



VFW News

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Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

Sweetheart Fun Night loosens winter's grip with raffle, food and dancing at VFW

By Matt Klos

The Post decorated for Valentine's Day with pink foil balloons. Patrons turned out for the Sweetheart Fun Night on February 9 to enjoy some raffle fun, food and even dancing.

Although about 60-70 people came out for this event, it was a still smaller than some of the other major events that we have had at the Post. However, people still had a good time.

A simple meal of roast beef, sausage, fries, etc. was offered to those who showed up fairly early in the night.

A new raffle game, Lightning Raffle, was also played this night. Several games were played at the tail end of dinner. This game has been played at some other area organizations, but for our Post this was a first. People seemed to enjoy it and it's a simple game to learn.

Ralph Ritter, VFW Quartermaster, polled the patrons after the games were played on their interest in this type of game. About 20-25 people indicated they would be interested in future games if it was offered by the VFW. A signup sheet was sent around so people could be contacted to let them know if Lightning Raffle was offered at the VFW.

Everyone was interested in the big drawing of the night for the \$500, \$250 and \$50 prizes. The winners are as follows:

1st Prize (\$500):

Associated Electric (Butch Schnulle)

2nd Prize (\$250):

James Christ

3rd Prize (\$50):

George Mathes

When George Mathes was contacted about his winning ticket, instead of claiming his cash prize, George donated the

money back to the VFW. VFW Post 5040 thanks you very much, George, for your generosity. A single 50/50 drawing was also held this night. This was won by Karl Sage.

Throughout the night, on the flat screen TV's at the bar, the DVD that was made from the 16mm film found at the VFW was played. Several Post members commented on people they recognized and even some quick footage of themselves

were seen.

Closing out the night was the duo Talisman. With Lorrie Lamberti singing and Freddy Lamberti on guitar and keyboard. The lights were turned down and the tables pushed out of the way. As the songs were played, feet got moving and couples began to dance the remainder of the night away.

Overall, it was a nice night to just get out and do something a little different.

Lorrie Lamberti and Freddy Lamberti of the duo, "Talisman", belt out another dance song at the VFW Sweetheart Fun Night on February 9, 2008. (Matt Klos photo).



Patrons enjoy table conversation while waiting for the next game of Lightning to be called at the VFW Sweetheart Fun Night on February 9, 2008. (Matt Klos photo).

Ladies Auxiliary: from the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2007-2008

We had to cancel our meeting on February 7th due to the snow storm we had in our area. We had the meeting on February 14th instead.

It seems that a great number of members have still not paid their dues for this year. Dues notices will be mailed out to you before long, so please get your current year dues paid.

We have lost another long time member of the Auxiliary, Gertrude Schmidt, 89, who died February 18, 2008. Our sympathy to her family.

The Spring Frolic for the 5th District will be held on April 19th. This is in honor of the 5th District Commander and President. The details will be announced next month.

VFW used as staging area by Marine Corps League for soldier care package assembly

By Don Peasley

The Woodstock VFW was headquarters for many volunteers of the McHenry County Marine Corps League and its Auxiliary when they prepared 100 care packages to be sent to troops in Iraq. The care packages were sent to Lance Corporal Terry Sielken and Lance Corporal Stephen Davis in the last week of January.

Herb Zabrowski, Wonder Lake, a Marine on active duty from 1969 to 1971, is the Marine Corps League of McHenry County Commandant. Barbara Klapperich is the Marine Corps League Auxiliary president. Her father, Walter Kuck, was a Marine serving aboard the USS Lake Champlain during WWII. Klapperich said items are being boxed for mailing to the two men who will share the donations with others in their troop. The flat rate for each box is \$8.95 which represents the Marine Corps League's investment of several hundred dollars in postage. The League conducts fund-raising events through the year to finance its charitable activities.

Klapperich said many groups participated in collecting items for the care packages. First and second grade students at Ringwood Grade School, with the help of their teachers and parents, donated a collection of "goodies" that would fill a fam-



Soup to nuts sale



right around the corner

By Russ and Donna Freeman

Although the snow hasn't melted and it's early March, it's time to think about our Soup to Nuts Sale, our annual sell-anything-indoor-garage-sale which will be coming up at the beginning of May. Put aside all the old treasures you have no use for anymore. The sale will be **Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10.**

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.

We will also need help for setting up and selling, so check your calendars to see if you can help out on these days.

