



**Mike Voth Memorial  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter # 5  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
April News Letter 2015  
Meetings First Wed of the month 7:PM**



Together Always

**\*Volume 1 Issue 3 ♦ Editor: Ron Perry ♦ Dennis Wood \***

### Upcoming events

Chapter meeting April 1, 7:PM

19<sup>th</sup> of Sept. VVA Chapter #5 Fundraiser  
Chicken Feed at VFW 7232 on Folsom St.

### **Chapter contacts:**

Pres. Dennis Werlein-Ph. 715-577-8514  
V.Pres. Bob Laguban- Ph. 651-285-8518  
Tres. Joe Heil-715-839-7089  
Sec. Mike Korger-715-726-3918  
Chap. Dan Ziegler-715-559-5158

### Board of Directors:

Joe Graff, Dan Ziegler,  
Ken Lensrud: 715-235-9432

### Committees:

Finance: Joe Heil- 715-839-7089  
Govt. Affairs:  
Bob Laguban-651-285-8518  
Membership: Joe Heil  
Public Affairs:  
Roger Schuch-715-926-6052  
Veterans Affairs-Benefits:  
Peter Breed-715-827-0359  
Women Veterans:  
Julie Mc Bee-715-926-1167

POW/MIA and High Ground:  
Joe Graff-715-579-0192

Agent Orange/ Incarcerated  
Veterans/Veterans Health Care:  
Peter Breed-715-827-0339

Fund Raising Chair: Ron Perry/Julie Mc  
Bee- 715-286-5155/715-926-1167

**Wishing everyone with Birthdays or  
Anniversaries a very blessed Day!**

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



We are expecting great reviews from  
Vietnam Veterans Day \* Celebration on  
March 28<sup>th</sup> in Eau Claire at the VFW 305  
and 29<sup>th</sup> in Rusk Co at the VMA in  
Ladysmith. 2015



## **President, Dennis Werlein, Message**

Hello everyone in Chapter #5,

I'm excited about the next couple of months' activities for our chapter.

A lot of fun events are in the works. On Saturday, April 25th there will be an LZ Lambeau Party at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls. There will be free pizza starting at noon.

After and during the Pizza Party a DVD movie capturing the events of LZ Lambeau at Lambeau Field in Green Bay in 2010 will be shown to our chapter members present and whoever will attend of the 14 Vietnam era veterans that are staying at the home. We might need help from the chapter members to wheel out some of the veterans from their rooms that are in wheelchairs.

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VVA meeting of 3-4-15

President Dennis Werlein called meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dennis also gave the opening prayer in the chaplain's absence.

A motion passed to accept the minutes of the last meeting as e-mailed and in regular mail with one correction.

A motion passed to accept the Treasurer's reports from the last 2 months by Joe Heil.

A motion passed to pay \$240 as a down payment for our VVA shirts.

Copies of a proposed budget for 2015 were handed out by Joe. The actual income and expenses for 2014 were also listed. After discussion on providing life memberships for our chapter presidents after a successful 2 year term, a motion passed to rescind the motion to pay for the life memberships. Dennis Wood then started a cash donation collection for our current chapter president's life membership. More than enough was collected from those in attendance. As part of discussing various aspects of the budget proposal, Peter Breed talked about the funds that the recreation committee at the Veteran's home in Chippewa Falls has in its accounts.

A motion passed to accept the budget proposal with various amendments/adjustments.

Dennis then gave his President's report. A motion passed to order a new POW/MIA flag pole. A motion passed to appoint Larry Wrycza as a sergeant-at-arms to time speakers at our meetings to help speed up our meetings. A motion passed to donate \$250 to the Vietnam Veterans Day celebration on March 28.

There will be a VVA national regional meeting on 5-15—5-16 in Janesville.

The chapter will pay for the pizza and beverages needed. Please call myself at 715-577-8514 or chapter Secretary Mike Korger at 715-726-3918 if you can attend so we know how much pizza to order. There are currently about a dozen chapter members signed up to attend. The DVD lasts about two hours. We should be out of there by 4:00 pm.

Next fun event will be the seven state Regional Convention on May 15th and 16th at the Ramada Inn in Janesville, WI. Activities start at 6:00 pm Friday evening with 'Meet and greet' hour and meal followed by entertainment at a comedy club. Saturday is National Conventional Business followed by a picnic hosted by the local VVA chapter. Expect more details on costs at our next meeting on April 1st at 7:00 pm at VFW 7232.

