VFW News* won 15 National Awards and 28 Illinois Awards. Wish us luck with the National Contest.

Speaking about contests, VFW National announced on March 31 that it will be hosting a Website Competition. "Departments will compete among other Department websites in one category, while Districts and Posts will compete with one another in the second category. Awards will be given to the first and second place winner in each category. The VFW Communications team will screen entries for rule compliance and forward the most "competitive" websites to a Chicago-based web design team for final judging."

Since our post does have a website, I figured that we give the contest a shot and enter our website in the competition. I don't expect a whole lot, but the results of this contest should be interesting. There are over 600 VFW websites throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia Pacific (this is the count off the National VFW Website). The rules are strict and the points will be tight. I have some tweaking to do to our website to make the pages load faster and to make sure all the pages and verbiage are in order.

One of the benefits I see coming out of entering our Post in contests like these is that we gain exposure to a larger audience and potentially attract new members. I have worked hard, using the newsletter and the website, to portray VFW Post 5040 as a neat organization that younger vets might want to join. We are not just the local VFW as you may see in some towns. We print a monthly newsletter and have a web presence. Not a lot of posts have both of these, especially some of the smaller ones. Maybe, just maybe, this might make some of the newer veterans take notice of us.

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	Not Available
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

May our comrades rest in peace.

<u>Personal Visits</u>	<u>Draped Charter (March Meeting)</u>	<u>Cards and Phone Visits</u>
• John Smith	• Gerald Muehler	• Bill Lyford
• Don and Fran Peasley	• Howard Young	• Ron Nehls
• Leon Rahn	• Toni Felice	• Marv Monson
	• Leon Rahn	• Lee Hilgeman
		• Bob Loomis
		• Gerald Muehler Family
		• Leon Rahn Family
		• Howard Young Family

Ladies Auxiliary - From the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2004-2005

This past month I presented another 50 year pin. This one was to Betty Thiede. I'm sure there are other members out there who are deserving of a pin from 10 year up to 50 years. If you check your membership card as to your initiation in the Auxiliary, it will tell you. Let me know if you new decade pin.

The 5th District Spring Frolic dinner and program which honors the District President and Commander will be held on Saturday, April 23rd at Winthrop Harbor.

On Saturday, April 30th the Auxiliary of Watch City Post 1307 will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary at the Elgin Post on Weld Road. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m.

The last District meeting will be held on May 15th at Carpentersville.

This year is going by fast and if you haven't paid your dues as yet, please do so by sending them to our Treasurer.

Nyda Fogarty

Nominations for VFW Officers Made At March Meeting

At the March meeting, nominations for the VFW Officers for the next year were made. We didn't have a lot of members jumping up to fill the positions, and for most positions there was only one person nominated. Sadly, we just can't generate enough commitment when our post needs its leadership the most. Nominations will take place next month as well, and at the April 18th meeting we will have elections. Here is the list of the members that were nominated for a position for next year:

Post Commander:	Hank Enstrom
Sr. Vice Commander:	Mike David
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jim Reese
Quartermaster:	Bob Fleck
Judge Advocate:	n/a
Post Surgeon:	Harold Irwin
3 Year Trustee:	Arny Doerfort

Installation of officers will take place in June, and the officers will assume their duties on July 1.



A donated automatic dishwasher, pictured above at the Arlington Heights Elks Lodge, was donated to the Woodstock VFW. The Arlington Heights Elks Lodge is merging with another lodge and getting rid of some of their equipment.

