



# VFW News

Visit us online at [www.vfw5040.org](http://www.vfw5040.org)

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

## Reflections on VFW Post 5040 and its past 62 years of history

By Don Peasley  
VFW News Editor 1955-2002

Throughout more than six decades VFW and Auxiliary members have built on four pillars:

1. Service to veterans.
2. Service to youths and families
3. Service to community
4. Patriotism

As this nation undergoes tremendous turbulence and turmoil - our men and women risk and lose lives in far-flung battlefields - patriotism is an ongoing emotional experience.

VFW and Auxiliary members exemplify this fourth pillar in many ways: Donating flags to schools, civic groups and local organizations; sponsoring the Voice of Democracy contest; conducting programs at schools to help students learn what patriotism means and how good citizens respect this country's heritage; supporting the National Guard; and conducting Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances each year.

Readers of the Woodstock VFW News know how Post 5040 members build on these four pillars because you are the ones who bring about these accomplishments.

It's satisfying for me to refresh my memory of how our VFW began. Just who broached the idea of a VFW Post is uncertain as the 10-year history in the March 1956 VFW News indicates.

At any rate, members met November 15, 1945 to organize and elect officers.

Charter Night was March 4, 1946 and Frank Kennedy, World War II Air Force pilot (and brother of Pat Gaylord and Jane Dahm) was elected first Commander.

Post 5040 had 224 charter members. Members formed an Auxiliary November 18, 1946. The support of Auxiliary members is one of the bright stars in VFW's service to the Woodstock community and veterans.

In October 1947 VFW began one of its noteworthy service to veterans, the monthly visit with hospitalized veterans at Downey Hospital. This commitment continued to just a few years ago as it became difficult for veterans to make that ride to North Chicago.

Woodstock was experiencing a housing shortage after World War II, and Don Wilkerson led the VFW in rousing the Woodstock community to provide more housing for returning veterans and their families. Wilkerson took the lead in form-

ing a Veterans Housing Council. This council caused action by city council members. Though no mass housing program took place, it encouraged independent contractors to build low-cost housing.

One of the most successful VFW projects was sponsoring a Teen-er League team in the National VFW program. This team for 13-15-year-olds won the state title in 1967. In the National playoffs it lost to the eventual champions (West Allis, Wisconsin) during the three-game playoff at Elgin. The VFW is also a leader of the Woodstock Little League, a position it has maintained since the league was started in 1954.

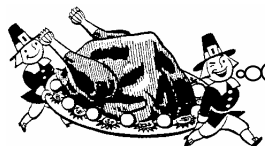
Another memorable early VFW activity was to organize a Fourth of July Festival with rides, entertainment, food and fireworks at the city park.

Another early activity was searching for a permanent home. Members purchased

See REFLECTIONS, page 4.

### And the winner of the weekend get away is...

John O'Conner of All State Insurance in Woodstock was the winner of the weekend get a way at the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva, WI. Tickets for this raffle were sold at the McHenry County Fair (July 30 - Aug 3) and at the VFW post Commander, Fred Noble, (r) presents the prize.



We need your help to sell lots of tickets!

### Look for VFW turkey raffle tickets in the mail

The 2008 Turkey Raffle tickets will soon be going on sale at the bar and ticket books should be showing up in mailboxes very soon.

Tickets will be \$20.00 for a book of 10, \$2.00 per ticket. If you buy or sell 10 tickets, you get a free turkey dinner.

Prizes will be the same as last year;

first prize \$200; second prize \$150; and third prize \$100. 40 turkeys will be drawn from the tickets sold. At the dinner, additional drawings on the paddle wheel will be held for other prizes, including more turkeys.

Mark your calendars for the Turkey Raffle on November 22, 2008.

## Ladies Auxiliary from the President

By Nyda Fogarty, President 2008-2009

At our September 4th meeting we started with a Potluck dinner. Our 5th District President Sylvia Wilvert was to come to our meeting and perform her Annual inspection, but had to enter the hospital that afternoon to have a pin put in her hip. We hope she will be out soon and on the mend.