† Chaplains report †

By Howard Engstrom, Chaplain

Personal visits:

Dean Mishler

Frank Boeckmann (wake and home)

Paul Murdock (home)

Phone calls and cards sent:

Ken Korst

Irv Kemp

Ed Lange

Joe Parker Family

John Fish

Otis Setser Family

Alice Nulle

Eddy Hall

Drape Charter:

Joe Parker

Arnold Dahlman

Otis Setser

Frank Boeckmann

John Curran

Lloyd Gould

Members of the McHenry County Marine Corps League prepare care packages for mailing to veterans in Iraq. Members of the League's Auxiliary helped collect the items through Ringwood Grade School and Cary Grove Hockey Club. From left around the table as they close up special mailing cartons: Fred Zimmerman, Elgin; Lee Totman, Huntley; Thom Gillespie and Jerry Havens, both of Woodstock. The hundred care packages were shipped for early February arrival. (Don Peasley photo).



ily-size van.

The Cary Grove Hockey Club gave the league a large collection of items. This group is composed of early to mid-teens and had the support of their coaches and parents to obtain donations.

Klapperich said this is the second time the Marine Corps League has collected such items as shampoo, moisturizer, razors, candy, moist toilettes, beef jerky, phone cards and a limited number of cell phones for their gift packages.



Will Lightning Raffle be played at the VFW?

By Matt Klos

After the games of Lightning Raffle were played on February 9th, there was much interest in the possibility of future games to be played at the VFW.

Ralph Ritter, who ran the Lightning Raffle drawing for the Sweetheart Fun Night, has offered to look into the possibility of bringing this to the VFW on a more regular basis.

The Sweetheart Fun Night was more of a trial run to see what the reaction was to this game, if people liked or disliked it, etc. The cards that were used and played with on the Sweetheart Fun night were purchased from another organization within Woodstock that offers Lightning Raffle on a regular basis to only members of its organization.

With the help of Ralph Ritter, the Post is going to try to make this a reality. But it's going to take some work and one man alone cannot do it.

Some of you might think back to the days when Bingo was played at the Post until several years ago. The Bingo night required several people to work the floor selling cards, checking winning Bingo cards, ball caller, etc.

A similar setup will be required with the Lightning Raffle. Several volunteers will be needed to sell the raffle tickets before each game, collect the used tickets (for tracking purposes), validate winners, call the numbers, etc. The plan is to rotate number callers and have hopefully 4 groups so we can rotate it on a weekly basis so people don't have to work on this more than once a month.

At the last VFW meeting, it was mentioned that the proceeds from this raffle, should it be implemented, would go directly to the maintenance of the building. We have some major upkeep issues with the building that we still need to take care of that we need funds for.

Okay, so you're probably asking yourself about now, "Is it going to be played or not?" Well, that depends. There are certain regulations, both local and state, that govern this type of raffle and licenses that need to be obtained for organizations that run this raffle on a regular basis.

While the VFW is looking into the licensing, here are some thoughts around

how the game will likely be run which is a little different than the Sweetheart Fun Night. These are thoughts on how we think things will be run, but they may change depending on what the regulations dictate.

Games will be open to the general public, not just VFW Members. So anyone of legal gambling age can play. Five games will be played each week. For each game, a different deck of tickets will be sold which is color coded to differentiate the games. Colors available will be red, blue, orange, black, purple, yellow.

There are 150 cards to a deck and each ticket will be sold at \$1.00 each. For each round of play, the money is split three ways: 1/3 to each game's winner, 1/3 to the jackpot, 1/3 to the VFW Post 5040 Maintenance Fund.

Game play will be the same as the night of the Sweetheart Fun Night. There are 66 numbered white ping pong balls in the numbers drum, so numbers 1 through 66 will be drawn out of the drum one at a time. When someone crosses / checks off all three numbers on their raffle card, they will yell out "LIGHTNING" (not bingo) and the raffle is stopped to verify their card. The card will be verified for both the correct serial number for that game being played and that the winner has all three numbers called for that game.

The winner of that game will receive 1/3 of the money collected for that game, which can be up to \$50 if all the cards were sold for that game. After the winning ticket is verified, it will be announced to everyone that we have a winner for that game. The ticket sellers will then have to collect all losing tickets so they cannot be

used for another game.

Here's where things differentiate from the Sweetheart Fun Night. What normally happens in a Lightning game that makes winning even more interesting is the chance to win an even larger jackpot.

There is a 100 square jackpot board that has one winner hidden somewhere on it. The winner of the just played game will select a number on the jackpot board. In cases where there may be multiple winners for a single game, the winners must agree on one number on the jackpot board.

The number caller will open the number picked by that game winner(s). The game winner will announce to the rest of the players if they got the jackpot or if the pot rolls over.

