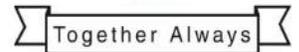




Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5
Vietnam Veterans of America
P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702
March 2018 Newsletter



Meetings held 1st Wednesday of every month @ 7pm
VFW Post #7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire, WI

Volume 4 Issue 4

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

04/04//18 Chapter Meeting @ 7pm @ Post 7232
AVVA Meeting @ 6:30 pm @ Post 7232
4/12-15/18 Purple Heart @ Branson, MO
04/21/18 Vietnam Reunion/Education @ Highground
04/24/18 VVA Chapter 351 @ CVTC Eau Claire from 7a-3:30p
4/25-28/18 Spring Work Week @ Highground
04/25/18 AVVA Fundraiser @ Pizza Ranch 4p-8p
05/14/18 Hmong Appreciation/Recognition Day at Cadott in the morning, then at Highground in the afternoon

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org
Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5

COMMITTEES

Veterans Assistance: John Dorsey 715-835-5055
Finance: Joe Heil 715-839-7089
Outdoor Recreation: Bill Anderson 715-530-3481
EC City Veterans Memorial Park: Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158
Govt. Affairs: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518
Membership: Joe Heil 715-839-7089
Public Affairs: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Minority Affairs: Dave Zien 715-829-9436
Women Veterans: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Service Officer: Peter Breed 715-642-1246
Fundraising Chair: Larry Wrycza & Co-Chair: Julie McBee
Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, L. Wrycza
AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
Historical: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
Vets in the Classroom: Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-647-2091

CHAPTER CONTACTS

President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-0180
Chaplain

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Ken Lestrud 715-235-9432
Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
Ernie Werlein 715-926-4222

Founding principle,
Vietnam Veterans of America
"Never again will one generation
of veterans abandon another."



God Bless All Veterans

Chapter Moto: Honor the DEAD and fight like Hell for the LIVING!



"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

To be given slow and deliberate, not a speed test!

Greetings:

Finally better weather is coming with longer daylight and warmer temperatures.

There was good news for our Treasurer, Joe Heil, who recently had surgery to remove a cancerous tumor. Thankfully his kidney didn't have to also be removed. He is now recovering. Hopefully all upcoming operations and procedures for other Chapter members are also successful.

Hopefully many of us were able to attend the Vietnam Veterans Day programs at the Eagles Club on March 24th, at Ladysmith on March 25th, at the L.E. Phillips Senior Center on March 28th or at VFW Post 305 on March 29th. Thank you to everyone who are members of the planning committee, helpers at the events, color guard participants, and anyone else who contributed.

Be sure to check out the events in April at the Highground, including the spring work week April 25-28.

Chapter elections will be held at our April meeting so everyone try to be there.

I hope to see all of you at our next regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) on Wednesday, April 4th at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korgner
President, VVA Chapter 5

VVA Meeting of 3/7/18

Call to order was made by President Mike Korger with the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer led by Sgt. at Arms Joe Graff with a special moment of silence for Joe Heil who was just released from the hospital today. Welcome to our new VVA member, Tim Hilliary.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Mike Smith, seconded by Dennis Wood, to accept the Secretary's report for February as mailed and e-mailed; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Heil not present; there will be a full report in April.

President's Report: Mike Korger spoke of the Legacy Stone laying for Dennis Werlein this September 15th at Highground at 1 p.m.; a good turnout of Chapter members would be appreciated. Mike recently spoke at a school event about the Vietnam War and handed out black/orange poppies and was well received. Pictures were passed around of the pictures Ralph and Peg Ottum took at the Colby Library recognizing Chapter 5 and the Ottum family for their donations to the new library. And oh yeah, the January/February edition of the VVA Veteran magazine cover story was of VVA member Dale Dye "A Marine Through and Through" which highlighted his work to ensure that Hollywood depicted the Vietnam War accurately. OohRah!