I presented a 15 year membership pin to Geraldine Salyers and a 10 year pin to Karen Wells, our Chaplain. The charter was draped in memory of Jane Haldeman and our Past National President, Glenn Grossman who passed away in July.

It was reported by our Treasurer that only a few have paid their dues for this next year which started the new year on July 1st.



### Additional names of fallen soldiers

Last month in the *VFW News*, a list of soldiers who died in our nation's wars since 1939 was printed. The following names should also be included in this listing.

Dennis Jahn, of Woodstock and Marengo, was killed in Vietnam. He was a friend of Nancy Tobin.

Alfred Wesson from Greenwood, IL, was killed in 1944 in Italy during WWII. Alfred was a cousin of 5040 charter member Chuck Mansfield.

Any more missing names, please inform the *VFW News* editor and I will list them.

**Only a month left before entries are due for P.P. and V.O.D!**

## Patriot's Pen



<p><b>2008-2009 Theme</b> "Why America's Veterans Should be Honored"</p>	<p><b>Entry Deadline</b> November 1, 2008</p>
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Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria, is a nationwide competition that gives students in grades 6, 7 and 8 the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. Annually, more than 115,000 students participate in the annual contest.

Contestants write a 300-400 word essay based on an annual patriotic theme. The first-place winner receives a \$10,000 savings bond and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. The top national winners each receive a savings bond anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

For entry forms, teacher packets, and previous year winning essay, please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and look under the menu item "Programs".

## Coach Chuck fundraiser to be held at VFW

A fund raising event will be held on November 1, 2008 to assist Coach Chuck Vrasich with costs related to his need for a heart transplant. Coach Chuck has lived in McHenry County all of his life, specifically Woodstock for the last ten years. During this time, he has been involved with many community activities.

He has coached youth football for St. Mary's, coached baseball and softball for the Woodstock Park District, and worked as the Intramurals Coordinator for McHenry County College's Athletics Department.

### Spaghetti Dinner / Auction

**November 1, 2008**

at VFW Post 5040, 240 N. Throop St.

## Voice of Democracy



<p><b>2008-2009 Theme</b> "Service and Sacrifice by America's Veterans Benefit Today's Youth by _____"</p>	<p><b>Entry Deadline</b> November 1, 2008</p>
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The Voice of Democracy, endorsed by the National Association of Secondary School Principals' contest criteria, is an audio essay contest for high school students in grades 9-12. The annual contest, which is designed to foster patriotism, allows students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three to five minute essay based on an annual theme.

Created in 1947, the scholarship program annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. Each Department's first-place winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., plus the opportunity to compete for national scholarships. The first-place national winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship.

For entry forms, teacher packets, and previous year winning essay, please visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and look under the menu item "Programs".

\$10.00 per plate – spaghetti, meat sauce, salad & garlic bread

6:00 pm cocktails  
6:30-8:30pm dinner to be served buffet style

- Live entertainment
- Silent auction items will be on display beginning at 6:00 PM with bidding beginning at 7:00 PM and ending at 10:00 PM.
- Live auction will begin at 8:00 PM.

If you are interested in donating item(s) for the auction, contact: [kelly@coachchuckheartfund.com](mailto:kelly@coachchuckheartfund.com)

For additional information, visit on the web: [www.coachchuckheartfund.com](http://www.coachchuckheartfund.com)

# Blood drive sponsored by Woodstock Moose and VFW 5040 earns praise from Heartland Blood Center

[Editor's Note: Once in a while a note comes to the VFW that needs to be shared with our members. This is one of those notes on a recent blood drive. Nice work, guys!]

I can't thank you enough for the outstanding job the two of you did on your blood drive! This first-time drive, co-sponsored by the Moose Lodge 1329 and VFW Post 5040 was a great success! The last drive held at the Moose was in November of 2004 where 15 units were collected on an 8 hour drive.