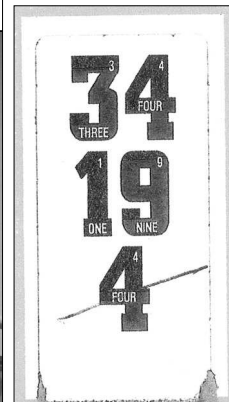
If the square they picked says "WINNER / JACKPOT", they will receive the jackpot prize and a new 100 square jackpot board will be started for the next game's winner. With a 100 square jackpot board and only five games played per week, you can see how the jackpot can grow and quite possibly reach into the thousands of dollars to a single winner.

Tentatively the thought is to start games at 7 pm every Friday and end around 8:30 to 9 pm. The kitchen will be open till 7:30 in case someone wants to order dinner or appetizers.

So, the next steps are for the VFW Post 5040 to get the right permits or licenses in place before games are played.

WE WILL MAKE A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS NEWSLETTER WHEN GAMES WILL START TO BE PLAYED. PLEASE STAY TUNED!

Ralph and Pat Ritter count money and tickets after a game of Lightning Raffle at the Sweetheart Fun night on February 9, 2008. (Matt Klos photo).



Sample of a what a Lightning Raffle ticket looks like.

Sweetheart Fun Night, February 9, 2008: fun, dancing, and more!



VFW Post 5040 nominations for 2008-2009 Officer posi- tions to be held over next several months

By Matt Klos

We are coming into that time of year when it's time to start thinking about our next year's officers and who will be leading our Post for the next year.

At the February meeting, VFW Judge Advocate, Dick Glawe, and 1 Year Trustee, Arnie Doerfert, were appointed as the VFW election officials for the upcoming VFW Elections. Election will take place at the April meeting.

As traditionally happens, at the March meeting nominations for the 2008-2009 VFW year will take place. At the April meeting, final nominations will also be taken. Elections will then be conducted at the April meeting at the close of nominations.

Does stepping up for an officer position interest you? Does your schedule allow you to devote some additional time this year to the VFW to help out in leading our Post? If it does, all it takes is a nomination and you can be in the running for one of these years officer positions.

Here is a quick summary of what is required of each of the positions in the VFW:

Commander: (a) Preside at all meetings, (b) enforce laws of VFW, (c) conduct business and activities according to VFW standards (d) decide all questions of law (f) approve expenditures (g) assure QM is

bonded (h) assure all dues are forwarded to Department (i) assure all reports are correct (j) assure all eligible veterans encouraged to join and maintain membership (k) assure that he or representative attend District Conventions (l) comply with and perform duties of VFW.

Sr. Vice: Assist Commander in preserving order and preside in absence of Commander.

Jr. Vice: Assist Commander in preserving order and preside in absence of Commander and Sr. Vice Commander.

Quartermaster: (a) receive and properly account for all monies and property in Post (b) pay our authorized payments (c) be bonded (d) collect monies giving receipts (e) keep dues accounts on members (f) collect annual membership dues (g) transmit dues to Department (h) refrain from issuing memberships until dues paid (i) maintain dues reserve (j) expend dues paid by Post on members from general fund (k) maintain relief fund (l) maintain books (m) deliver to successor all records (n) serve as treasurer in all committees (o) comply with all VFW laws.

Adjutant: (a) prepare all reports required of him (b) attest by signature all actions of the Post (c) keep in books: by laws, member applications, meeting minutes, orders from higher offices, correspondence file, proof of eligibility, roll of departed comrades (d) transfer all records to successor (e) comply with all VFW laws

Chaplain: Shall be chairman of visiting committee of Post. Visits sick and disabled members and make report to membership.

Judge Advocate: Gives commander legal assistance.

Surgeon: Chairman of Health committee. Shall promote and put into effect health programs for the benefit of the Post and community.

Officer of the Day: (a) Custodian of the Post colors, alter flag, Bible, ballot box,

gavel and other such property (b) at the beginning of meeting, inspect membership card (c) have Post colors in position prior to meetings (d) at the close of meetings assures that all property is under his control (e) prepares ballots (f) carry out order of commander.

Trustees: (a) audit books and records of the Post (b) submit a Post trustees report of audit to Department QM (c) verify all expenditures (d) audit the records and accounts of all committees (e) perform duties that are incident to position.

Guard: (a) allow no one to enter meeting room who does not possess a dues receipt card or membership (b) notify Officer of the Day of all distinguished guests present (c) perform duties that are incident to position.

Service Officer: Assist members of the Post, widows, and orphans in obtaining rightful benefits from federal and state governments, preparing proper forms for applying for benefits, and assembling required evidence.

Assistant Adjutant: Assists Adjutant as requested.

