



Woodstock

VFW News

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2005

www.vfw5040.org

May 2005
Vol. 50. No. 11

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Buddy Poppy Days in May

By Hank Enstrom

We have scheduled Poppy Day's for Friday May 13th and Saturday May 14th. Sign-up sheets will be available at the post.



Commander Sid Sherwin commented at the last post meeting that Poppy Day's are a significant source of funds for the Veteran's Relief Fund. "The community is willing to donate, we just have to get out there and collect the funds. Please sign up to sell Buddy Poppy's."

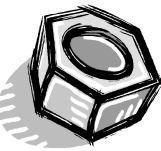
There will be other groups selling poppies around town and throughout the state during May, so we need to do the same to get in on the donations that will be made.

In February 1924, the VFW registered the name "Buddy Poppy" with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. The VFW has made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans.



Soup to Nuts Sale & Bake Sale

May 6: 8am-5pm
May 7: 9am-4pm



By Russ and Donna Freeman

Okay, last call reminding you about our Soup to Nuts Sale, our annual sell-anything-indoor-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.

In conjunction with the Soup to Nuts Sale, the Ladies Auxiliary will be having a Bake Sale on May 6th. Baked goods are needed for selling. If you can provide some baked goods, please contact Bonnie Kagel, chairman, (815)-648-4958 and let her know that you will be bringing something.

Important Dates for May

(also check calendar on page 5 for other events)

May 6: Soup to Nuts 8 am - 5 pm

May 7: Soup to Nuts 9 am - 4 pm

May 13: Poppy Day - all day

May 14: Poppy Day - all day

May 26 - June 1: Moving Wall in Woodstock

May 30: Memorial Day Ceremony 10 am

Memorial Day Ceremony

By Dwayne Raney

Woodstock will once again be holding a Memorial Day ceremony on May 30, 2005.

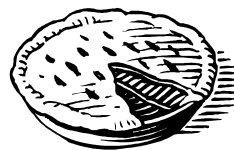
Jeff and Susan Scott, husband and wife members of the Woodstock St. Ann's Episcopal Church Choir, have accepted an invitation and will sing the National Anthem at the Woodstock Memorial Day program, according to Dwayne Raney, spokesman for the Woodstock Memorial Day Committee.

This year's guest speaker will be Principal Ed O'Brien of Woodstock's St. Mary School. The co-parade marshals for the parade will be brothers Chuck and Jim Gehrke, both Vietnam veterans as well as past post commanders of Woodstock VFW Post 5040.

A military airplane fly-over is also planned.

The program is scheduled to start at 10:00 am in the Woodstock Square, followed by the parade commencing on the Square at 11:00 am, then going west on Jackson Street, and over to and then east and down Judd Street.

The Woodstock VFW Post 5040 will be serving a cooked ham lunch for the public after the parade at 12:00 pm. Cost of the lunch will be \$7.00 for adults and a reduced cost for children.



40 Pies Needed For Memorial Day Lunch

By Request of
VFW Commander Sid Sherwin and
Auxiliary President Nyda Fogarty

Post Members, last year after the Memorial Day Parade at the VFW while serving lunch, some of you may remember that we ran out of pie for dessert. This year we are calling on all membership to help out and provide a pie to be served at the ham lunch. If you are willing to provide a pie, please contact the Post at (815)-338-5040 or Sid or Nyda. Contact phone numbers on page 2.

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 God watch over our comrades and bring peace to those in sickness.

Personal Visits

- Howard Simpson – Alden Terrace
- Don Smith – Hearthstone
- Otis Setser – Valley High
- Herb Hensel – Valley High
- Delmar Heidenreich – Valley High

Draped Charter (April Meeting)

- Ken Kerns – Past Commander

Cards and Phone Visits

- Bob Loomis
- Don Smith
- Jim Shoemaker
- Earl Holm
- Ken Kerns Family

Ladies Auxiliary - From the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2004-2005

Election of Officers was held at the April 7th meeting. The same officers will be serving for the 2005-06 year. Margie Humphrey was elected Guard. Officers are hard to get – not only for Auxiliary but also the 5th District Auxiliary. 5th District is looking for officers for this next year. The 5th District meeting and installation for next year's Officers is May 15th in Carpentersville.