Although my initial hope for this drive was to collect 25 units, you both talked me into raising the goal to 31 to get an additional three beds. I nervously agreed. Well, you surpassed that goal handily bringing in

40 units! Four of those units were given by two, much-appreciated double red cell donors, one of which was you Ralph Ritter. There were 10 people deferred for various reasons.

Having your blood drive on a Sunday morning in coordination with one of your breakfasts was very beneficial as it brought in a considerable number of walk-in donors. Although we always prefer to have people schedule appointments to keep the waiting times to a minimum, walk-in's are always welcome.

John, thanks so much to you for encouraging sign-ups, making all of the arrangements and allowing us to use your facility. Ralph, without your recruitment efforts, putting up the posters and personally reaching out to people, we would not have seen the great turnout that we enjoyed (I also noticed, by the way, a whole lot of Ritters' donated blood at your drive.)

Thanks to the generosity of the two of you and all of your donors. You have helped us keep the inventory levels stable in McHenry County. Many are not aware that Heartland Blood Centers is the sole

supplier of your local hospitals, including Centegra Woodstock and McHenry. We of course must have the blood on hand before it is needed. In order to meet the needs of the 33 hospitals we supply in Illinois and Indiana, as an organization we must collect approximately 600 units daily. This is one of the reasons you might notice the number of blood drives going on regularly in the community. Since blood components have a shelf life, we must collect them often and on a regular basis. People are eligible to safely donate whole blood every 56 days or 8 weeks. Donors must weigh a minimum of 110 lbs. and be at least 16 years of age (with parent's permission).

I look forward to working with you again soon!

Best regards,

Keri Lawton  
Marketing Representative  
Heartland Blood Centers  
[www.heartlandbc.org](http://www.heartlandbc.org)

## Past Officers Dinner

### Saturday, October 25, 2008

*Cocktail hour: 5:30 pm    Buffet dinner: 6:30 pm*

Menu:

*Roast beef, Mashed potato/gravy, Mixed vegetable, Rolls/butter*

**Cost: \$6.00 per person**

This dinner is open to all members of the VFW as well as to the public. We want to honor all of our past officers and thank them for a job well done.

Please send in the advance reservation form below no later than **(last chance) October 10, 2008** if you plan on attending.

**Reservation form:** Yes, I/we plan on attending the VFW Past Officers Dinner on October 25, 2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$6.00 per person. Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your completed reservation form and payment to: Woodstock VFW Post 5040  
240 N. Throop Street  
Woodstock, IL 60098-3225  
(Please respond by October 10, 2008)

## Reflections

Continued from Page 1.

the Austin property at 240 Throop Street on December 16, 1946. An addition was constructed by members in time to install Joe Thiede as Commander in May 1954.

One other major activity took place in the 1950s when Earl Holm was Commander. When I approached him for the Post to publish a Post publication, the *Woodstock VFW News* resulted and has continued since, thanks to the support of the membership.

The significance of the *VFW News* to me is that it provides a dependable way to keep members informed of services, ways the VFW helps the community and an opportunity to reach out to members for help on specific activities.

Since I retired as editor in 2002, Matt Klos has done a superb job in keeping members informed of VFW activities on those four pillars. Matt did an especially notable job in going through the *VFW News* through the years and compiling the 60th anniversary edition in April 2006.

Reflecting on the history of the VFW in Woodstock, I find the V-J Day Parade and Pageant of Drums a memorable achievement. This was a community-wide event conducted by the VFW, 1955 through 1974. It received high praise from the National VFW which called it "the most outstanding activity sponsored by a VFW Post in the nation."

The decision to honor all teachers in our community with an annual Teachers Tea began in 1956 and continued until just a few years ago. Who has more influence on our children than our teachers? The parents? Maybe. But the vast majority in the teaching profession are sincere, dedicated

and an inspiration to those who strive to serve other people.

Through the years VFW in an unheralded way serves veterans and their families in need. We have the VFW service officer with the responsibility of keeping on top when "a call to action" comes to the attention of those at the VFW building or officers of our Post.