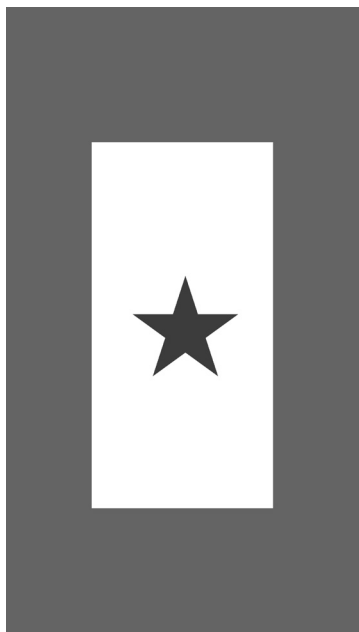
Assistant Quartermaster: Assists Quartermaster as requested.

Legislative Chairman: Inform Post membership of all legislative information sent to him by Department or National.

Employment Chairman: Work for the accomplishment of the employment programs adopted by the National and Departmental conventions and Post to promote employment of veterans.

Public Relations Chairman: Publicize the activities of the Post which enhance the prestige of the Post and membership. He shall seek cooperation of local publications and broadcast media to obtain favorable publicity for the VFW of the US.

Americanism Chairman: Maintains record of all Patriotic Days and shall initiate programs for their proper observance by the Post and community.



Blue Star Banner Group begins to hold monthly meetings

By Matt Klos

Many of you are familiar with the banner shown to the left. It's the Blue Star Service Banner that is displayed by families that have family members serving in the armed forces.

Anne Brophy, one of our VFW Post 5040 members, was looking for a way to give support and encouragement to members in our community who are either family or friends of a deployed service member. Thus, the forma-

tion of Blue Star Banner Group - a support group for the friends and family of deployed service members, was created.

This group will be meeting at the VFW on the fourth Thursday of every month at the VFW. It's basically just an informal event where people can get together, talk about their family members in the armed forces, get to know other families that are going through the same situation, and provide a common ground that people are familiar with.

If you know of anyone that might be interested, please encourage them to attend. At the first meeting, donuts and coffee were provided.

For further information and meeting times, please contact Anne Brophy at (815)-334-9353.



Postal Service offers first-time military discount for new, large flat-rate box

WASHINGTON, February 6 / PRNewswire USNewswire--Planning to send a care package to a U.S. military service member serving abroad? Send it after March 3, 2008 to take advantage of a new flat-rate box from the U.S. Postal Service that is 50 percent larger and delivered for \$10.95 to an APO/FPO address -- \$2 less than for domestic destinations.

"This is the first time the Postal Service has offered a special price for our armed forces serving overseas," said Postmaster General John Potter. "We're proud that family and friends will be able to use this new larger-sized box to send much appreciated packages from home to our dedicated troops overseas."

The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box

(12" x 12" x 5 1/2" or 800 cubic inches) will be available in post offices nationwide beginning March 3, but customers can begin ordering them Feb. 20 at USPS or by calling 800-610-8734. Some of the new boxes are co-branded with the logo of America Supports You, which is a Department of Defense program that connects citizens offering support to the military and their families.

"It's terrific that the Postal Service continues to think of ways to help Americans support our troops and their families. Postage is always a concern when shipping care packages, and this new flat-rate box means our home-front groups and supportive citizens can do more with their resources," said Allison Barber, deputy assistant, Secretary of Defense. "We're especially pleased that some of the boxes will bear the America Supports You logo reminding our service members that they have our nation's support."

The \$2 discount is applied when the Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Boxes are shipped to an APO/FPO destination. The two existing flat-rate boxes (11 7/8" x 3 3/8" x 13 5/8" and 11" x 8 1/2" x 5 1/2"), which currently retail for \$8.95 for U.S. addresses, are not available for the military discount. All flat-rate boxes can be used for international shipping.

The new flat-rate boxes will be available in post offices starting March 3. The America Supports You branded box will be available online, at select post offices near military bases, or by calling 800-610-8734.

What's coming up in the next several few weeks/ months?

- March 1st Spaghetti Dinner & Auction
- St. Patrick's Day (this falls on a Monday, but contact the Post to find out if a special dinner is to be served the previous Friday.)
- Steak Fry in May
- Soup to Nuts Sale in May.

16mm film transferred to DVD will be available for purchase


By Matt Klos

At the Sweetheart Fun Night, some of you may have noticed the "home movie" playing on the bar televisions. This came from the film canister containing 1,700 feet of 16mm film found at the VFW Post 5040 that was transferred to DVD. The date of the film is 1955-1956.

