

Are you Irish on St. Patrick's Day?

In the mood for dining on some traditional St. Patty's Day food?

Come join us at the VFW for dinner on March 17, 2010

Menu (5-7pm): **Corned Beef** Cabbage Carrots Irish Soda Bread (Pat Auvenshine's family recipe!)

A wee bit of entertainment: Irish Dancers from Woodstock **Ballet Studio**



Don Sword given surprise appreciation recognition at the Valentine's party

By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

For those of you that didn't attend the VFW Post 5040 Valentine's Day party on February 13, I'm sorry to say that you missed out on the covert operation of intention for the night. Yes, it was a night to relax and dance a little, listen to some old and new tunes, and enjoy the company of some of your fellow Post members. However, there was an underlying theme for the night that I couldn't print in last month's paper and was passed by word of mouth. Even the man being honored for the night didn't know what it was about. You see, Don Sword was given an appreciation night in his honor, thanking him for his many years and dedication to VFW Post 5040.

Don had no idea what was going on. He explained, "You know, I came in tonight expecting to have a nice time and support the VFW in this function. When I came down the stairs, I thought I saw a few people that I know that would normally not be here at the Post. They were family. Then I began to think, 'What's going on?...No, it wasn't my birthday ... no, it wasn't our Anniversary which will be 59 years in April...what did I miss?' Something was up."

Well, Don found out pretty quickly what was up when many extended family and friends were gathered to help Post 5040 give an appreciation night for Don. Don has been a been a member of the Post for many years, helping in many annual fund raising activities, stepping up to chair the events, and sitting on the Association Board.

Don Peasley, the first VFW News Editor, was invited to sav a few words about Don and his recollections of Sword's dedication to the VFW. Of the many people Peasley has worked with, Peasley ranked Don Sword with some of the other people

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary

that have done great work at the VFW: Joe Thiede, Jack Fish, Don and Maynard Wilkerson, Bud and Bob Hehler, Bob and Pat Gaylord, Nyda Fogarty, Chuck and Jim Gehrke, Dean Mishler, and many others.

As a military police officer in the Army of the Occupation in South Korea in 1945, Sword was eligible for VFW membership. In the late 1980's Don joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Drawing from his background in electronics. Don has installed and maintained various audio systems within our Post. He has been on the Association Board for over 20 years, been in charge of the Turkey Raffle held in November for numerous years, served as member of the Honor Guard, helped with Soup To Nuts, cleaned fryers, fixed kitchen appliances, and the list goes on.

Following Don Peasley's speech, Association President Bud Porter presented Don with an appreciation plaque which stated "In Heartfelt Appreciation for Unselfish Dedication to Country, Community and VFW Post 5040". Family and friends were then invited to say a few words if they wanted.

Don Sword's son, Jeff, came up from Aurora with his wife Debbie to pay tribute to their father. Don's daughter Linda Skocz, who lives in Arizona with husband Rod, was unable to attend. Their children John (wife Christine) and Nichole (husband Steve) were able to attend. Other friends and family were also present to give Don a bit of surprise by being at the VFW.

Jeff Sword voiced a heartfelt speech that covered what was likely on most of their family members minds. Jeff, a former Naval Intelligence Lieutenant Commander during the cold war, followed up his speech with messages from Jeff's own two sons dedicated to their Grandpa, Don Sword. If you know Don and have spoken to him, you know how proud he is of his grandsons and what they are doing now.

From Erik, a VFW Post 5040 member who is a Lieutenant in the US Navy and

See Sword Tribute on Page 4.



For the past years, our Soup to Nuts sale has been held the first week in May. This year we will not be doing a Spring sale but have instead changed the date to sometime in October.

So, for those of you wondering when you can donate items, you will have to hold on to your things for several more months.

After the sale in 2009, we realized that we were competing with so many other Spring sales. We are hoping to have a better turnout in the fall.

