



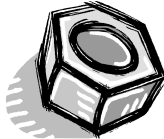
# VFW News

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

Woodstock VFW Post 5040 and Auxiliary



## Annual Soup To Nuts Sale



### October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

By Russ and Donna Freeman

This will be your one and only reminder of the upcoming Soup to Nuts Sale. Yes, it is two months away, but there won't be another issue of the newsletter until after the sale has happened. Start now thinking about what you might want to donate that can be sold at our unique indoor sale.

This is our "sell anything sale" fundraiser for the Post. As a reminder, items should be clean and in good working order. Suggested items are: books, dishes, curtains, bedspreads, working appliances, tools, furniture, etc.

We have a barn available for storage if people have some items that they can't store until the sale. Give us a call at 815-338-3414 and bring them to our place so we can store them for you. We will also be picking up items the week before the sale. If you need a pick up, please call us the last week of September (26-30).

Don't have anything to sell? How about being a volunteer to help move things, set up, etc.?

Sorry, but we can no longer take old televisions or computers. Call your local recycling company on how to dispose of these properly.

## Our 2010 VFW Officers

By Matt Klos

July marks the beginning of the VFW calendar year, and with it comes the new slate of officers and appointed positions to the Post. Listed on the back of this newsletter is the slate of new officers for the VFW, Auxiliary and Board of Directors.

The VFW officers this year feature some individuals that you are probably familiar with and a few which you might not know too much about. The new Commander this year is Brian Ritter. Brian is a veteran of the Persian Gulf war in 1991. While there he was in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He served in the Army as a 52C (Utilities Equipment Repairer), active duty, for a total of four years. He was stationed in Fulda, Germany and Fort Hood, Texas.

Brian joined the VFW in 1996 and has continually helped out at the VFW for many years. He has helped in the maintenance of the Post many times, working alongside with his father, Ralph Ritter. Brian mentioned that one of the reasons he sought a leadership position in the VFW this year was that he wanted to improve



June 19 was installation day for VFW Officers and Ladies Auxiliary. Back row: Mark Freund, Chaplain; Charles Chapman, 3-Year Trustee. Front row: Robert James, Jr. Vice Commander; Lawrence Gordon, Sr. Vice Commander; and Brian Ritter, VFW Commander. (Matt Klos Photo.)

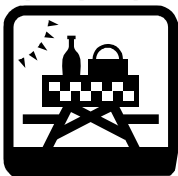
things. He has indicated that this year he wants the motto to be "Year of the Volunteer".

With a new year ahead and already some ideas on the table, Brian and the rest of the officers hopefully are off to a great start.

Senior Vice Commander for the VFW is Lawrence Gordon who joined the VFW in 2009. Lawrence qualifies for VFW membership by having served in Afghanistan from September 2008 to September 2009. He has also served in Kuwait August to December 2000 and Operation Iraqi Freedom March 2003 to February 2004. Lawrence is still in the Army, serving on active duty from August 1997 to August 2004. He is now in the National Guard. His Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) is Airborne Infantry. In his 13 years, he has been stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Vicenza, Italy.

Lawrence wanted to take a leadership position because he wants to contribute to the organization. As a little hint of what Lawrence has on the table for the VFW, he responded, "There are lots of plans for the VFW. We are having a Mixed Martial Arts event July 24th, 2010, a Falcons

Continued on page 5, Installation.



## Post picnic September 12

The VFW Post 5040 annual picnic will take place on September 12 from noon until ?? pm. This will be at VFW member John Hanson's house, 2718 Deepcut Rd, Woodstock IL 60098.

VFW members, employees, and family members are welcome to attend the picnic. Games to include horseshoes, participation in the longest/straightest drive contest, softball (bring bat and ball), volleyball (bring ball to play with) or other yard games (if you have them, bring the equipment - bocce ball, lawn jarts, etc). Even if you don't play, just come to socialize.

Bring a dish to pass, blanket or folding chairs to sit on, and some nice weather for the day. Any questions, please call John at 815-338-7890.