The Auxiliary voted to have a bake sale on Friday May 6th in conjunction with the Soup to Nuts sale that the Post is having on the 6th and 7th. We need baked goods to sell at the Soup to Nuts sale. Bonnie Kagel will serve as chairperson. Please Auxiliary members, if you can bring in some baked goods to sell, bring them to the Post upstairs on that Friday, May 6th.

There are some members that are behind on their dues for last year and this year. They are June Behrens, Patricia Moore, Fran Amico, Joyce Davis and Eugenia Mandfield. Unless these are paid this month you will be dropped from membership.

All ladies of Auxiliary and wives of Post members are asked to donate pies to serve at the Memorial Day dinner. We need 40 pies to accommodate the planned dinners to be served on this day. Those of you may remember from last year that we ran out of pie. Please help if you can. Please contact me or one of the other officers if you can help out. Phone numbers are located on page 2 of the newsletter.

Nyda Fogarty

People You Meet Once in a Lifetime

By Don Sword

While on vacation in Florida, we went to the Warbird air show in Titusville, Florida where restored military aircraft were on display. The show displayed dog-fights, strafing, bombing, skydiving, and many military jets from World War I through Desert Storm.

At the air show, I met retired General Paul Tibbets. Paul was the son of father Paul Warfield and Enola Gay Tibbets, of whom the famous airplane is named after that dropped the first atomic bomb during World War II. Paul Tibbets' plane dropped the 12 foot x 28 inch, 9,000 pound bomb named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima at 8:15 am Hiroshima time on August 6, 1945.

I shook his hand and thanked him for saving my life by dropping the A-Bomb which prevented the invasion of Japan. His reply was "I'm sorry I interrupted your trip." I also got a good picture of him signing autographs. He is 90 years old, born February 23, 1915.

No Vote, Only Nominations for VFW Officers Made At April Meeting

By Matt Klos

Looking at last year's *VFW News*, it looks like nominations for officers took place in March, voting took place in April, announcement of officers made in the May newsletter, and in June the officers would be sworn into office. We are a little behind this year in the process, so you won't find out the results until the next news letter.

At the April meeting, we performed nominations once again. With only 28 people present at the meeting (of the 567 members this is 5% of the total membership), we nominated members for officer positions. The following is a list of nominations:

Officer Nominations for 2005-2006 Year

Post Commander: Thom Gillespie - accepted
(March Mtg: Hank Enstrom - declined)

(March Mtg: Mike David - declined)

Sr. Vice Commander: Hank Enstrom - declined
(March Mtg: Mike David - accepted at April meeting)

Jr. Vice Commander: (March Mtg: Jim Reese - accepted at April meeting)

Quartermaster: Ralph Ritter - declined
(March Mtg: Bob Fleck - removed from nomination at April meeting due to Bob not present at March or April meeting to accept nomination.)

Judge Advocate: No nominations

Post Surgeon: (March Mtg: Harold Irwin)

3-Year Trustee: (March Mtg: Arnie Doerfert)

Installation of officers will take place in June (date and time to be determined), and the officers will assume their duties on July 1.

Comrades, if you have any interest in lending a hand in changing your post for the better, it is in your best interest to attend the next meeting. Final nominations will be made at the next meeting as well as the crucial voting process. Wish us luck at the next meeting that all positions will be filled with qualified people.

VFW News Turns 50 in July

The Woodstock *VFW News*, this newsletter, will be turning 50 in July of 2005. The *VFW News* was founded in July 1955 by Don Peasley, editor from 1955 to 2002. Current editor, Matt Klos, is looking for ideas to mark this historic milestone for the newsletter. If you have any suggestions or would like to see something from the last 50 years reprinted, please let Matt know by letter or email. Matt's mail address and e-mail address are on the back cover.

VFW Beer Garden - One Day Only

By Ralph Ritter

The VFW will be having a beer garden on Sunday, May 15, 2005. We will have a 20' x 40' tent set up in the Woodstock VFW Post 5040 parking lot.