VFW members are dedicated to honor veterans and do it with such activities as the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. However, they do it in another significant way. From the first year with Elmer Claussen as the first Honor Guard Commander, the VFW has had an Honor Guard - a Rifle Squad - participate in veterans funerals and pay last respects with three volleys at the gravesite.

The VFW is not all work and no play. There is a recreational aspect. This was especially true in the first decades. Members had growing families and funds were limited, but there was an opportunity for dinners and dances at the VFW (also at the Woodstock Armory in those first years). Who among old-timers can forget those costumed Halloween parties? You were always surprised to learn who was behind the mask after prize winners were announced!

In recent years members have kept up the ability to help members in need. They have provided tributes to our deceased comrades as we continue to see the death of many World War II veterans. The VFW continues to support the essay contest for students, sells Buddy Poppies to help raise money for hospitalized veterans at North Chicago.

Most recently, the VFW sent care packages to troops on active duty overseas. Members are also prominent participants in activities bidding farewell to our National Guard members leaving for active duty. The VFW also participates in "Welcome Home" ceremonies in the Woodstock Square.

Those interested in the history of the Woodstock VFW and Auxiliary—are indeed in the activities and history of the Woodstock community—are fortunate to have the *Woodstock VFW News* as an on-going responsible resource. This history reflects the people of the community and changes in Woodstock over 62 years.

It reflects the growth of the community and a changing in the business climate. However, it also reflects the continuation of the responsibility to serve youths, help veterans and keep in the forefront of serving the 24,600 people of Woodstock.

## ✠ Chaplains report ✠

By Pete Lockinger

Please be keeping Bob and Pat Gaylord in your thoughts and prayers as they overcome some illnesses they have been having.

Also keep Dean Mishler in your thoughts and prayers as he continues treatment for his health issues that he has been dealing with.

**TLS 3rd Annual  
Raffle & Dinner  
Proceeds Benefit TLS  
Veteran's Shelter  
Hebron, Illinois**

**Grand Prize:  
Vacation for Two  
at your choice of any  
five locations  
courtesy of Worldwide  
Traveler in McHenry, IL  
(\$6,000 value)**

### Other Prizes:

2nd Prize: 50" HD Flat  
Screen TV

3rd Prize: Luxury Weekend at the  
Grand Geneva Resort  
(\$500 value)

4th Prize: \$500.00

**Tickets are \$10.00 each.**  
(10,000 max tickets to be sold)

Dinner and drawing to be held  
**Saturday, October 11, 2008**  
Woodstock Moose  
Family Center  
406 Clay Street, Woodstock

Stone Quarry Road to perform  
before and after dinner.

Tickets for the dinner will be \$20.00  
per person in advance and \$25.00  
per person at the door.

For dinner reservations, please  
call TLS at (815) 648-2203.

For raffle tickets see  
Alan Belcher, Hank Enstrom,  
or the VFW.

For more information and rules, visit at:  
**TLSVETERANS.org**

### The American Soldier

October 4, 2008 - February 15, 2009

A photographic tribute to men and women in uniform. 116 large scale photos, from the Civil War to Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Remembering World War II

October 11 & 12, 2008, 10 am- 4 pm

Focusing on the lives of soldiers during this war. American and German vehicles and equipment will be on display. Authentically dressed reenactors will meet visitors.

For more information on both events:  
**Lake County Discovery Museum  
Wauconda, IL**

Phone: 847-968-3400  
Website: www.LCFPD.org



# Honor Guard salute Hank Nulle one last time

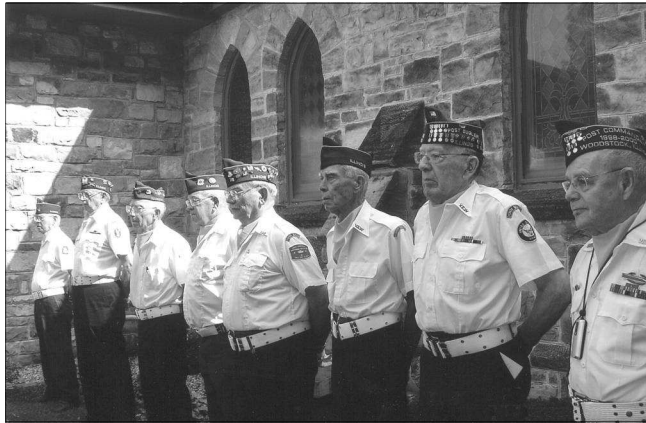
By Alice Nulle

Hank Nulle, who died November 22, 2007, long time member of the VFW Post 5040 Firing Squad/Honor Guard, often told of being interred at Baraboo, WI. Other members kidded about following him up there. On September 21, he did just that.