# Commander's Report

By Brian Ritter,  
Commander 2010-2011

This is my first news-letter report as your new commander. I'd like to start the year off with a "congratulations" to each of the elected officers with whom I will be serving with this coming year.

My slogan for this year is "The year of the volunteer".

I am asking for everyone to volunteer in something this year. If you can help us out in just one event it would be great. For others maybe it's making phone calls or emailing. I will be counting on you, our members, to help get this Post active again.

I am trying to make this a great year and need great people to step up and help. The other officers and I will be working together to come up with some ideas on how to generate funds for the Post and to increase our membership. We can't do it alone though. We'll be counting on you when the time comes to help us out in any way possible.

Thank you very much everyone.

### Special thank you to Mark Olk from the Board of Directors:

Mark Olk has donated a buffet server to the Post as well as numerous labor hours for landscaping, cleaning and general assistance to the building and Post.

### Veterans to be honored at County Fair

By Don Peasley

Veterans will be near the forefront at this year's McHenry County Fair August 4-8 because a tribute honoring all veterans is once again planned as a highlight of this annual county-wide event. Military action in Afghanistan as well as in Iraq keeps our veterans and the dangers they face constantly in our minds

Again this year the McHenry County Fair will honor veterans with a tribute at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 5 before the grandstand audience. Fair president Dick Crone said all veterans are invited free to the fairgrounds on that day. Again this year the Woodstock VFW Post 5040 will provide the Honor Guard during this solemn tribute.

# Patriot's Pen



**2010-2011 Theme**  
*"Does Patriotism Still Matter?"*

**Entry Deadline**  
November 1, 2010

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".

### ✠ Chaplains Report ✠

By Pete Lockinger, Chaplain

Ailing Members:

- Ray Benoy
- Bill Freund
- Carl Glawe

Charter Draped:

- Edward Lange (July Meeting)

Tim Shanks, event chairman, said the Sinful Saints will perform patriotic music atop an antique fire truck. Farmers are bringing in antique tractors and will provide a tribute with a "21-tractor salute."

"Each tractor will represent the men and women who died that year in wars since the late 1930s through the current wars. This event is a great way to honor all veterans," said Shanks.

The county residents who have died in wars since World War II will be named during a parade of antique tractors with a 21-tractor salute while the band plays "Taps."

# Voice of Democracy



**2010-2011 Theme**  
*"Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?"*

**Entry Deadline**  
November 1, 2010

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".



### Burial plot and vault available

The Post is currently in possession of a burial vault and plot donated by VFW member Ed Haldeman.

The plot is local to Woodstock. The intention is to find a veteran, within our Post or the community, that may be in severe financial hardship and cannot afford a plot.

If you know of someone that may be in this situation and might benefit from the generosity of Ed, please contact the Post (815-338-5040) and leave a message for the Commander or contact any of the other officers on the back of this newsletter.

Looking for (mostly) up to date information about Post 5040?  
[www.VFW5040.org](http://www.VFW5040.org)



# Ladies Auxiliary Report

By Nyda Fogarty,  
President 2010-2011  
and Christine Gehrke,  
Sr. Vice President 2010-2011

(June 19, 2010 - Nyda) It was very nice to have a joint installation with the Post on June 19. A former 5th District President and current 5th District Secretary of Elgin Post 1307, Lois Martini, served as the Conductress for our officers at installation.

(July 11, 2010 - Christine)

Congratulations to our newly installed officers for this coming year. At the beginning of July, our Auxiliary president Nyda Fogarty suffered a stroke. She had some paralysis on her left side of her body. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she slowly begins to recuperate from the effects.

Our Department President Jo Lynn Altvatter visited our Auxiliary meeting in May to congratulate us on being 100% in membership. She cautioned us about membership in the coming year due to the fact that we are becoming one of the smallest Auxiliaries in the State of Illinois. She also thanked us for contributing to her special project, the Honor Flight for WWII Veterans.

Jo Lynn has served in numerous offices in her Auxiliary and her District and Department on her journey to Department President. She lives in Hoffman Estates and is a member of Indian Portage Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 3592.