We'll let you know when the date is an in future newsletters. Thanks for being patient with us.

✤ Chaplains ✤

report

By Pete Lockinger

Sick List:

- Fred Noble - Ray Benoy

Charter Draped (February Meeting):

- Ervin Schultze

815-338-6464

A.W.O.L. Army Surplus



Auxiliary Report By Nyda Fogarty, President 2009-2010

Ladies

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be on Thursday, March 4. We will have a potluck dinner at 6:15 prior to our meeting. Please bring a dish to pass.

We are sorry to report we have lost two more long time members of the Auxiliary.

Margaret Hart Johnson of Woodstock passed away on January 3. She was the wife of Robert Johnson and the mother-inlaw of our Past Commander John Hanson. She joined the Auxiliary on January 29, 1947.

Josephine Romo died on February 7. She joined the Auxiliary on June 20, 1957. Arnie Romo was an active member of the Post. The funeral was February 13 at the Presbyterian church.

Our sympathy to both families.

The Department is sponsoring a Patriotic Art contest. This is for High School Students. Entries must be submitted to the Auxiliary Chairman (Chris Gehrke) by March 31. Download contest rules at

www.ladiesauxvfw.org/html/ scholarships.html

(look for brochure entitled "Young American Creative Patriotic Art Brochure)

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Woodstock VFW members and other Woodstock area resi-

dents have an opportunity to participate in another free computer program guided by Cindy Christ.

Cindy has 20 years experience in technical training and project management as well as recent experience working for the Veteran's Benefit Administration. Her motivation for providing this course is to assist individuals with the basic skills needed to understand how to use a personal computer for both work and personal life. In this tough economy learning new skills is more important than ever!

The course will go over the current Microsoft Office applications including using Microsoft Word to create a resume, using Excel to create basic financial spreadsheets, and using PowerPoint for presentations. In addition, an overview of the current personal computer operating system will be provided.

After the courses, Cindy will be available for one on one assistance to answer specific questions participants may have, including resume help. If there are any specific topics you would like addressed in the course, email Cindy for consideration at the address below (there are no spaces in the below address):

cindy.christ @ comcast.net

With limited seating available, paring the VFW at 815-338-5040. at 2pm and repeated 6 pm.



Woodstock VFW News is published monthly by Woodstock VFW Post 5040, 240 N. Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098. (815)-338-5040 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Woodstock VFW Post 5040, c/o VFW News Editor, 240 N. Throop Street, Woodstock, IL 60098.

VFW Post 5040 nominations and elections for 2010-2011 Officer positions held in March

By Matt Klos. VFW News Editor

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

At the March meeting, VFW Judge Advocate, Dick Glawe, and 3 Year Trustee, Arnie Doerfert, were appointed as the VFW election officials for the upcoming VFW Elections. Election will take place at the April meeting.

Procedurally, March is the first month in which officer nominations for the 2010-2011 VFW year will take place. At the April meeting, final nominations will be taken. Elections will then be conducted at the April meeting at the close of nominations.

Here is a summary of what is required of each of the elected positions and appointed positions in the VFW Post 5040. Officers are elected for a term of one year. Any of these positions are open for those that would like to get involved this year. Of course, some people will volunteer again or be asked to retain their positions. but we always like to have people step up and volunteer for things like this as well. Is this your year to get involved and try something different and new?

Commander (elected):

(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 (1) comply with and perform duties of VFW.

Sr. Vice (elected):

Assist Commander in preserving order and preside in absence of Commander.

Jr. Vice (elected):

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

Quartermaster (elected):

(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 form general fund (k) maintain relief fund (1) maintain books (m) deliver to successor all records (n) serve as treasurer in all committees (o) comply with all VFW laws.

Adjutant (elected):

(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 (elected):

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

Judge Advocate (elected):

Gives commander legal assistance.

Surgeon (elected):

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

Officer of the Day (elected):

(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 (elected):

(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. (Trustees are elected for a term to three years.)