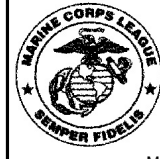
Led by long time friend, Bill Lyford, they left early in dense fog, drove 127 miles to Baraboo, and attended the 10:00 am service at Trinity Episcopal Church in Baraboo, WI. After the service, they proceeded to the columbarium in the gardens at the church with 12 members of the family and Norine Mathey. There they gave their final salute to their comrade and friend. Many members of the church marveled at the men to come so far for the service. The family of Hank will be forever grateful to the group. There was a luncheon served afterwards by the ladies of the church. Hank and his wife Alice have been members of Trinity for several years. On a side note, Hanks grandson, Steven Nulle, is a member of VFW Post 5040. He served 7 years in the Coast Guard and is now in training to be a police officer with the McHenry County Sheriff's Police.

Alice put it best in her note, "I couldn't believe all these great men would give up a Sunday to travel 127 miles up to see Hank interred in the columbarium. They are really dedicated."

Thank you so much, Gentlemen!



Post 5040 Honor Guard stand at attention at Trinity Episcopal Church where the internment at the columbarium for Hank Nulle took place. Standing are (r-l): Bill Lyford, Bob Schroeder, Bob Gibson, Larry Dhom, Ron Nehls, Chuck Mathey, Fred Noble, and Jerry Riley.



## Marine Corps League

McHenry County Detachment 1009

P.O. Box 311  
Woodstock, IL 60098

Meets every 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 PM  
Woodstock VFW Post 5040  
240 N. Throop St.

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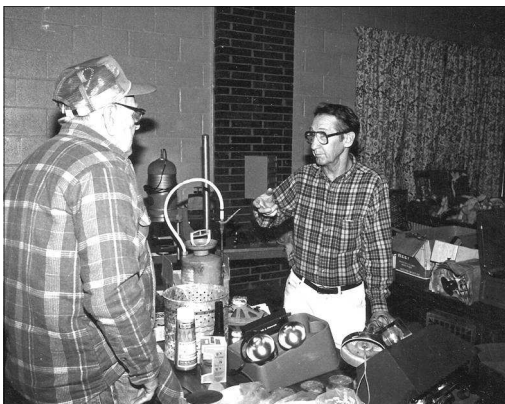
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The 50th Anniversary in 1996 was the occasion to recognize and salute Honor Guard members. The Honor Guard is a special part of VFW recognition for veterans and to participate in Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities. From left, front: Charles Brown, Charles Mathey, Richard Glawe, Elmer Clausen, Commander; Henry Nulle, Charles Gehrke, Joe Thiede, Jack Fish, Elmer Musser and William Lyford. Back: George Piklor, Jack Meyers, Ron Nehls, Floyd Wilcox, John Weller, Robert Molthen, Robert Watts, Harold Irwin, Larry Dhom, Ben Parker, Ray Hills and Bruce Shisler. Absent: James Gehrke, David Grote, Fred Reese, Art Schuld Jr. and Donald Sword. (Don Peasley Photo).



Jack Fish (right) a long time volunteer with many services at the VFW is with Marion "Spike" Messman at "Soup to Nuts." (Don Peasley Photo).



Howard Wolf served as VFW Commander in 1966. He was also club manager and chef for several years when Joe Thiede stepped aside for a short time as Post manager. (Don Peasley Photo).