Vice President's Report: Larry Wrycza spoke of the Vietnam Veterans Day event being held at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie on March 24th. The Chapter is looking at participating in nine (9) county fairs this summer and we will need help! Please consider how you can help with these events, which is where we primarily sell our annual raffle tickets, and at the fundraiser event to be held this year on September 8th at VFW Post 7232.

AVVA Report: Julia McBee thanked the Chapter for their donation this past August at the National Convention to the Project Friendship where the AVVA presented a check for over \$15,000 to the Volunteers of Greater New Orleans. Chapter 5 was the only chapter in the state of Wisconsin to contribute to this project. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You. The AVVA will have another fundraising event at Pizza Ranch on April 25th. Your participation, either as a diner or helper to bus the tables, will be appreciated. As Joe Heil is not present tonight, she spoke of Joe wanting the AVVA to receive all the proceeds from the Pizza Ranch events targeted for the Chapter's AVVA account; as he is not present to make this motion, it was made by Dennis Wood, seconded by Joe Graff and carried.

National VVA Convention: Next National Convention will be in Spokane, WA in 2019.

State VVA Meeting: There will be a District 6 meeting held in Iowa, either in July or August of this year, date not yet set. The next State Council meeting will be March 17, 2018 in Waupaca.

Membership: 141- decrease from 149 due to some AVVA members not renewing their membership.

VA/Benefits: Pete Breed not present. Dave Zein discussed the movement on the 28 resolutions moving through the Wisconsin House, these may not get completed in this legislative session, but should be part of the next one. Bill 436 has not yet been passed, but a plan to amend this is expected to make anyone with a 70% or more disability rating to receive 100% of their property taxes back (currently you need to be rated 100%) and this is planned to be completed by Armed Forces Day.

Minority Report: Dave Zien spoke of the National Park recognizing Indian battlegrounds will now be inclusive of all battles in Minnesota and Wisconsin. This is still being worked on.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Home: There will be a Golf Event on June 14th starting at 10 a.m. and lasting all day, cost is \$75 per person, meals extra. Please see Rory Schutte if you would like more information.

Highground: Joe Graff passed around a poster displaying all the toxic chemicals that were used in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, not just Agent Orange. The guest speaker at the upcoming Vietnam Veterans Day on March 24th will be Col. Daniel Doughty USAF (Ret.) a Vietnam Veteran POW. Joe also has some application folders, if anyone is interested, for the Veterans Home at King. March 20th there will be a Resource Fair at Fox Valley Technical in Appleton with 50 booths from 11a-7p, there will also be a fly-in that day; April 21st there will be a Vietnam Veteran Reunion Lunch; May 14th is the Hmong Appreciation Day starting at Cadott in the morning then at Highground in the afternoon; May 19th is the Vehicle Expo; June 2nd will be the Working Dog Dedication; Dennis' Legacy Stone laying will be September 15th; September 21-23 Highground will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary. The Rose Bowl event in January was a success with \$8,000 raised for the PTSD program. Joe then requested the Chapter to allow a banner to be created that will hang on our tents when we set up at the county fairs in honor of Dennis Werlein. Motion made by Dennis Wood, seconded by Mac McBee; motion carried for the Chapter to pay for this banner. Learn more at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing: The Board of Directors met and would like to present the jacket with the removable liner to the membership for use by the color/honor guard. If there are members who would prefer a chapter jacket as the Ottum's have, Ralph has the information to have that jacket made. Membership has previously indicated that they preferred the jacket with the removable liner—both jackets cost roughly the same in the end. As Joe Heil is not present tonight, there will be a final vote/decision at the next meeting. If you are interested, be present to voice your opinion on jacket selection.

Eau Claire Veterans Council: More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com.

Fundraising: Our 6th Annual Fall Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 8th here at VFW Post 7232. We will keep the menu simple by offering hamburgers/brats/dogs. The raffle tickets are not finalized yet as we are waiting to hear back from Holiday Vacations about a possible cruise for the Grand Prize; as it stands now we will have two Henry Rifles (30-30 & .22), two TV's (43" & 24"), a wooden wishing well lawn ornament from Kenny Piel, the Country Jam signed guitar by The Band Perry, a \$400 military back pack, possibly a quilt and a meat package. NOTE: Dick Quick spoke of his donation of wolf and beaver pelts to the Trappers Association that brought in \$500 for their event and he has some Agent Orange prints listed on Facebook and he will donate the proceeds from the sale of those prints to the Chapter.