Other items to cover at the monthly meeting:

1. Election of representatives for the April 20th founding meeting of the Eau Claire County Veterans Council.
2. Planning for Memorial Day Parade.
3. Finalize plans for LZ Lambeau party.
4. Distribution of sweepstake tickets for members to sell. (guns and cash raffle)

See you at the meeting to help plan the fun!!

Dennis Welein  
Mike Voth Memorial VVA Chapter #5 President

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There is a Vietnam 50 year Commemoration Partnership Program to participate in. It is a 3 year program and we must hold at least 2 events a year during it. Dennis Werlein, Joe Heil, Mike Korger, Joe Graff, and Dennis Wood were assigned to be on the committee for that program.

A LZ Lambeau pizza party was held at the Chippewa Veterans Home and a list was passed around to sign up for VVA membership.

Garth Johnson announced that there will be a fundraiser for Unmet Needs and the CVTC marketing department on 3/26 at Post 305 in Eau Claire. CVTC is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner and a silent auction.

Joe Heil stated there is a State VVA meeting on 3/21 in Waupaca.

No minority report.

Joe Heil said there has been a membership problem with national. Make sure to make copies of all membership applications and checks should be payable to VVA instead of our chapter.

New business:

Peter Breed gave a VA Benefits/Claims Report. He had just received a new booklet in the mail. If you are 30% or more disabled, the person taking care of you can be reimbursed accordingly. The VA pays in increments of 10%. If you are 70% or more disabled (service connected), you get to stay at the Veterans Home in Chippewa for free!!

Ron Perry gave a brief Fundraiser Report and the need to get a list of businesses to solicit. Dennis said we can get the helicopter from Chapter 331 again for a \$200 donation during our fundraiser.

Larry Wrycza suggested we have a separate raffle for a fundraiser. He was instructed to get a list of guns and prices. Peter Breed said to make sure we call it a "sweepstakes". Joe Graff, Joe Heil, and Larry will be on that committee. A motion carried to have 2 guns and 3 cash prizes for the raffle.

Joe Heil said we must formally reaffirm our current officers, even though elections aren't until next April.

Dennis Wood gave a Vietnam Veterans Day Report. 500 pins are ordered. Dave Zien will escort guest speaker Gary Wetzel up to our celebration here. Volunteers are needed for staff. Armbands are available at \$13.00 each. A committee meeting will be held tomorrow to finalize details. Dave Zien stated that we need to get the word out about this event through posters and by word-of-mouth to other vets.

For our monthly newsletter get e-mail addresses to Joe Heil to save on postage.

Joe Graff gave a brief Highground Report.

Ken Lestrud gave a Clothing Report on the cost of armbands that would say "Staff" on them. Joe Heil said he has patches and pins available for purchase.

Dave Zien gave a Good-of-the-Order Report. There is a special Commemoration on 5/14 at Cadott for Hmong Appreciation Day (35,000 were killed during the Vietnam War.) There is an application to get free flags from the government. Make sure to support the FOG magazine. Dave wrote an article for the VFW magazine. Dave passed around the book "General Vang Pao- an Illustration of His Remarkable Life." Dave also handed out 3 documents: an invitational letter to U.S. and Wisconsin lawmakers, political e-mail addresses, and a sheet of "other amazing Hmong facts and feats."

Drawings were held: the general membership drawing for \$30 was won by Mike Korger who was present, so the next drawing will be for \$10 at the April meeting. The 50/50 winner was Joe Heil.

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. with 19 members present.

The closing prayer was given by Pete Breed.

## **Our Annual Fund Raiser this year**

**19<sup>th</sup> of Sept. VVA Chapter #5 Fundraiser Chicken Feed at VFW 7232 on Folsom St**

**Mark your calendars and join us, inviting our friends! Volunteers can sign up now!**

Our fundraiser is only six months away and now's the time to plan for success! We have some new things planned to make our event

more family friendly. We will start our Chicken Feed at noon until either we are out (Lord willing!) or 6pm.

We will then have a live band and dancing from 6pm - 9pm. Looking into a DJ or other music arrangements from noon till the band starts, any DJ's out there?

We will have some tents with games set up, specifically a balloon dart board and bean bag toss. We'll also have an area set up for kids (really anyone) to Write a Letter to a Vet-- complete with all the stuff to write, draw and decorate a note that will be hand delivered. Needless to say, we NEED everyone's involvement to make this work and be successful. There will be sign-up sheets at every meeting for members to sign up for an activity they would like to help with and the times they are available to help. We need set up people, greeters at the door to take money, monitor the activity tables (only from 12p - 6p) and the beer table, help selling raffle tickets, and cleaner-uppers! We want to be good guests of Post 7232 and not leave a mess! We'll have bake sale items again this year, and as requested from last year's attendees, we will have some gluten free and sugar free goodies as well.