Auxiliary members now is the time to pay your 2010-2011 Auxiliary dues. We would like to be 100% by November 1, 2010. Your dues notice should arrive soon if you have not already received one. Dues for the 2010-2011 year are \$15.00.

## **A SPIRIT** thank you

VFW Post 5040 would like to thank all our members and supporters alike who responded to the June/July issue **SPIRIT** drive announcement. We've received over \$5,200 in donations to help out the Post.

Keep it up!

**Thank you!!!**



June 19 was installation day for VFW Officers and Ladies Auxiliary. Back row: Barbara Gehrke, Patriotic Instructor; Karen Wells; Chaplain, Jessica Rathbone; Installing officer, Lois Martini, Conductress (5th District Secretary). Front row: Viola Brown, Jr. Vice President; Nyda Fogarty, President; Christine Gehrke, Sr. Vice President; Michelle Patenaude, Treasurer. (Matt Klos Photo.)

(Right) A beautifully decorated cake was served after the VFW installation on June 19. (Matt Klos Photo).



(Below) From left, Karen Wells, Barbara Gehrke, Michelle Patenaude, Jessica Rathbone; VFW President Nyda Fogarty (sitting), Department President Jo Lynn Altvatter, Christine Gehrke, Viola Brown, and Geraldine Salyers. Jo Lynn visited the Auxiliary at the May meeting.



# A glimpse of the 2010 3rd Annual "Remember Our Heroes" car show

With 63 registered cars, this year's show was the biggest yet. Bill and bar manager Jeanne Kulinski spent many hours putting together and promoting the show. With use of the VFW lot and the adjacent city parking lot, many cars lined up to be viewed throughout the day. The Woodstock fire department even had a fire truck for viewing in front of the VFW. With music provided by Nitrous Audio's Keith Parr, newly installed Commander Brian Ritter as the emcee for announcements throughout the day, and the beer tent serving up cool drinks, it was a perfect day to relax, take in the atmosphere, and enjoy the moment.

Thanks to all those that helped out this year with the event, promotions, etc. Thank you especially to Bill and Jeanne Kulinski. You did a great job again this year with the event to help honor "our heroes".

(Editor's Note: I couldn't get nearly all the pictures of the day (over 80 pictures), many of individual cars, into the newsletter and black and white just doesn't cut it. For more pictures, visit our Post website under "Information & History/Event History. [Matt Klos])



These children and volunteers in front of the fire truck on display by the Woodstock Fire Department were among 35 people helping at the third annual VFW Antique Car Show June 26 at the VFW. The \$3,100 proceeds are earmarked for the VFW Post 5040 building maintenance fund and to help needy veterans. From left, front: Trina May, Cale Keane, Shelby Keane, Savannah Adcock, Makayla Ramirez, Catalina Ramirez and Mike David. Middle: Keith Parr, Scott Lang, Willie Peto, Donna Freeman, Sara Adolphus, Jeanne Kulinski, Ralph Ritter, Mark Freund, Brian Ritter and Bill Kulinski. Back: Tony Malysiak. (Don Peasley Photo)



Above, Brian Ritter under the DJ canopy making another announcement.



Brian Ritter, (left) and Bill Kulinski prepare to hand out trophies.



Above, cars line the city parking lot. Right, the beer tent offers shade to visitors and a place to take a break from the activities. (Matt Klos Photo).





## Installation

Continued from Page 1.

Hockey game in August and more events the next year. We are also talking about a possible Oktoberfest. I have personally talked to the ISG of the Woodstock armory who would like to start having their Christmas ball at the VFW again. There are a lot of ideas which I have been talking with people about and have had people bring their ideas to me. The idea of starting a Facebook page where we can advertise our events more publicly has been a topic of discussion. I would also like everyone to know that if you have an idea to please come talk to me and I will listen. We can figure out how to make your idea an event here at the VFW."