The VFW regular bar tenders will be serving the beer. People will be carded by two military MP's as they enter the tent area. One is a full time Huntley Illinois police officer.

The patrons will have a wrist band put on them to show the bartenders that they are legal age to drink. The beer sales will be from around 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Woodstock Jaycees will be assisting the VFW in the beer tent as waiters and cleanup crew.

During the same day Woodstock will be hosting the Fair Diddle, sponsored by the McHenry County Mental Health Resource League. Hours are from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm featuring over 300 crafters' booth spaces. Free parking and shuttle service is available from the McHenry County Government Center, 2200 North Seminary Avenue.



From the Editors Desk

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Hello again Comrades. Hope you enjoy reading yet another issue of the *VFW News*. I have several topics to I would like to comment on that I think you will find interesting.

As I was putting together this newsletter, I realized that over the next issue or two I will have a lot of things to cover and report on. One look at the calendar on page 5 and you will see the many events that are planned for the month of May.

Around the May-June-July time frame, it always seem like the busiest time for the post. A lot of outdoor events take place that the post is involved in. One of the major events for our post as a whole is the electing of our Post Officers. At the April 18th meeting, Post Adjutant Alan Belcher was absent so he was not able to take the meeting minutes. I was "persuaded" to take meeting minutes for the proceedings that night. As part of the meeting, the previous months meeting minutes are read. Alan had included five pages of hand written notes which I proceed to painfully read. Nothing against you Alan, but the membership watched and listened as I painfully struggled to read the minutes. I could not read his writing.

We ended up skipping the reading because it would have taken me all night to read. Ralph Ritter later that night asked me if I had a laptop computer and can type with "all fingers". I have a laptop that I use for work and of course I can type. I do that all day long. I saw where he was going with this. I would be the one to take notes at the meetings. We would then have a transcript that could then be read by anyone and the notes would not have to be retyped if they were taken on a sheet of paper (today they are not typed). Maybe we should try this going into the new year.

See Editor's Desk, page 4.



Ken Kerns 1925 - 2005. Photo courtesy of Don Peasley.

Remembering Past Commander Ken Kerns

By Don Peasley
Woodstock VFW News
Founder and First Editor

Ken Kerns, 80, who died April 14, served aboard a patrol craft in the Pacific Theater from 1942 to 1946 in the U.S. Navy. Soon after returning to Woodstock, he became interested in the VFW and devoted many years of service to

veterans.

He worked his way through the chairs to become Commander in 1960 at age 35. Dean Mishler was Senior Vice Commander and Ervin Burg was Junior Vice Commander. When the *VFW News* started in 1955 Ken helped by selling advertising.

I became acquainted with Ken immediately after coming to Woodstock because he was working as a printer with the *Woodstock Journal*. He published the *Journal* twice a week and the *Hebron Times* and the *Huntley Review* each once a week. So Ken and the staff were quite busy with newspapers and job printing.

When the *Journal* was sold January 26, 1950 to the B.F. Shaw Company, Ken worked for several years at the *Woodstock Sentinel* office on South Jefferson Street. He enjoyed the printing business and later established his own business. As a result, he produced and printed several publications related to his military career. One of his books was a collection of articles and photos from the *VFW News* relating to his participation in the activities of Post 5040.

He was one of the four leaders in conducting the successful V-J Day Parade and Pageant of Drums. He teamed with Maynard Wilkerson, Bob Behler and Roy Stackhouse to present Woodstock's single greatest weekend community attraction from 1955 through 1974.

Ken was active in the Elks Lodge and served as chaplain for a year. After moving to the Union area he was elected to the Union Village board in June 1988, a position he held for six and one half years.

He enjoyed the graphic arts field as a life-long hobby, but another of his passions was to collect and restore antique autos.

On October 20, 1946 he married Cora Paxton. She died in July 1975. On August 28, 1976 he married Arlene Ehle, who survives. He is also survived by a daughter, Pamela Muggger; two sisters, Marilyn Phalin of McHenry, and Janice Schwabke, McHenry; and several other close relatives.