# October 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
28 <i>Gold Star Mother's Day</i>	29 <i>VFW Day VFW Established (1899)</i>	30 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	1	2 <i>VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm</i>	3 <i>Friday Dinner Special: Salmon Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm</i>	4 <i>Saturday Raffle 4 pm</i>
5	6 <i>Memorial Day Committee 7 pm Little League 7 pm Girls Softball 7 pm VFW Board Mtg. 6:30 pm</i>	7 <i>Last Day for Voter Registration in McHenry County  War on Terror Began (2001)</i>	8 <i>Cub Scouts - 7 pm Celebrity Bar Tender Night, 7-9 pm</i>	9 <i>Yom Kippur</i>	10 <i>Friday Dinner Special: Prime Rib (\$12) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm</i>	11 <i>Saturday Raffle 4 pm</i>
12 <i>Columbus Day</i>	13 <i>VFW Officers Mtg. 7 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm U.S. Navy Established (1775) Columbus Day Observed</i>	14 <i>1st day for early voting in McHenry County</i>	15 <i>Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm</i>	16 <i>Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm</i>	17 <i>Friday Dinner Special: BBQ Ribs (\$10) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm</i>	18 <i>POWW Entertainment Pro Wrestling VFW 5040 Doors open at 6:00 pm Match begins 7:00 pm \$15 at the door Advance tickets \$12 Saturday Raffle 4 pm</i>
19	20 <i>VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. Deadline for November 2008 VFW News items</i>	21 <i>Jaycees 7:30 pm</i>	22	23	24 <i>Friday Dinner Special: Meat Loaf (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm United Nations Day</i>	25 <i>Past Officers Dinner Cocktail Hour: 5:30 pm Buffet Dinner: 6:30 pm</i>
26	27 <i>Navy Day</i>	28	29	30 <i>Last day for early voting in McHenry County</i>	31 <i>Happy Halloween  Friday Dinner Special: Chef's Special (\$8) 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7 pm</i>	1 <i>Coach Chuck Fund Raiser Spaghetti Dinner and Auction \$10.00 per plate 6:00 pm cocktails 6:30-8:30 pm dinner buffet style</i>

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Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle  
  
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zoiamonumentco@prodigy.net

Honor the dead by helping the living.



### Newsletter Editor Information:

**Matt Klos**  
VFW 5040 News Editor  
269 Forest Drive  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

phone: (815)-382-4593

email: [matt.klos@vfw5040.org](mailto:matt.klos@vfw5040.org)

fax: 707-667-2621

### Post Website and Email:

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

email: [vfwpost5040@att.net](mailto:vfwpost5040@att.net)

## WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS

240 Throop Street  
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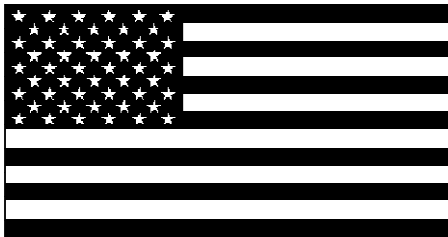
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### This month's issue:

- Don's reflection on 62 years of our Post
- Some old event pictures
- Notes of thanks
- Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen due Nov 1
- More inside...

### Upcoming Events:

- **October 18: Wrestling**
- **October 25: Past Officers Dinner, 6:30 pm**
- **October 31: Halloween!**
- **November 1: Coach Chuck Fund Raiser Dinner**
- **Every Friday: Dinner at the Post and Lightning raffle.**

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

### VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2008 - 2009

Commander	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Senior Vice Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Junior Vice Commander	Ed Lump	(815)-338-0199
Quartermaster	Thom Gillespie	(815)-338-6826
Chaplain	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	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
2 Year Trustee	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802
3 Year Trustee	Arnie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923

### Board of Directors 2008 - 2009

President	Bud Porter	(815)-338-4781
Vice President	Hank Enstrom	(815)-337-5856
Treasurer	Thom Gillespie	(815)-338-6826
Director	Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Director	Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Director	Fred Noble	(815)-338-5655
Club Manager	Becky Gillespie	(815)-338-6826

### Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2008 - 2009

President	Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
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