The last person you should know about is our Junior Vice Commander, Robert James, who just joined the VFW this year. Serving in the Army, Robert spent time overseas serving in Iraq for two tours, the first from November 2005 to November 2006, and the second from April 2008 to July 2009. His MOS was 13M (Multiple Launch Rocket System crew member), 88M (Heavy Equipment Transport Operator), and 31E (Corrections Specialist). While on active duty for five and a half years, he has been stationed in Camp Stanley, Korea; Camp Taji, Iraq; Camp Bucca, Iraq, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The day that Robert was sworn in probably was not like most. The day he was sworn in, he was also nominated for the Jr. Vice Commander. Well, what better way to learn about the VFW than to be an officer. He accepted the nomination and was subsequently voted in as an officer. His reason for accepting was that he thought he could "assist in the betterment of the Post".

Robert's ideas for the post this year follow the same lines as Commander Ritter and Sr. Vice Gordon. "I'd like to see us book some live entertainment on the weekends, be it local bands, various exhibitions, comedy, etc. I'd also like to see Brian Ritter's motto for the year 'The year of the volunteer' be embraced by the post as a whole."

So there you have it. Here are some new guys to the Post that are leading the organization and want to bring in some new ideas, make some changes, try some things out. Should the membership be worried about that? Not at all. These men, all the other officers, have one common bond: they are "veterans of a foreign war". Some of our older members may have concerns about some of these younger

guys taking the Post in a new direction or trying something that might be a new fund raiser that may have some risks to it, but don't be overly concerned with it.

When you think about it, when the Post first started in 1946, there were a bunch of "younger" vets with the same aspirations and energy. They wanted to lead the Post, make it a place to be. We need to give these guys a chance and support the ideas that they bring with them. With the decline of membership over the last several years, we need to bring in new members and show that the VFW is still a cool place to come socialize and support a great organization that is vital to current and future generations of veterans.



Newly installed 2010-2011 Auxiliary President Nyda Fogarty and 2010-2011 VFW Commander Brian Ritter get ready to slice the cake. (Matt Klos Photo.)

At the June meeting, new member Chris Meehan was accepted as a new member into VFW Post 5040. Background watching the installation is 2010-2011 Commander Brian Ritter, 2010-2011 Sr. Vice Commander Lawrence Gordon, and 2009-2010 Commander Mike Lackey.

Chris is a Southwest Asia veteran, serving eight years as a Lieutenant in the Navy. Welcome to the VFW, Chris. We're glad to have you as a member of our Post! (Matt Klos Photo.)



"Remember Our Heroes" car show organizers Bill and Jeanne Kulinski in front of their car show entries, a 1976 CJ5 and 1965 Mustang. (Matt Klos Photo.)

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 Each Month  
 (Except December) at the  
 VFW at 7:30 P.M.

Pickup truck with thousands of veterans' signatures that will be clear coated and donated to a museum. (Matt Klos Photo).

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

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Some cool and classy cars....



From the Editor's Desk  
 By Matt Klos, VFW News Editor

Hello comrades. Hope I'm not confusing you with the new change to delivery and issue times. It's going to take a while to get used to the timing of these issues, getting the content from prior months and trying to foresee what future events will be coming up. We'll work through it. Keep in mind that I will try to keep the calendar on the website updated as current as possible. Any new information about events will be posted there or on the VFW 5040 home page. See you in a month or so.



## August 2010

Closed	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Memorial Day Committee 7:00 pm Little League 7:00 pm Girls Softball 7:00 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Cub Scouts - 7:00 pm	<b>5</b> VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>6</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>7</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
McHenry County Fair, August 4 - 8, 2010						
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> VFW Officers Meeting 7:00 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>13</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>14</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	<b>19</b> Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	<b>20</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>21</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>27</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>28</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
National Convention, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis Indiana August 21-26, 2010						
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Deadline for "Next Issue" 2010 VFW News items	August 1: Air Force Day August 4: U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790) August 7: Purple Heart Medal Established (1782) August 14: Japan Surrendered, Ending WWII (1945) National Navajo Code Talkers Day August 16: National Airborne Day August 19: National Aviation Day August 26: Women's Equality Day		