Scenes of parades, parties, bowling, Christmas, etc. was captured by the person or persons filming. Several people who watched the film commented that they knew people in the movie. Some patrons even thought they saw themselves in the video.


There are plans to dub in commentary about the scenes videoed. Individuals are being sought to help identify people in the video and locations where the video was taken.

This movie is available currently only on DVD format for \$8.00. To reserve your copy, you can either sign up at the VFW bar or contact Don Sword at (815)-338-0068.



Marine Corps League
 McHenry County Detachment 1009
 Meets every 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 PM
 Woodstock VFW Post 5040
 240 N. Throop St.
 P.O. Box 311
 Woodstock, IL 60098

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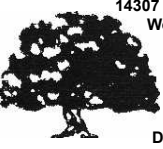


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March 2008

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Post Normal Operating Hours (unless noted otherwise - closing times vary depending on patronage) ☆☆☆☆☆☆

Closed	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4:00 pm - 9:00 pm	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	29	Spaghetti 1 Raffle and Auction 6:00pm Dinner
2 <i>Vietnam War Begins (1965)</i>	3 Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm	4	5	6 VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	7 Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm	8 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
9  <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins (Set Clock Ahead One Hour)</i>	10 VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	11	12 Cub Scouts - 7 pm Girl Scouts of the USA Founded (1912)	13	14 Friday Dinner Special: Prime Rib (\$12) 5 - 7:30 pm	15 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
16 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	17  VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. Deadline for April 2008 VFW News Items <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	20 Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm <i>Spring Begins</i>	21 Friday Dinner Special: BBQ Ribs (\$10) 5 - 7:30 pm <i>Good Friday</i>	22 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
23  <i>Easter Sunday</i>	24	25 Jaycees 7:30 pm	26	27	28 Friday Dinner Special: Meat Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm	29 Saturday Raffle 4 pm
30	31	1	2	3	4 Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm	5 Saturday Raffle 4 pm

From the editor's desk By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

It seems like this month flew by. Have you read that the United States Postal Service is raising rates on May 12, 2008? This increase is not as much as last year and only raises costs for mailing the newsletter by a few dollars. Buy some "Forever" stamps and save a few bucks in the long run.

By now, many of you heard about the shooting at Northern Illinois University (NIU) in DeKalb, IL that occurred on February 14 at Cole Hall, killing five students and the gunman. Although I did not know any of the students killed, this situation kind of hit home for me. For one, this was the university where I graduated from. One of the students killed, Julianna Gehant, a SFC/E-7 in the U.S. Army Reserves and a student at NIU, was also a member of the NIU Veterans Club on campus, of which I also belong to. It's sad that this whole event even happened and my thoughts and prayers go out to all the families of the victims and the student body.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



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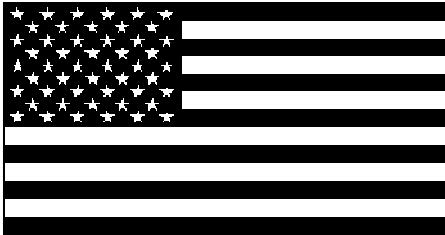
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www.vfw5040.org



This month's issue:

- Sweetheart Fun Night pictures
- Post Election information
- Lightning Raffle to be played at the Post?
- Soup to Nuts coming up
- More columns inside...

Upcoming Events:

- **March 1:** Spaghetti dinner and auction
- **March 17:** St. Patrick's Day
- **Every Friday:** Dinner at the Post
- See calendar inside...

VFW POST 5040, WOODSTOCK
We are open to the public!

VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2007 - 2008

Commander	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Senior Vice Commander	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Junior Vice Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-337-8255
Quartermaster	Ralph Ritter	(815)-338-5018
Chaplain	Howard Engstrom	(815)-338-4453
Chaplain Asst.	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449
Service Officer	Ted Biever	(815)-338-9292
Judge Advocate	Dick Glawe	(815)-385-3156
Post Surgeon	Harold Irwin	(815)-338-1264
Officer-of-the-Day	Denny Burrs	(815)-338-7014
Adjutant	Alan Belcher	(815)-338-7689
1 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923
2 Year Trustee	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
3 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802

Board of Directors 2007 - 2008

President	Bud Porter	(815)-338-4781
Vice President	Hank Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Treasurer	Ralph Ritter	(815)-338-5018
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Don Sullivan	(815)-653-3298
Director	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Club Manager	Becky Gillespie	(815)-338-6826

Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2007 - 2008

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	Geraldine Salyers	(815)-337-3770
Conductress	Irene Brown	(815)-459-3483
1 Year Trustee	Lois Freund	(815)-338-5261
2 Year Trustee	Margaret Webb	(815)-338-4213
3 Year Trustee	Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653

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