Communications: Remember our Chapter's Website/ E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com and don't forget you can find National info at www.VVA.org and State info at www.VVAWI.org.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections: April 4th will be our Chapter Elections for the four officer positions, the Board of Directors and AVVA Representative. There will be one, possibly two, BOD openings as Kenny is stepping down and possibly Ernie as well. If you are interested in an Officer or Board of Director position, please let Mike Korger know. Joe Graff volunteered to be both Sgt. At Arms and Chaplain if bylaws allow this. (Editor's Note: The four Officer positions and BOD are elected, the Sgt. At Arms and Chaplain positions are appointed and as such can be the same person.)

Newsletter: March 16th!

Vietnam Veterans Day: In Joe Heil's absence, Julia McBee brought up the request for the Chapter to donate \$250 to the Vietnam Veterans Day Committee, as we did last year. Motion was made to this effect by Joe Graff, seconded by Dave Mayenshein and motion carried. Dennis Wood spoke of the Ladysmith Vietnam Veterans Day event being held on March 25th at the Ladysmith VMA. Registration will start at 11:30 a.m., the DAV will be providing the meal and the program will begin at 1 p.m. with Chapter 5 providing the color guard. Mike Korger and Dave Zein have been invited to be guest speakers, along with possibly Julie from Highground and Kaye Olson from Gold Star Mothers. Dennis will be video recording both at the Eagles Club and in Ladysmith and if you are unable to attend either event, they will be posted on-line. He also mentioned the Honor the Fallen Ride that will be held on May 7th and September 29th 2018, we will get more information out on these events next month. Dave Zein spoke of getting constructive feedback for these events; there are 72 counties in Wisconsin and only two hold Vietnam Veterans Day events. He added that the newspapers and news media need contacted about these events.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Joe Graff spoke of the Vietnam Veterans flag at Cadott needs replacing. This flag is not that old (recently replaced by Joe Heil) yet this one is tearing. He asked about purchasing two flags and stitching them together to reinforce them so they last longer. Will be brought up next month.

Ralph Ottum brought in pictures taken from the February 17th dedication of the new Colby Library. The pictures were of the Colby Library Tree showing the leaves with the Chapter and Ottum family's names on them as donors and of the table that was purchased.

Dave Zien spoke of the Eau Claire Veterans Tribute Trail and the sign being created to honor the Hmong at the Dairy Queen on Menomonie Street. This sign was the idea of Dennis Werlein.

Rick Talford shared of the progress with the Legacy Sign honoring Dennis Werlein on Hwy 10 between Mondovi and Durand. More will be done after county elections on April 3rd when there will be new board members who are more favorable to veterans causes than present board. Hopefully there will be an approval by June so the sign could be in place this summer.

Dan Ziegler spoke of the promotional ads needed to keep things moving on the Tribute Trail. Approximately \$400,000 has been raised so far with a groundbreaking date hoped for in 2019.

Attendance and 50/50 drawing will be held next month when Joe Heil will be present.

Closing Prayer was offered by Joe Graff and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm; there were 22 members in attendance, 14 VVA and 8 AVVA. The next meeting will be held at Post 7232 on March 7th.

Thank You to Bob Laguban who handed out beaded key chains to everyone with the colors of the Vietnam Service Ribbon.

Next meeting will be held on April 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) at Post 7232. There were 16 members in attendance. Closing prayer was offered by Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff and meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

****Dates to keep in mind for the upcoming county fairs where Chapter 5 will have booths to sell the raffle tickets for our September 8th fundraiser to be held at VFW Post 7232 from noon until whenever. Please consider how you can help out and see and contact the appropriate individual listed below.