## September 2010

Closed	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept. 2: V-J Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945) Sept. 10: U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Incorporated (1962) Sept. 11: Patriot Day Sept. 14: "Star Spangled Banner" Written by Francis Scott Key (1814) Sept. 17: U.S. Constitution Approved (1787) Ladies Auxiliary VFW Organized (1914)			<b>1</b> Cub Scouts - 7:00 pm	<b>2</b> VFW Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>3</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>4</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Memorial Day Committee 7:00 pm Little League 7:00 pm Girls Softball 7:00 pm  <b>Labor Day</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>11</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>VFW Post 12 Picnic</b>  John Hansen's House 12pm - ? Bring a dish to pass	<b>13</b> VFW Officers Meeting 7:00 pm American Legion Post 412 7:30 pm	<b>14</b> Woodstock Jaycees Board Meeting 7:30pm	<b>15</b> Veterans Assistance Commission of McHenry County 7:00 pm	<b>16</b> Marines 7:30 pm Marines Auxiliary 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm <i>POW/MIA Recognition Day; Citizenship (Constitution) Day</i>	<b>18</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm  <i>U.S. Air Force Established (1947)</i>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> VFW Meeting 6:30 pm - Dinner (VFW Members Only) 7:00 pm - Floor mtg.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> VFW Board Meeting 7:00 pm  <i>Autumn Begins</i>	<b>24</b> <u>VFW Fish Fry</u> 5 - 7:30 pm Lightning Raffle 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> Saturday Raffle 4:00 pm
<b>26</b>  <i>Gold Star Mother's Day</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Woodstock Jaycees General Mtg. 7:30pm	<b>29</b>  <i>VFW Day VFW Established (1899)</i>	<b>30</b>	 <b>1</b> <b>Soup 2 Nuts Sale</b>	 <b>2</b> <b>Soup 2 Nuts Sale</b>



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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VFW 5040 News Editor  
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phone: (815)-382-4593

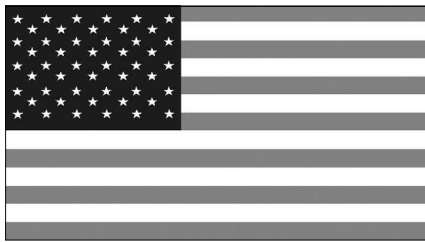
email: [matt.klos@vfw5040.org](mailto:matt.klos@vfw5040.org)

fax: 707-667-2621

**Post Website and Email:**

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

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**WOODSTOCK VFW NEWS**

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Senior Vice Commander	Lawrence Gordon	(815)-276-1161
Junior Vice Commander	Robert James	(224)-623-2423
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	Ron Hay	(815)-337-1407
Adjutant	Matt Klos	(815)-382-4593
1 Year Trustee	Larry Dhom	(815)-338-4134
2 Year Trustee	Amie Doerfert	(815)-385-2923
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**2010 - 2011**

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Director	Lawrence Gordon	(815)-276-1161
Director	Brian Ritter	(815)-276-4802
Director	Russ Freeman	(815)-338-3414
Director	Bob Gibson	(815)-338-4142
Club Manager	Jeanne Kulinski	(815)-338-5040

**Ladies Auxiliary to**  
**VFW Post 5040**  
**Post Officers 2010 - 2011**

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Senior Vice President	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533
Junior Vice	Viola Brown	(815)-338-1446
Secretary	Jessica Rathbone	(815)-338-1546
Treasurer	Michelle Patnaude	(815)-560-2135
Chaplain	Karen Wells	(815)-338-4821
Patriotic Instructor	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
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Conductress	Marie Salyers	(815)-388-4130
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2 Year Trustee	Barbara Gehrke	(815)-338-1546
3 Year Trustee	Christine Gehrke	(815)-338-3533

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

**This months issue:**

- **VFW Installation of Officers.**
- **Remember Our Heroes Car Show.**
- **Pictures of recent events.**
- **And a couple of more things of interest inside...**

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**Upcoming Events:**

- **Every Friday, Lightning Raffle and Fish Fry.**
- **September 12: Post Picnic at John Hansen's.**
- **October 1 & 2: Soup to Nuts Sale at the VFW**