



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

April 2017 Newsletter

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



Together Always

Volume 3 Issue 4

Editor – Julie McBee

Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 04/05/17 Chapter Meeting @ 7232 @ 7pm
- 04/22/17 Vietnam Reunion/Education Afternoon @ Highground at 2 pm
- 04/26-29 Work Week at Highground
- 05/14/17 Hmong Appreciation Day @ Cadott at 9 am then @ Highground at 1 pm

CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
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- Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Secretary Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- Chaplain Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

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Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org

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: Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158
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- Membership: Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Public Affairs: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Minority Affairs: Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- 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 715-402-0106
- Fundraising Co-Chair: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza
- AVVA Delegate: Julie McBee 715-202-0181

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



God Bless All Veterans



"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,

By the time you read this newsletter, Vietnam Veterans Day will have been held on Saturday, March 25th at the Eagles Club in Chippewa Falls and on Sunday, March 26th at the VMA Building in Ladysmith. We will have a VVA Chapter 5 Color Guard at Ladysmith. Also, Joe Heil and Joe Graff will have attended the State VVA Council Meeting on Saturday, March 18th at Waupaca.

The Highground has a number of events coming up in April including a Vietnam Reunion/Education Day on April 22nd and a Spring Work Week from April 26 through 29th. Check them out on their website or Facebook. Don't forget that we have our own website now also.

Remember that our raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser are already available. Get some at our next meeting, or make a phone call, or go to our Chapter e-mail to have some sent to you. Also, be ready to help sell our raffle tickets at the numerous upcoming community events and county fairs. Please let Larry know when you can help. We will need a lot of help doing this.

At our March 1st meeting there was quite a presentation by Mark, Dick and Adam on the proposed veterans tribute and park which will be built and developed along the Eau Claire River three blocks from Phoenix Park in Eau Claire. Our support will be necessary as this is a huge undertaking. Your ideas and suggestions are requested.

I hope to see you all at our next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 5th at 7:00 pm at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire

Mike Korger, President
VVA Chapter #5

VVA Meeting of 3/1/2017

Call to Order made by President Mike Korger followed by Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer led by Joe Graff.

Bi-annual Financial Audit – Meeting was held at 6 pm prior to the regular Chapter meeting to review the bank statements/checkbook kept by Treasurer Joe Heil attended by Mac McBee, Rory Schutte, Joe Heil and Julia McBee. The Chapter's financial year ended 2/28/17; checkbook and all bank statements were reconciled and in agreement.

Welcome Veterans and Guests— Presentation was given regarding the upcoming Veteran Tribute to be built in downtown Eau Claire. Chapter members who are on this committee are Joe Heil and Dave Zein. Joe Heil has been named the Council Representative as former Representative John Olson is stepping down. Present to speak to the Chapter members were Mark Beckfield, Eau Claire County Board Supervisor; Dick Dean, Fundraising Chairman, and Adam Kohls, Assistant CVSO for Eau Claire County.

Mark brought up the fact that a local school did not allow Veterans to use their weapons as part of a Veterans Day Ceremony, which took place November 11, 2014. As a result, a resolution was created by the County to develop a tribute park whose mission goal was to "Honor, Educate and Remember" the history of all Veterans who have served their Country. The requirements that the County had were that the park be within Eau Claire County, be highly visible with easy community access and be able to accommodate large crowds. The proposed site is a three block parcel along the Eau Claire River across from Phoenix Park, will be supported by all 13 Veteran associations in the County and local businesses. "As Chapter 5 was the first organization to respond to the outreach for this tribute, they are the first group to get an update on how the plans are going. Plans will tighten up over the next 90 days with Attorney Brian Wright providing legal counsel and Leon Peterson providing architectural design."

Dick Dean then spoke giving information on the next phase which is the fundraising for the near two million dollar project. "The Eau Claire County Veterans Tribute Trail" is the name being used at this point. There are media and marketing teams that need to be put together for the project and the next step to start the capital campaign is to set up a 501c3 foundation, which will be within the next 30-45 days. Not only is money needed to be raised for the building of the tribute park, but for the foundation to maintain the park going forward and anyone willing to donate is welcome and could have naming rights (tribute stones?) as well. Veterans groups will be asked to help with fundraising. It is estimated that there have been over 330,000 Veterans from Eau Claire County who have served their Country.

Adam Kohls then spoke and presented a slideshow with ideas of design for a bike/walking trail with will have history stations at each monument highlighting each action from the Civil War on, complete with benches and nighttime lighting. They also intend for there to be monuments to POW's, Old Abe, Gold Star Mother's and a Bronze Soldier Cross. The Council is looking for assis-

tance from veterans in sharing their history and in naming various locations along the tribute at their next meeting to be held on March 28th at 5:30 pm at the courthouse in room 1303.

Dave Zien asked if the naming could be Eau Claire County Area as opposed to Eau Claire County and another attendee asked if they could leave Eau Claire out of the name all together so as to support the entire area. Adam said that all these suggestions are helpful. (See suggestion questionnaire latter in the newsletter for proposing your thoughts to the council.)