Guard (elected):

(a) allow no one to enter meeting room who does not posses 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 (elected):

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 (elected):

Assists Adjutant as requested.

Assistant Quartermaster (elected): 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.

Post Newsletter Editor:

Responsible for creating newsletter format, editing written and pictorial content, organizing submitted content, producing electronic copy for print services, maintaining Post address list, printing address labels, tabbing and labeling newsletters, working with advertisers in ad development, renewal and changes, work with Post Office to qualify for bulk mail rates at pre-sort level.

Post Webmaster:

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Responsible for yearly renewal of domain name and web hosting service, updating web pages with content as needed, developing new web pages as needed, posting digital copy of newsletter to website, keeping maintenance costs to a minimum, answering email that comes through the website mailboxes. Basic knowledge of HTML, CSS, FTP, and CGI scripts is helpful.

Post Spirit Fund underway!

Last month it was mentioned that the Post was looking at ways to raise money for our Post home.

Currently there is a drive to raise funds for our Post over the next year. We are asking for general donations to be made for the benefit our Post home.

In the bar area, a large "thermometer" has been set up to register how much in donations have been received.

If you like to contribute, you can send a donation to the Post earmarked "Spirit Fund".

Sword Tribute

Continued from Page 1.

currently stationed at Kaneohe bay, Hawaii, the letter read, "Mandy and I wish we could have been there tonight, but we are currently on temporary orders at NAS Pax River here in Maryland. We would like to send you our warmest congratulations on your honor tonight. We are very lucky that six years ago Mandy and I were able to attend the World War II memorial dedication ceremony here in D.C. I was very proud that day, and every day, to know my grandfather served in that great war. The example you showed to my father and then to me through your service to country, and then community with the VFW, built the foundation of who I am today. As a fellow member of post 5040, I thank you for your sacrifice and service to the United States of America. I also thank you for your dedication to the VFW and your continued support of veterans and fellow service members. As we sailors say, Bravo Zulu!, well done. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, and we are very proud of you and all you've done."

From Steve Sword, who is currently an electrical engineer with Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the letter read, "Hey Grandpa - I regret not being able to join you all tonight to honor my Grandpa, as I have been looking up to him my whole life. Though I never knew him as a soldier, I have witnessed his commitment to his family, his friends and this VFW post. I know that this evening is long overdue, and that he deserves each and every atta-boy, pat-on-the-back or free beer that he gets from you all. Ironically, it is his fault I am not with you all today. It was the time he spent teaching me to fly his ERCoupe that led me to my fascination with flying. This turned into an engineering degree and now a career as a project manager in the aerospace industry, leading me to Hamburg, Germany for a while to work on Airbus' new A350 aircraft. So, in closing, I would like to say thank you to my grandpa for having been a role model, and inspiration and a mentor. Prost!"

Among the VFW members in attendance, Ralph Ritter also gave words of appreciation for Don and the work he has done at the Post.

Lastly, I (Matt) personally would like to thank Don for all he has done. He has dedicated many hours to the VFW Post 5040, along with his wife Anita who too has given many hours to the Post. He is a man I respect, a friend, and someone who has encouraged me as Post member for many years. One of my fondest moments that I have with Don is flying with him in his 1946 ERcoupe over Wonder Lake in 2005 and seeing my parents house from high in the sky. He loved that plane and it was such a neat experience for me to fly with him.

Don, on behalf the Post, thank you for all you've done. We all appreciate your work and dedication that you have provided to the Post over these many years.



VFW member Don Peasley reflects on the accomplishments of Don Sword in a tribute given to Don Sword at the Valentine's Day dinner party on February 13, 2010 (Matt Klos photo).



A nice "Thank you " cake to end the night with. (Matt Klos photo).