Post Gets Donated Dishwasher

By Ralph Ritter

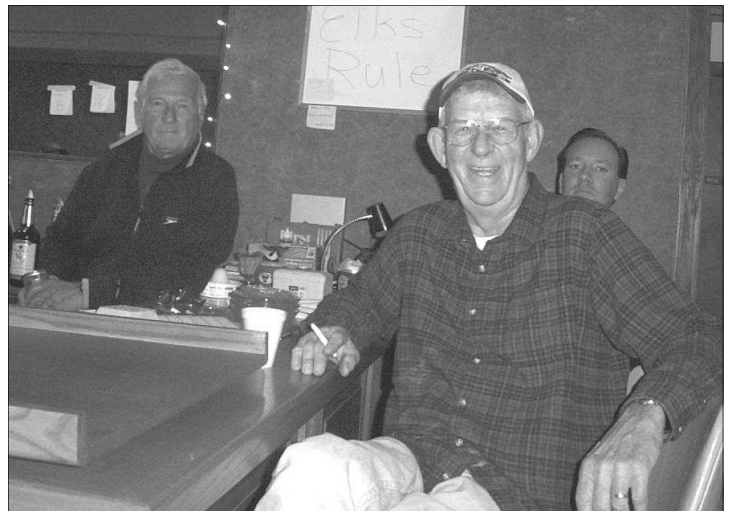
The Post has been washing dishes by hand since it opened back in the 1950's. To modernize the kitchen a bit, we are going to install an automatic dishwasher for the VFW kitchen.

The dishwasher, donated by the Arlington Heights Elks Lodge, was picked on March 16, 2005. The Arlington Heights Elks are merging with another Lodge. In return for the donation, our Post will make a donation for the dishwasher to the Woodstock Elks Lodge.

Thank you to Len Urlacher who is both a VFW and Elks member in Woodstock. He put us in touch with the Elks Lodge for the donation.

The guy's who picked up the equipment were Len Urlacher, Chuck Mathey, Bob Gibson and Ralph Ritter. We hope to have the new kitchen equipment installed in the next few weeks.

To custom fit the dishwasher, a little cutting and welding work must be completed before we can install the new equipment. Once in, this will help our kitchen crew out by not having to spend so much time cleaning up.



Elk's Officers, Jerry Smith (Left) and Bud Vaughn (Middle).

Military Manuals Can Be So Blunt (a little humor ☺)

"Aim towards the Enemy." - *Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher*

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend." - *US Marine Corps*

"Cluster bombing form B-52's is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground. " - *U.S.A.F Ammo Troop*

"If the enemy is in range, so are you." - *Infantry Journal*

"A slipping gear could let your M203 Grenade Launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit." - *Army's magazine of preventative maintenance*

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed." - *US Air Force manual*

"Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo." - *Infantry Journal*

"Tracers work both ways." - *U.S. Army Ordinance*

"Five-second fuses only last three seconds." - *Infantry Journal*

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid." - *David Hackworth*

"If your attack is going too well, you're walking into an ambush." - *Infantry Journal*

"No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection." - *Joe Gay*

"Any ship can be a minesweeper...once." - *Anonymous*

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do." - *Unknown Marine Recruit*

"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you." - *Infantry Journal*



Hmmm...Can you guess who's plane this is and what kind? (Hint...he is a Post member)
See next page for details.

Post Meeting Notes From March

By Matt Klos

The Post monthly meeting was held on March 21st. We had three visitors from District that came to meeting for various purposes.

Here are some of the high-lights from that meeting:

- Dues. Please send in your dues if you have not already done so. At the last meeting, we had 5 new applicants apply for membership and a possible 2 more. Be on the lookout for new members and ask them to sign up.
- Dwayne Raney asked the post that it sponsor a candidate for the American Legion Premier Boys State. Premier Boys State provides an opportunity to teach young men citizenship and workings of the government. It takes place annually in Charleston, Illinois at Eastern Illinois University June 11-17. In the past the post has sponsored an individual. The cost this year for sponsorship is \$230.00 which includes tuition and transportation. This donation will be considered at the next business meeting with a final vote at the next general meeting.
- An Eagle Scout in Johnsbury, Nick Savitzky, is building a Veterans Memorial. Nick designed the memorial and has been looking for donations to help fund the memorial. VFW Post 5040 donated \$500.00 for a flagpole. The flagpole will have a plaque mounted at the base indicating that Post 5040 donated the flag pole. The memorial is expected to be completed in time for Memorial Day 2005.

The three guests from District were there to talk about some specific topics and also just to visit. With the end of the VFW year coming, this means campaigning for some of the District Officers who want to move up in the chain of command. So, the visit had a little to do with that also.