Our Rifle Sweep drawing will be at 8pm on 7/15 at VFW Post 7232. REMEMBER--Gun

raffle participants MUST be eligible to LEGALLY own a firearm in the state of Wisconsin and guns are to be picked up at Ryan's Sports Shop in Durand, Wisconsin.

Donation forms are available, they are in duplicate this year so a copy can be left with the donator and a copy turned in for our record keeping.

It is NEVER too early to start seeking donations.

While you're at it, mention our newsletter and the chance for a business to advertise. Ad prices vary upon size placed: 1" = \$100/year (\$8.33/month) 2" = \$150/year (\$12.50/month) or 3" = \$200/year (\$16.60/month). Businesses that place ads help sponsor our newsletter and are also a donation. Oh, did I mention that we'll have a helicopter available for our fundraiser? We have much planned and are open to suggestions and ideas. How about having your family help out? Great way to encourage participation and have fun too!

Any questions, call Julia McBee at 715-926-1167 or email at [mrsmac1012@yahoo.com](mailto:mrsmac1012@yahoo.com) and I'll answer or find the answer for you.

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### **High Ground Updates   Wisconsin State Tribute:**

**VIETNAM AND PERSIAN GULF NOTE:** Only one's in the state of Wisconsin like them. These are considered State only Tributes.

**NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBUTE NOTE:** Only one in the nation like it. Paid for by the Ho Chunk Nation.      **PERSIAN GULF DEDICATION OF MONUMENT July 19<sup>th</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

**IRAQ-AFGHANISTAN, DESERT STORM, DESERT SHIELD, PERSIAN GULF VETERANS AND ENDURING FREEDOM** There will be an escort set up to bring it to the High Ground. So contact the High Ground. They are looking for input on the festivities. Contact High Ground. It is a 7 day event.

**Special Note:** MIA Agency renamed: It is now called Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

As of January 28, 2015, there was a total of 83,141 military personnel missing from past wars. But the Defense Department says only about 27,000 are "recoverable." Of that total 73,515 are missing from WWII; 7858 from Korean War; 126 from the Cold War; 1,636 from the Vietnam War; one from 1986's Operation El Dorado Canyon (Libya) and two from the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

On the next page is an application. Please use it to bring in new members. You can bring them back to the chapter or forward them to National. You help to build chapter #5 is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, from the Board and Dennis G. Wood, Sr. Member, VVA #5



# Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc

## Application for Membership

**We are looking for all Veterans who served during the Vietnam Era**

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

**ATTENTION New members and new life members:**

You must submit a copy of your DD-214 form along with this application and dues payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

(OPTIONAL) Chapter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

I am already a VVA member and want to become a Life Member. My VVA member number is \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership:**

Individual Member 1yr: \$20

Individual Member 3yrs: \$50

**Life Membership:**

Age 56-60yrs: \$200

AGE 61-65yrs \$175

Age 66-71yrs: \$150

Age 72+ : \$100

**Payment Method:**  Check  Money Order  Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Return your completed application,  
payment, and a copy of your DD-214 to:

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
PO Box 64299 · Baltimore · MD · 21264**

*Add Local Chapter information here*

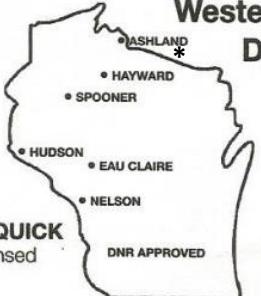
You can help Vietnam Veterans of America by asking friends to sponsor to this monthly newsletter. Make tax deductible donation. Show your business supports our veterans by sponsoring this publication and newsletter that is shared with all members and sponsors.

Call, Ron Perry, 715-286-5155 or Commander Dennis Werlein at 715-577-8514

1 Column Inch \$100 Year Donation  \$8.33 a month, Price of Breakfast	2 Column Inches \$150 Annual Donation. \$12.50 a month.  Price of buying a Veteran a good lunch would be a wise investment  And shows your support in Community and our Veterans	<b>Stand out from all the rest with this 3 Column Inch add for only \$200 for a whole year.</b>  <b>\$16.60 a month, cost of a single Dinner out on the town. Consider it like taking a veteran out once a month, while really catching the eyes of our readers. And all donations are tax deductible.</b>
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**VVA Chapter #5**

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