

Mike Voth Memorial
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 5 – Eau Claire

April 2, 2025
Meeting

AVVA

Attendance – Peg O., Sally and Eric J., Micki R. and Rick T.

Discussions:

- Membership is at 29
- Budget is in good standings with \$100.00 being donated to Cup Food Pantry
- Fundraising will be held in a couple months at A&W in Altoona, WI
- State Rep. Pat Furno Convention proposals – 1) allow dual members voting rights, yet they are ineligible to be alternate delegates. 2) no absentee ballots removal, but wanting proxy voting. This is not the same category as absentee voting.

VVA

Attendance – 19 (5-AVVA)

Agenda – no changes

Call to Order – Mike Korger (6:35pm)

Pledge of Allegiance – All present

Opening prayer – Led by Joe Graff

Moment of Silence – none

Deceased members – none

Welcome Vets and Guests – none

Any agenda additions – none

Reports

Secretary – Dan Zeigler/Rick A. Talford (assistant)

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rod P. and seconded by Jake G. The motion carried without objection.

Treasurer – Mike Smith

Smith provided the information on expenses and income for the past month. All accounts are in good standings. Smith was “Thanked” for his report.

President – Mike Korger

Korger covered a number of items;

- 1- VVA Chapter 5 report provided to WI State Council was read for everyone to hear.
- 2- Singing the National Anthem at school events recently, and will at the VVD event as well.
- 3- Will attend the Legion meeting on April 26th and sign there as well.
- 4- Chippewa Marine Club met at Post 305 in March.

5- Attended Veteran funerals

Vice-President – Rod Pettis

Pettis “Thanked” everyone for attending the meeting, and explained he hoped to be present more often.

AVVA – Rick A. Talford

Talford spoke of the next fundraiser at A&W being in a couple months, as they are recovering from a slow spring. He also spoke of the items the State Rep. was proposing at the next Convention.

Meetings

National – Convention in New Orleans in August 2025.

Regional – possible meeting to be held in June

State Council – next meeting will be in Sept. in Waupaca at Par 4

VA/Benefits/Claims – need a chair

Minority – Dave Zein

- Leinie’s has been sold, but holding on to a leverage buy-out (Vets tribute in hospitality area)
- Honor the Earth POW-WOW
- Patriots Park in need of help repairing signs. Bob Heller no longer involved.
- Hmong Vets at the Highground – looking for recognition
- VFW Post 305 has a new video board to take a look at

Membership – VVA 125 (3 deceased to be removed) AVVA 29

Old Business

Veterans Home – Rory Schutte

No masks are being required currently. Meetings are held on the 3rd Wed. of the month at the Chippewa Falls VFW Post 1038 on Hwy J.

Highground – Joe Graff

April 25-26th – Spring Into the Arts Tour (Host site)

May 10th – Volunteer Appreciation lunch

May 17th – Legacy Stone Ceremony, Spring Bake Sale

May 26th – 15th Annual Honor Ride, Memorial Day Ceremony

VVA Logo/Clothing – Rick Talford

There are plenty of T-Shirts (Chapter 5) and Hoodies available for purchase. Many other items as well.

New Business

- 1- Membership review – members can look through listing and inform officers of any passings.
- 2- AVVA checking acct. has been created with the funds being separated from the VVA accounts.
- 3- Website update – Briggs has been paid for the year, and the site has been brought up to date.

- 4- Scholarship updated – a meeting will be held after the regular meeting. All updating has been completed.
- 5- Highground stone for Joe Heil has been stopped, as the stone set-up was not working out.
- 6- Kellen Fundraiser on April 6th was discussed with a motion to donate \$300.00 to the event. The motion was made by Joe G. and seconded by Jake G. The motion carried without objection.
- 7- Patriotic Council meeting in March was held for Memorial Day Parade. Chapter 5 will be the 2nd starting veterans group in the parade. Chapter 5 will be the lead veteran group in the 2026 Memorial Day Parade.
- 8- High School to Heroes – event will be held on April 16th, with a motion to approve \$750.00 for (3) tables to be sponsored by Chapter 5. The motion was made by Joe G. and seconded by Rory S. The motion carried without objection. (attending – Joe G., Al W., Rod P., Bob B., Mike S and Dave Z. – possible Mike K.)
- 9- BOD position to be filled, as Mike S. has been removed. Nobody agreed to take the position, so it remains open.
- 10- Finance and Election reports need to be completed with Mike S. replacing Joe H. on the election forms. These will need to be mailed to State and National soon.
- 11- Delegate forms will need to be completed for the upcoming convention. If nobody is attending, then a delegate release form needs to be mailed to the state.
- 12- Stamps – (3) rolls were available from Joe H. residence. A discussion was held and \$50.00 was decided for (2) rolls each to be sold.
- 13- VVDF – a discussion on the recent VVDF event was held. After discussion a motion to take over the event next year was made by Rory S. and seconded by Joe G. The motion carried without objection. This information will be taken to the shutdown meeting for the VVDF Committee.
- 14- Need to elect an assistant treasurer for the record, in case Mike S. were to leave the position for unseen reasons. Jake G. agreed to be listed, with Rick Talford and/or Micki Rumberg assisting with the position.

VVA Goals/Outreach – none

Fundraiser – none for 2025

Chapter Elections – April 2026

Committee – Scholarships (meeting to be held after regular meeting)

Communications – Scouting Council looking for donation of \$275/person or \$2500/table

Good of the Order

Rory Schutte – spoke of the fact many people did not know that Joe Heil had passed away. Schutte will be a speaker at the Hmong Veteran Day event in Cadott on May 14th, 2025.

Mike Korger – an idea to purchase a plaque of appreciation for VFW Post 7232 for the years of allowing Chapter 5 the room for monthly meetings. Korger will get an estimate from Blue Ribbon Co.

Brian Jensen – a discussion on providing a \$5,000.00 donation to VFW Post 305 for allowing the meetings to be held was then completed. The funds the Chapter has in accounts currently needs to be taken care of properly, as no fundraisers are planned in the future. A fundraiser requires near \$5,000.00 to start each year. The Chapter provides over \$8,000.00 a year in scholarships and annual set donations.

Closing prayer – led by Joe Graff

Adjourn at 8:25pm

Next meeting will be held on May 7th, 2025 at VFW Post 305 on Starr Ave., beginning at 6:30pm

Scholarship Committee

(Mike S., Mike K., Rod P., Joe G. and Rick T.)

Scholarship applications from the Chippewa Valley were read through by all the Committee members.
After the review and some discussions, the winners were chosen:

1st Place - \$1,500.00 (best essay) – Miriam Sandberg – Mondovi, WI

2nd place - \$1,000.00 – Amelia Feltes – North H.S.

3rd place - \$1,000.00 – Aubrey Korger – Augusta, WI