Secretary's Report -- Joe Heil made a motion to accept the mailed and e-mailed report and Rory Schutte seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report -- Joe Heil provided information on the balance of all Chapter accounts and expenses coming in, all is in good shape as the Chapter begins its new fiscal year. Joe Graff made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and to have a yearly financial audit; Dave Mayenchein seconded, motion carried. Joe Heil will present our Chapter's Yearly Financial Report to State when he attends the State VVA Council meeting on March 18th. Pat Moore made a motion to purchase an 8 foot foldable table for Chapter use and was seconded by Joe Graff, motion carried. Joe Heil mentioned that the Chapter donation for the Veterans Wellness Program at Trinity Equestrian Center would be presented in person on Friday at 11 am. Raffle tickets are now available to sell for our October 1st fundraising event.

President's Report -- Mike Korger spoke of the well attended event for the DAV van and told everyone the van was in service as of March 1st. Joe Graff noted that the DAV van does not have a contact number on it. This was discussed and veterans need to contact the Eau Claire CVSO office to schedule a ride. Mike then spoke of the filming on February 24th of "Dead Man's Hand" in Cadott.

Vice President's Report -- None

State VVA Council Meeting -- Joe Heil and Joe Graff will be attending the March 18th meeting.

Membership -- The Chapter has 117 VVA members and 35 AVVA members. Julie McBee will continue to serve as AVVA Delegate.

OLD BUSINESS

Clothing and Logo -- Joe Heil reported more items have been ordered.

Fundraising – Julie is working on ordering a banner and the committee needs to have a meeting soon to discuss which community events/county fairs the Chapter plans to have a booth at.

Highground – Joe Graff gave some dates for events happening. On March 25th there will be a Half Marathon; April 22nd will be a Vietnam Reunion at the Learning Center; April 26-29 will be a

work week. The memorial stone funding was tabled again this month for Joe to get more information on location of the stone, if it is purchased, and the possibility of a flag on the grounds. Tabling the stone had a motion made by Bill Buss and seconded by Dave Mayenchein, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Zien spoke for a letter he would like to see approved with the Chapter's backing to be sent to all 132 lawmakers in Wisconsin, this letter will go to all State Representatives, Senators, as well as the Governor and Attorney General. This letter directs attention to 1) naming of Hwy 8 as the "Mideast Conflict Highway"; 2) 1% of mining proceeds to be earmarked for veterans; 3) having a state statue for having a flag in every classroom, having the pledge of allegiance spoken every day, and having veterans brought into the classroom for education; 4) building of additional Veterans Homes in the state and 5) tour invitation for the 150th Anniversary of Leinenkugel's Brewing Family on November 3-4, 2017. Motion made by Dave Zien, seconded by Mac McBee, motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dave Zien spoke of the filming in Cadott by Jerry Allan of "Dead Man's Hands" and of Jerry later that day performing at the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. Many in attendance said that the music Jerry played was some of the best they have heard. Dave has copies of the DVD/CD with him for purchase for \$15. He then said that the "Dead Man's Hand 2" will start filming in the spring. Dave then spoke of a fish oil study that is being undertaken in Madison to study the effects on Alzheimer's. Study participants would receive \$150 for their trip to Madison. Contact Elena Beckman, Study Coordinator at Elena.beckman@va.gov or 608-256-1901 (ext. 11199) for more information.

Dick Quick made a comment that we should have a microphone and speakers to better enable everyone to hear what is being said over the music/TV/patrons of the bar. Joe Heil will see if the system his Muskie group has could be utilized for our VVA Chapter meetings.

Joe Heil spoke briefly on Tricare information and dental services. Jessica Stark of Dunn County will have a program on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the Dunn County Service Building from 8:30-3pm; participation is free.

Kerm Morgan spoke of Rusk County's Vietnam Veteran Day event to be held in the VMA Building, 608 Summit Ave., Ladysmith, WI starting at 11 am, free luncheon from 11:30-12:30 with VVA Chapter 5 Color Guard presenting the Colors at 1 pm followed with several short speeches and concluding at 2 pm. All are invited to attend.

Dave Zien spoke briefly of the three dentists in the area who are being contacted about assisting veterans with dental care. He also spoke of 1 in 10 Vietnam Era Veterans having possibly

been exposed to Hep C/HIV from the vaccine “gun” used to deliver vaccinations, the same needle being used without changing/cleaning/sterilizing between soldiers. Testing should be requested by all Veterans, as well as testing for liver disease as Liver Fluke Disease (a water-borne intestinal parasite) may be dormant for as long as 30 years before symptoms are present.

The Attendance winner for February was Kurt Ackley (not present); March winner was Jim Blaha (not present) so the attendance drawing for April will be for \$40. Tonight’s 50/50 drawing was won by Dan Ziegler. There were 23 members in attendance. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm was made by Joe Heil and seconded by Rory Schutte.



On March 16th, Joe Heil and Larry Wrycza presented Trinity Equestrian Center with a donation to their Veterans Wellness Program. Accepting the donation is Toni Mattson, Director of the Veterans Wellness Program. For more information go to toni@trinity-ec.com or call 715-835-4530.



March Birthday Celebrants at the Eau Claire Senior Center on March 15th are (left to right) Sally Johnson, Dave Zien, Dick Quick, Kurt Ackley and Tom Neuenfeldt; seated are Rick Talford and Joe Heil.

Veterans Tribute Park Suggestion/Comments Form

The Eau Claire County Patriotic Council would like to hear from veterans about what they would like to have included in the park that will be built along the Eau Claire River by Phoenix Park. Please help the council out by sharing your thoughts.

Name of the Park _____

What monuments would you like to see displayed:

Special features you feel would be important to have:

Are there things you don't want as part of the park:

VVA Chapter #5
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