Don Sword's son, Jeff Sword saying a few words about his dad. Jeff also read two letters from Don's grandsons, Erik and Steve Sword who were unable to attend. Erik, a VFW Post 5040 member, is currently stationed in Hawaii working on assignment in in Maryland. Steve, an electrical engineer for Rockwell Collins, is in Hamburg, Germany for work. (Matt Klos photo).



MARCH 2010









Don Sword's wife Anita gives a few words of praise to her husband on his work at the VFW. (Matt Klos photo).

Ralph Ritter was one of the VFW members to express his appreciation for the work Don has done at the Post. (Matt Klos photo).

Dinner Benefit for the Cody Smith Family Saturday May 8th, 2010 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Woodstock VFW

Recently, 28 year old Darcey Chambers-Smith, the wife of one of the McHenry County Conservation District Police Officers, has been diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor. Currently Darcey is undergoing intense chemo/radiation treatment as well as various therapies in order to get back strength which has been lost as a result of the tumor.

The McHenry County Conservation District Police staff is sponsoring a gun raffle, silent auction and dinner with all profits going to help with the compounding medical costs that are adding up as a result of treatments, therapies, and time away from work.

Upstairs Gun Raffle and Silent Auction

- Be there early! Cash Bar open from 6:00-9:00pm with the first 50 people receiving a free drink.
- Great selection of silent auction items with biddig open from 6:00 pm 8:00 pm.

Gun Raffle at 8:00 pm Prizes include:

<u>1st Place:</u> S&W MP 15 Rifle (military style .223) <u>2nd Place:</u> S&W MP Pistol <u>3rd Place:</u> \$300.00 <u>4th Place:</u> \$200.00 <u>5th Place:</u> \$100.00 (winner need not be present to win)

Door prizes given away throughout the night just for showing up AND live music courtesy of "The Skeeballs"

Gun Raffle Tickets - \$10.00



Will you provide us with your information? By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Starting in the next month or so, you will begin to see a request out to our membership in this newsletter on providing VFW Post 5040 with some updated information about yourself.

The intent of doing this is to update the Post records with your data to ensure that we have the correct information about you. If you are reading this, then we probably have your home address correct, but we probably don't have your correct telephone, email (if you have one) and some other key information.

Some of the thoughts on how this information would be used is putting it into a directory that could be sent to our membership (the directory information would NOT be posted on the VFW 5040 website). Another use for email addresses is to alert members, if they have provided us an email, of events or changes to scheduled venues at the Post.

My initial thought will be to include a response coupon that you can fill out and send back. A more convenient method available will be an online form through the VFW 5040 website that can be filled out, provided you access to a home or library computer.

More information will be provided in future newsletters on this topic. If you have any thoughts or concerns on this, please contact me, the *VFW News* editor.

Downstairs Dinner Banquet

- Dinner from 6:00pm 7:00pm
- Buffet style dinner includes: Pasta, Italian chicken, salad, bread and coffee.

Tickets: \$10.00 in advance \$15.00 at the door.

After dinner, join the party at the upstairs gun raffle, silent auction and live music.

Raffle Tickets: Contact Dave at 815-790-9923

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WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS

MARCH 2010

****	🖈 🖈 🛛 Post Normal Ope	erating Hours (unless	noted otherwise - closi	ng times vary dependi	ng 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
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	Memorial Day Committee 7:00 pm Little League 7:00 pm Girls Softball 7:00 pm Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day	2 Vietnam War Began (1965)	3 Cub Scouts - 7:00 pm "Star Spangled Banner" Made U.S. National Anthem (1931)	VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm 6:15: Auxiliary potluck dinner prior to our meeting. Please bring a dish to pass.	5 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	Saturday Raffle 4∶00 pm
7	8 VFW Officers Meeting 7:00 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	9 Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	Computer 10 Class Offered 2pm and 6pm at VFW Class size limited. Sign up at Post. (815)-338-5040	VFW Board Meeting 6:30 pm	12 <u>VFW Fish Frv</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm Girl Scouts of the USA Founded (1912)	Saturday Raffle 4∶00 pm
14 aylight Saving Time Begins (set clock ahead one hour)	VFW Meeting 15 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg. Deadline for April 2010 VFW News items	16	St. Patrick's Day Dinner 5-7pm Corned Beef, cabbage, carrots, soda bread, etc! We even have Irish Dancers coming to entertain you! Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County	18 Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	19 <u>VFW Fish Frv</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	Spring 9-ball Poo Tourname 1:00 pm Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
21	22	23 Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	7:00 pm 24	25	26 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
28	29	30	31	1	Good Friday 2 <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm	Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
					Lightning Raffle	4.00 pill