I enjoyed Ken's wry sense of humor and his spirit of hard work at the *Journal* at a time when the organization struggled

to overcome obsolete equipment and a shortage of advertising but had a strong community spirit. This community spirit of service inspired members of the entire *Woodstock Journal* staff.

Editor's Desk, continued from Page 3.

Speaking of going into the new year got me thinking. I've seen other post's news letters do this and also the Woodstock Elks' news letters. Each month one or more of the officers write a small column for their news letter. Wouldn't it be refreshing to read about what's on the officers minds, find out about their agenda's and ideas for the post? Much of what you read today in this news letter is based upon each months meeting. I cut out the details of business, but many of the columns that I write about are events that post is planning to do and are discussed in each monthly meeting. They let you, our membership, know what's going on. For some of you this is the only form of contact you have with the post. A column or two from other members of the post I think would be welcome change of pace.

I wish there were more of you at last month's meeting. We had some heated discussion and debates about one of the thorns that stick in the side of any non-profit organization: finances. If you look back over the many years that the post has been operating, you have seen many changes financially.

Over the last few years, we have had to take measures to curb costs in order to keep the post running. Take for instance Bingo. It was a losing endeavor for us and we had to shut that down. At the last meeting, for the previous quarter, we had \$8,000 in lost revenue. We have a committee that is looking into the club finances (this includes bar, kitchen, dinners, hall rentals) to see where the problems are. Based on their findings I think that there will be some additional changes. Our Wednesday night dinners are losing money and the bar operates at a loss as well.

Since the last meeting, I have been asking myself "What over the last 50 years has changed the post from being a vibrant community hub to virtually staying alive today?" The only answer I have is change. The community has changed. People have so many options today. Look how many new restaurants are in the surrounding communities that people can choose from to get a great meal compared to our Post. Competition is stiff.

Change has affected membership. The VFW is not the "place to be" as it was in the 1950's and 60's when the post was young. It doesn't entice as it did. If you look back at some of the old *VFW News* letters, you can see how much the Post was involved in. Today we cannot even come close to that. With our limited and aging active members, each year it gets harder to say to the younger potential members "this is the place you want to be a part of."

A new VFW year means new officers. I have a feeling the post is in for some major changes this year. As always, I will do my best to keep you informed. - Matt

May 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
1	2 Woodstock Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm	3 Dirtt Group 7 pm	4 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	5 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 pm	6  Soup 2 Nuts Indoor Garage Sale and Bake Sale Hours: 8 am - 5 pm Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	7  Soup 2 Nuts Indoor Garage Sale Hours: 9 am - 4 pm
8	9 American Legion 7:30 pm	10 VFW Board Mtg. 7 pm Dirtt Group 7 pm	11 Cub Scouts - ?? Pm Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	12	13  Poppy Day Sign up at Post time and location. Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	14  Poppy Day Sign up at Post time and location.
15 VFW Beer Garden 11 am - 5 pm Fair Diddley Craft Fair on Woodstock Square 10 am - 5 pm	16 VFW Meeting 7:30 pm VFW Pre-Meeting Dinner (VFW Members Only) 6:30 pm Deadline for June 2005 VFW News items	17 Dirtt Group 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	20 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	21
22	23 Girls Softball ?? pm	24 Dirtt Group 7 pm Jaycees 7 pm	25 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	26	27 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	28
29	30 Memorial Day Memorial Day Observed 10 am Ceremony on Woodstock Square 11 am Parade 12 pm Lunch at Post	31 Dirtt Group 7 pm	1 Chicken and Ribs and Special 5 - 8 pm	2 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 pm	3 Fish Fry / Salad Bar 5 - 8 pm	4

← Moving Wall (Vietnam Memorial) On Woodstock Square

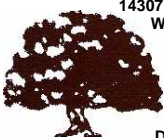
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Letters to the Editor...

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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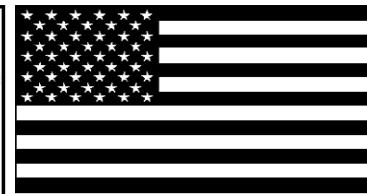
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