The first to talk was Jose Duran, the 5th District Commander, wanted to thank the post for providing a meeting place for the District meeting that took place on November 7, 2004. He also mentioned that the District, overall, had a "good year". Duran addressed the Post saying, "Thanks for the support you have given me as your 5th District Commander." Finally, Duran congratulated the VFW News editor, Matt Klos, for the newsletter award.

Pat Green, Senior Vice Commander of District 5, was the second visitor from District. Green indicated that he wanted to recruit Dwayne Raney as his Employment Officer, which Raney accepted. Dwayne Raney held this position over the past year.

Greene also brought with him a giant check that he wanted to show the post. The check, in the amount of \$20,600.00 was from Midwest Bank & Trust Company of Algonquin. The McHenry radio station, STAR 105.5, held a "Support Our Troops Drive" where listeners pledged money for phone cards for the Wounded Soldier Program and also the troops in Iraq. Midwest Bank & Trust

Company matched the donations made by listeners. The Post was given this check to display.

Richard Coombe, State Membership Director, was our third visitor. "I want District 5 to be first in State for membership," he commented to the post. The District overall has done a good job in getting new members and Coombe stressed that as a Post we need to try to recruit new members. Soldiers returning from Iraq will need to be informed of the benefits that the VFW has to offer.



And the Plane Belongs To...

By Matt Klos

If you guessed that the above plane belongs to Don Sword, you guessed right. Now if you knew the plane from the other picture, you are really good.

At the Flyers and Tires Air Show at Galt Airport in August, 2004, Don had his plane on show for the event.

The plane, a 1946 Ercoupe, Model 415 C/D is an interesting plane. It has a twin tail and uses no rudder pedal like other planes. The engine is a Continental 4 cylinder, 85 horse power. The plane can cruise at 110 m.p.h.

The Ercoupe was the first rocket plane (JATO August 1941). It also introduced Tri-Gear landing gear to general aviation.

Don keeps the plane at Galt Airport and yes, he does fly it. The canopy can be slid open while in flight for a great view of the countryside. Don says that he enjoys giving rides to family members and grandchildren.

Bracelet Honors Military Men/Women

From VFW Website

The Veterans of Foreign Wars "America Bands Together" patriotic program is expected to unite millions of Americans in publicly displaying their support of America's men and women in uniform by wearing the VFW's new commemorative bracelet. The wristband, engraved with the words "I Support Our Troops," is blood red, which symbolizes the sacrifices of all the nation's veterans who have help keep America free. Available in April.

www.americabandstogether.org

April 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
27	28	29	30	31	1 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	2
3 Woodstock Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm	4	5 Dirtt Group 7 pm	6 Cub Scouts - ?? Pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	7 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 pm	8 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	9
10 American Legion 7:30 pm	11	12 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirtt Group 7 pm	13 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	14	15 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	16
17	18 VFW Meeting 7:30 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm Deadline for May 2005 VFW News items	19 Dirtt Group 7 pm	20 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:30 pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	21 Marines 7 pm Marines Auxiliary 7 pm	22 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	23
24	25 Girls Softball ?? pm	26 Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	27 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	28	29 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	30

From the Editors Desk

By Matt Klos



Hello again Post Members. I want to thank all of you for the encouragement you have given me over the past year while working on the newsletter. Also thank you for your stories. They help to give some content to the newsletter. With your help we were able to be number one in State this year.

With elections coming around for the post, we are asking for post members to step up and be a leader in the post. There are those of you who have been our leaders in the past, and some of you who don't want the job anymore. This is understandable. Some of you probably are looking to the younger generations, thinking, "Some of these guy's should take over." I wish it was as simple as that. It's a big job and time commitment. Honestly, if I was nominated for any position, I would have to humbly decline. I feel that all I can handle right now is the *VFW News* Editor position and webmaster for the website. This takes up enough of my time, as my wife can attest to that. For others of you out there, part of the "younger generation," what about you? Can you spare some time this coming year? Want to get involved with the post? Why not try a post position and see how you do? Think about it. Nominations are still open.

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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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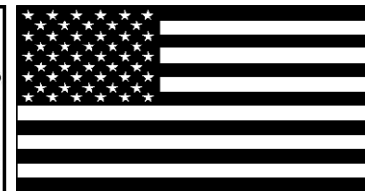
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