



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

August News Letter 2015

Meeting First Wed. of the Month • 7:PM



Volume 1 Issue 8 • Editor • Julie Mc Bee, Assistant/Dennis Wood

Upcoming events

Chapter meeting August 5th, 7:PM

19th 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

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!**

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

Founding principle,

Vietnam Veterans of America

***"Never again will one generation
of veterans abandon another." –***



God Bless All Veterans



President, Dennis Werlein, Message Members,

Summer is in full swing and fun things are happening like more parades at local towns in our area. A sprinkling of our chapter members had fun marching in the Rock Falls parade, the Augusta parade and we even had a small detail at a funeral service for a WWII, Korean War, Vietnam Era vet in Mondovi. We made several good friends and had a caring conversation with more than a couple of veterans. Their reaction was very appreciative of us. We all need to do our share of reaching out to people, vets or not, to help in the healing that is still taking place in our communities. It doesn't matter if you were in Vietnam or not, hardly any of us had a choice of what we did or where we went. We all have a common bond of serving our country and still need to reach out and instill the pride of service, the dignity of our self-worth, and the respect for each other as Americans.

We need to thank everyone who sold tickets for our Independence Day raffle. It was a big success. Tickets are being printed as we put this newsletter together for our next raffle at our fundraiser on Sept. 19th. Hopefully the thank you list will be long for that raffle too.

Just a few words on the fundraiser: I know some of the members in any group just don't care

VVA Meeting of 7/1/2015

President Dennis Werlein called meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and he led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Opening prayer was given by Reverend Norton. Dennis welcomed newest members Colonel Norton, Gary Thoeny, and also

to go to the meetings much, and that's OK. I know some members are out of their comfort zone to try to sell raffle tickets, and it's OK to feel that way too, but sometimes it takes a little sacrifice and courage to step forward and help out in a cause. A person is better for it by doing so. It builds character, it makes you feel good that you helped out, and you'll probably make more friends if you do so. That's what makes life good. Our cause is great as 50% of our profits will be going to various veterans' assistance programs in this area as well as scholarships for nursing students and children and grandchildren of veterans of Vietnam Era and the conflicts and wars since then. Helping out at the fundraiser itself should be a lot of fun too! There will be a D.J., good food, Vietnam era music, family games for prizes, and a booth to write a thank you note to a soldier. At 8:00 a live country music band will play, bake sale, door prizes 50/50 raffle, silent auction, helicopter, and much more. Come and join the fun and maybe help out a little in the process.

We will be discussing these things and more at our August meeting and our September meeting as well. Also for our August meeting I have invited a special guest to address us for about 15 minutes on services available at Grace Adult Day Service of Altoona. Bethany Jacobson-Fleiger is the representative. Just for your information, the Vet's Home in Chippewa Falls has 274 people on its waiting list. It might be helpful to find out what Grace Adult Day Services has to offer. The meeting starts at 7:00 P.M.

Dennis Werlein

Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 president

Bob McRoberts who after a long time was finally able to attend one of our meetings.

A motion passed to accept the Secretary's Report by Mike Korger as e-mailed out and mailed by letter.

The Treasurers Reports for May and June were given by Joe Heil. A motion passed to accept them.

In the President's Report Dennis talked about Dan Mattoon and his Prestige Auto's annual fundraiser for veterans. VVA was selected as one of 9 groups to receive funds from this effort. Dennis said we could earmark these funds for scholarships. The program was explained by Bob. There will be an August 13th dinner where the awards will be presented. Dennis also said that at a Highground meeting it was emphasized that all of us should call and contact all our legislators, especially our U.S. Senators, to co-sponsor and support the Toxic Exposure Research Act.

Dennis then gave a report on the Eau Claire County Combined Veteran Council. One of the members volunteered to be president of the council. Volunteers will be needed to help drive vets to their destinations. Eau Claire County VSO Tim is looking for a grant to cover the expenses for operating a van if the county gets a van from DAV. Tim also said that the Veteran's Court will be back in action.

Joe Heil talked about the upcoming VVA National Convention in Springfield. The state VVA will pick up \$400 in expenses for our chapter at the convention. Joe also talked about the VVA State Meeting that was held 6/20 at the Highground. An Agent Orange meeting was held and a \$1500.00 scholarship was established for an essay winner. Joe Graff added that the VA wants to compile all veteran's stories on Agent Orange and that we should document them now while we are still able.

President Dennis stated the Camp American Legion is available 365 day a year and that Vietnam veterans only need a signed doctor's paper to authorize them to be eligible to attend.

The next VVA State Meeting will be 9/13 at Waupaca. Our next chapter meeting will be August 5.

Our chapter membership is now at 80 plus 5-6 applications have been sent in with some being delayed until August 1st to take advantage of the life membership deal starting then. Our goal is still to get to 100 members by the end of the year.

Larry Wrycza then conducted the gun raffle drawing at 8:00 for the winners. The Henry 30/30 was won by Sue Kast of Holmen. The Savage was won by Randy B who was present at the bar in the building. The Remington was won by George Burke. \$100 cash was won by Randy Moy of Mondovi, \$50 cash was won by a Brandon from Eau Claire. Alternates were Ed Cooper and Leroy Stensen of Chippewa Falls.