Arcadia - May 25-27 - Larry Wrycza checking on
Eleva - June 1-3 - Rick Talford checking on
Lake Martha Days, Osseo - June 14-17 - Peg Ottum checking on
Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls - July 11-15 - Julie checking on
Dunn County, Menomonie - July 25-29 - Larry Wrycza checking on
Buffalo County, Mondovi - August 2-5 - Julie checking on
Clark County, Neillsville - August 8-12 - Ralph Ottum checking on
Jackson County, Black River Falls - August 8-12 - Joe Graff checking on
Big Rig Show @ NWSF, Chippewa Falls - August 17-19 - Rory Schutte checking on

WI State Council Meeting
Ramada, Waupaca, WI
March 17, 2018
10a-1:30pm

Chapter 5 Attendance – Joe Graff, Julia & Mac McBee, Rick & Kristina Talford.

Pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance

Discussions & Reports;

President Lindbeck spoke of the following-

- 1- Tom Berger speaking in January
- 2- Million Veteran Program (MVP) concerns.
- 3- National President Rowan provided information of non-citizens that fought and died in Vietnam for the United States that are on the Wall in Washington, DC He added there are several on the wall.
- 4- POW/MIA - 1158 remains have been found with 1601 still missing
- 5- Cambodia issues. Neither country allowing the opposite to enter, making finding remains more difficult. Soil contamination is also a huge issue due to the bones become very brittle making recovery very difficult.
- 6- The blue water navy bill has not been passed and will need to be re-introduced again
- 7- WI AO children's claims are missing in Denver; they were scanned in Racine and the hard copies should have been sent to Denver but cannot now be found. Pres. Rowan and several others will be going to Denver to find out what happened to these claims.
- 8- The Leadership Convention will be in Palm Springs this year at the end of July.
- 9- The National Convention in 2021 will be in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Dept. of Veteran's Affairs field Representative Steven Janke then spoke of the March 29, 2018 being held at Post 305 in Eau Claire. The Vietnam War Commemoration will begin at 2:30pm. "Welcome Home" is the theme. "After President Donald Trump declared March 29 Vietnam Veterans Day in 2017, "a special gathering has begun" with Governor Walker, Secretary Zimmerman, Gary Wetzels, General Dunbar as well the WI Dept. of Veteran Affairs and the National Guard Band will all be present. The PDF and/or printable file can be found at WDVA.ORG. The file is also posted on the vva.wi.org site. A question was asked if the Hmong community has been invited to attend. This will be looked into.

Chapter 5 Sgt. at Arms Joseph Graff spoke of the current issues with the Eau Claire CVSO's office being moved into the ARDC office. They are located in the back, so Veterans must sit and wait to get into the CVSO's office instead of having direct access to the CVSO. President Lindbeck said that Eau Claire was not the only county in Wisconsin to have this issue.

NOTE- A question was asked about the \$19K in accounts payable. It was stated they had a © (19) foundation and this was discussed and decided to be closed/dissolved and those funds will be going into the capital account now under liabilities. Some funds in the amount of \$435 was found and returned to the account. Again it was questioned how there is \$11K in revenues, yet expenses of \$0K. Where are the funds coming from to cover the shortfall? It was noted they come from the General Funds. Some funds in account 605 were discussed as they are Toxic Exposure Budget that is being dedicated for the town hall meetings. A special Fund is in place for toxic exposure.

Pat Furno spoke of the \$1,500 in the account budget with only \$92 being spent. The balance is now being sent to the special fund Capital. This is a restricted fund. Chapter 5 AVVA member and State of WI Representative Candidate asked what these funds are used for, if \$1,500 was budgeted why was only \$92 was spent. Chapter 479 John Willman then stated it mostly goes for printing costs of the Agent Orange folders for Town Hall meetings. It was then noted the Agent Orange Committee does NOT receive any pay for mileage or meals while on the road holding the Agent Orange Town Halls. National is now supplying a disc with all of the information on it when Agent Orange materials are requested. This is being done to keep printing costs down on a National level and it is suggested that those receiving the disc find a printer who will donate the printing costs as these can be upwards of \$1500.