From the Editor's Desk By Matt Klos, *VFW News* Editor Is spring here yet? Just wondering like many of you are. Seems to me like this has been a longer winter than what I remember. The snow just doesn't seem to want to go away. Have you heard any news lately that the VFW should know about? Read something that you think should be shared with the membership? If so, let your *VFW News* editor know. I'm mentioning this again for good measure, at the March VFW

meeting, nominations for next years officers will be held. Want to make a difference in Post 5040? Nominate yourself if you'd like. For those of you that have responded to the delinquent dues list that was printed in the newsletter last month and have sent in your dues, we appreciate you doing so. This will help to close the gap on membership numbers.

Do you know a veteran that is currently out of work or looking for a job? **www.vetjobs.com** might be able to help find that next job. Exclusively sponsored by the VFW, anyone can apply to the jobs posted but you have to have been in the US military if you want to post your resume to the website. Check it out. You never know where it might lead you if you are in the market looking for a new job.



MARCH 2010



VFW Post 5040 Post Officers 2009 - 2010

Commander	Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Lumpp	(630)-460-8812
Junior Vice Commander	Ed Chambers	(815)-703-9000
Quartermaster	Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
Chaplain	Pete Lockinger	(815)-338-6449
Service Officer	Mike Iwanicki	(815)-334-4229
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 2009 - 2010

Bud Porter	(815)-338-4781
LaVern Emricson	- NA -
Mark Freund	(815)-530-1025
Don Sword	(815)-338-0068
Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Mike David	(815)-338-5341
Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Charley Mathey	(815)-338-5374
Mike Lackey	(815)-353-5287
Pat Auvenshine	(815)-338-5224
	LaVern Emricson Mark Freund Don Sword Russ Freeman Mike David Bob Gibson Charley Mathey Mike Lackey

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

Ladies Auxiliary to
VFW Post 5040
Post Officers 2009 - 2010

Nyda Fogarty	(815)-338-1759
TBA	TBA
Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Michelle Patnaude	- NA -
Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
TBA	TBA
Rose Mary Hellstern	(815)-338-0653
Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Geraldine Salyers	(815)-206-3910
Jessica Rathbone	- NA -
Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
	TBA Viola Brown Christine Gehrke Michelle Patnaude Karen Wells TBA Rose Mary Hellstern Christine Gehrke Geraldine Salyers Jessica Rathbone

This month's issue:

- Surprise tribute dinner to Don Sword with pictures.
- Computer class to be given.
- We need your info (coming soon).
- And a couple of more things of interest inside...

	Woodstock VFW NEWS is published
1	monthly by VFW Post 5040. Matthew
	Klos, Editor. Founded in July 1955 by
	Don Peasley (Editor 1955-2002)
	Seventeen time winner of the Nationa
	VFW Awards for Best Post Publication
	No. 1 in 1956, 1963, 1971, 1985, 2007
	and 2009. Second in 1968, 1970
	1990, 1997 and 1999. Third in 1983
	1984, 1986, 1991, 2000, 2001. Voted
	Illinois VFW's best 33 times, including
	1999-2001, 2005-2009.

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Newsletter available online for download at: www.vfw5040.org

Upcoming Events:

- Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry.
- Mar 10: Computer class offered.
- Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day Dinner! Irish dancers to perform too! 5-7pm.