Mac brought up that he was very concerned that hardly any stores, restaurants, etc. in the Eau Claire area are handicap accessible if a veteran is in a wheelchair. Dennis added that he had actually brought that subject up with Ron Kind today.

Dave Zien brought up that no state legislation has been done at all to expand the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls to accommodate the over 200 veterans on the current waiting list. He stated that we need to get donations lined up to ensure that the building project will get started. For example we need to put in our wills to donate to this cause if we die.

A VA Benefits Report was given by Peter Breed. He passed out VSO business cards for Barron and Chippewa Counties. He brought up again that the VA changed the 40 mile rule to the nearest VA facility. The distance will be measured according to actual driving distance instead of "as the crow flies." Pete said to make sure you use the VA facilities available to you. Otherwise if you don't use it you lose it. We need to keep the counts up to keep the facilities open.

Roger Schuh did not have a Minority Report.

A Highground Report was given by Joe Graff. He said the Fireworks Show ended abruptly when there was a fireworks mishap. There was one minor injury. Joe stated that the Wall will be at New Richmond 9/10 – 9/13 and that they will need donations to cover \$20,000 in expenses. He named a number of upcoming events and that a counselor is available at the Highground every Thursday for free if you call ahead for an appointment.

Dennis gave a brief Veteran Home Report. There are 2 accounts with ample funds. There will be plans to take some of the homeless veterans on an outing. Joe Heil stated that we should think about buying some gift cards to give to these veterans.

Upcoming parades to march in will be in Augusta for Bean and Bacon Days on July 5th and in Rock Falls on July 4th.

Under new business there was discussion about proposing some bylaws or resolutions at the national convention. Joe Graff suggested that the VVA should include Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Dennis said that some studies and surveys will be needed to test that and other proposals. Joe Heil said that it will be too late for this year anyway.

A Fundraising Report was given by Joe Heil. He said that the tickets need to be printed yet which will include 7 prizes. The cooking people are set and Ron Perry has the beanbag toss set up.

For the Chapter Newsletter Report Julie McBea has agreed to take over as the editor and Dennis Wood will help.

For the Good of the Order Dave Zien said that the highways of honor still need about \$800 for Independence Day Raffle results for 2015

expenses but we can raise the funds on our own to make up what the state budget didn't cover. Dave said that 32 of the 45 named highways and bridges in Wisconsin are for veterans. Dave also brought up that Rolling Thunder needs 20 members to start up a new local chapter and that you don't need to have a motorcycle. The DAV will have a booth at the Eau Claire Air Show. The Eagles of Honor calendars which cover 18 months are available at \$20 each. They highlight veterans including some from our area, and the funds will be used to support the Freedom Hope Flights. A new AmVets post is starting up in Eau Claire with over 50 members. The 3rd annual Vets Fest will be held 7/10-7/11. It will start at the Broken Arrow in Holcombe on 7/10 and continue to the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls on 7/11.

The monthly attendance drawing winner was Tom Werlein. But he was not present, so next month's drawing will be for \$40.

Dennis Wood encouraged us to buy the Eagles of Honor calendars and to attend the Hover Fest on July 11th east of Chippewa Falls. The funds from both go to the Freedom Honor Flights.

A motion to adjourn passed. Reverend Norton gave the closing prayer. Our meeting ended at 9:09 P.M.

Independence Day Raffle results for 2015

I would like to thank the following members of Chapter 5 for their efforts in making this a success. They are as follows: Curt Ackley, William Baker, Jim Blaha, Peter Breed, Robert Burns, Connor Evans, Joe Graff, Joe Heil, Fred Howard, Ed Laventure, William Lebaron, Ken Lustrud, Robert Martin, Robert McRobert, Ed Michels, James Norton, Ron Perry, Rodney Pettis, Roger Schuh, Clif Sorenson, Dennis Werlein, Dennis Wood, Larry Wrycza, Dan Ziegler, Dave Zein, Brenda Accola, Dale Byerly, Garth Johnson, and Kim Wagenbach. We made \$2000 on this event. Thanks to all.

The winners are as follows: Henry 30-30 was Sue Kast from Holmen, Wis. Savage Axis Package went to Randy Brown from Eau Claire Wis. Remington 870 went to George Burk from Eau Claire, Wis. \$100 cash went to Randy Moy from Mondovi. \$50 cash went to Brandon Behrens from Eau Claire WI.

Joe Heil Treasurer.



**Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chicken Feed @ VFW Post 7232**

2900 W. Folsom St. Eau Claire, WI

**Saturday, September 19, 2015
Noon 'til gone!**

\$9.00 Donation – Children under 5 free

**Buy a Square Raffles, Silent Auctions, Prizes, Games
and Bake sale**

Classic Country “Band” and D.J.

Playing 'til Midnight

**Come Eat, Enjoy the Music. 50% of Profits Will Go To Wisconsin
Veteran's assistance programs.**

Come see the Huey Helicopter!!



Our Annual Fund Raiser this year

19th 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, **CONT Page 5 CONT from Page 3**

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.