A question was asked from the floor if an Officer is allowed to make a motion; all but the President is allowed to make motions.

Household Goods Program was then discussed. This in regards of the funds available for the State if all Chapters agree to allow the State Council to collect these funds and use them for needed events. Chapters may contact the State Council for funds to help in event being held around WI. They will have discretion on this. Wisconsin has 25 Chapters, with 3 of them not responding; Chapter 92 of Chippewa Falls, 221 of Castle Rock and 618 of Sheboygan. ALL Chapters MUST sign the agreement form in order for National to release these funds to the state.

Region Reports-

- 1- Region One – not present
- 2- Region two – no report
- 3- Region three – not present
- 4- Region four – Hayward Chapter is getting Charter Membership Tuesday with 30 plus members to start it.
- 5- At-Large – no report

John Margowski spoke of the Veteran's Benefit Committee. There is no VVA Service Officer, so it could be weeded out if not filled. There is an AVVA Service Representative Program and AVVA President Sharon Hobbs requested a National Representative be selected or the program could also be closed. There was a discussion on a women veteran being denied a VA claim on a cancer filing due to her doctor incorrectly filling out the paperwork. Because she had enrolled in the The Ramp Program she lost her right of appeal for the VA claim as enrollment in this program wipes out anything being

processed with the VA—"DON'T ENROLL IN THE RAMP PROGRAM." He also added that he has resigned as a VVA/AVVA Service Officer.

WI State AVVA Rep Pat Furno then spoke; "It is Election Time"! The election for chapter representative must have the sign in sheet and the result sheet together when filing directly to her within 30 days of the election. "Even if there is only one person, there must be a ballot". You can go to AVVA.ORG to read the policy and procedures. "You must do this in April and use the correct paperwork and then send it to me". The WI State election will be held at Neillsville, WI in June with Mike Demske acting as Election Chair, starting at 9:30 a.m. Only duly elected Chapter Representatives or their designate will be allowed to vote and she will accept a written statement from the elected Chapter Rep designating their alternate for the State Election. She spoke of having 3 delegates at the National Convention in New Orleans. There are two awards being given soon for the Kathy Kiester Spirit Award and the Fellowship Award; information is on the website and the deadline for nominating someone is in May. There is an AVVA Challenge Coin available online through MilBest or the Agent Orange Store.

Committee Reports:

- 1- POW/MIA spoke of two more remains being Identified.
- 2- Three scholarships have been awarded after 16 applications were received; one was rejected for being incomplete, 12 were direct descendants of a Vietnam veteran and 2 were relatives of a Vietnam veteran. Three candidates were then chosen by a point system with the three winners all being direct descendants and having scores of between 112 and 127 out of a possible 135. The winners are enrolled in Bio-tech, Nursing and Business. Three Veterans volunteered to present the scholarships in Stratford, Appleton and German Town where the winners are located. The Scholarships are \$1,500 being paid over 2 semesters and the student must hold a 2.0 GPA or above.
- 3- Lindbeck then spoke of the elections for officers in June. All four positions will be on the ballot with Lindbeck running again for one more term as President.

The Chapter reports were then provided by their attending representatives.

In Old Business, there was discussion by Jim Mullarkey about the new website to review. "This is in the Alpha Stage" he stated. www.vvawi.org/new is an outline to follow.

Pat Furno then again spoke of the new At-Large Representative for the AVVA. Joy Foye was given the position after being the only volunteer. Furno said she had to contact 21 At Large members offering the position and no one responded except Joy Foye, who has been Chapter Rep for Chapter 479. Furno stated the proper procedure was used for this position placement.

In conclusion, Joe Graff spoke for the good of the order about Dennis Werlein and the great things he did for the VVA.

VVA Chapter #5
 P.O. 832
 Eau Claire, WI 54702

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