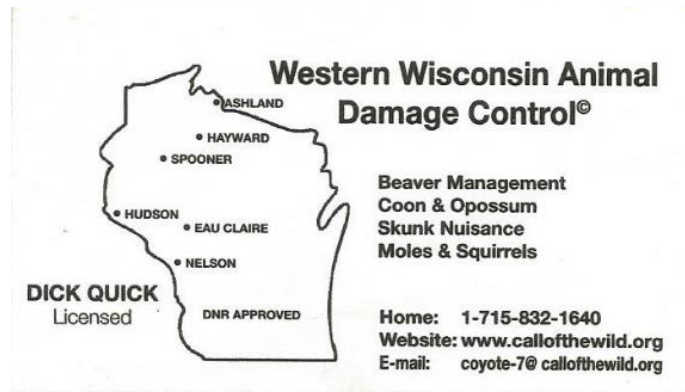
Our Rifle Sweep drawing will be at 8pm on 7/1/15 at VFW Post 7232. REMEMBER--Gun raffle participants MUST be eligible to LEGALLY own a firearm in the state of Wisconsin and guns are to be picked up at Ryan's Sports Shop in Durand, Wisconsin.

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 and I'll answer or find the answer for you.



No *ticker-tape parades* greeted the men and women who returned from war.

No *handshakes*, no *thank-yous*.

So they turned to each other and formed

Vietnam Veterans of America

But even as they forged the bonds that would help them survive the peace

They made a vow *Never again* will one generation of veterans *abandon* another

Even while they tended to their own

They've also *reached out* to the veterans of more recent conflicts

Welcoming them home and shaking hands

At airports and parades.yes,

But also offering *comfort in darker hours*.

And *fighting for them* in the halls of state legislatures,

The corridors of Congress, And the maze of the VA.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: VVA Membership Affairs, P.O. Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299

Name _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____ Email Address _____

Chapter No. _____ Sponsor _____ Sponsor's ID No. _____

- Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 (in-county Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, for Vietnam-era veterans. Return this application along with a copy of your DD Form-214.

• Term: ☐ 1 year - \$20 ☐ 3 year - \$50

☐ Life Membership - \$200 (age 56-60)
\$150 (age 66-71)

\$175 (age 61-65)
\$100 (age 72+)

• Payment Option: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card (Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

☐ I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

VVA Chapter #5

P.O. Box 832

Eau Claire, WI 54702

Postage

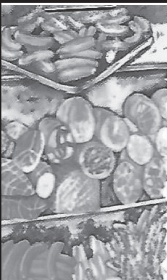
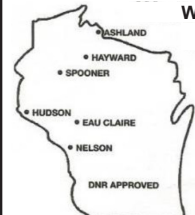
Here

On the previous page is an application. Please use it to bring in new members.
Please bring the application back to the Chapter so we can send it in.
Make checks payable to: Vietnam Veterans of America
Your help to build Chapter #5 is greatly appreciated

You can help Vietnam Veterans of America by asking friends to sponsor this monthly newsletter.
Make tax deductible donation.

Show your business supports our veterans by sponsoring
this publication and newsletter which is shared with all members and sponsors.

Call President Dennis Werlein at 715-577-8514

<p>GET YOUR OFFROAD 4X4 PRODUCTS HERE</p> <p>PAULSON</p> <p>AUTO SALES.COM</p> <p>OFFROAD</p> <p>Todd Paulson</p> <p>Business 53 Chippewa Falls, WI</p> <p>Sales: 715-834-4832 Offroad: 715-834-44X4</p>	 <p>Augusta Meats & Catering, LLC 825 Industrial Drive Augusta, WI 54722</p> <p>Hours Mon. thru Fri. 8am-5pm Sat. 8am-12pm</p> <p>Tel: (715) 286-2920 Cell: (715) 225-3156 Fax: (715) 286-2925</p> <p>Owner: Ralph Knuth</p>	<p>2 column inches \$150 Annual Donation</p> <p>\$12.50 a month</p> <p>Price of buying a Veteran a good lunch <i>a great investment</i></p>
 <p>Western Wisconsin Animal Damage Control®</p> <p>Beaver Management Coon & Opossum Skunk Nuisance Moles & Squirrels</p> <p>Home: 1-75-832-1640 Website: www.callofthewild.org Email: coyote-7@callofthewild.org</p> <p>DICK QUICK Licensed</p>	<p>1 column inch \$100 Annual Donation</p> <p>\$8.33 a month</p> <p>Price of a breakfast <i>a good investment</i></p>	<p>OR</p> <p>Stand out from all the rest with 3 column inches \$200 Annual Donation</p> <p>\$16.60 a month</p> <p>Take a veteran out once a month <i>the best investment</i></p>
<p>~ Mondovi Family Restaurant ~ Home Cooked Meals Open 6am - 9pm 715-926-5550 699 E. Main St. • Mondovi, WI 54735</p>	<p>Please Patronize our Sponsors and let them know you seen their advertisement here!</p> <p>Thank You!</p>	<p><i>All donations are tax deductible</i></p> <p>PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!</p>