



Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5

Vietnam Veterans of America

P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702

December 2017 Newsletter



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

Together Always

Volume 3 Issue 12

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/01/17 VFW Christmas Party at Vets Home
- 12/01/17 VVA State Council Christmas Party at Waupaca
- 12/02/17 VVA State Council Meeting at Waupaca
- 12/06/17 VVA Chapter Meeting at 7 p.m. Post 7232
- **** AVVA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Post 7232
- 12/08/17 VVA5/DAV21 Christmas Party at Vets Home

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 Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

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

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: Vacant
- 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, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza
- AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- Historical: Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514
- Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-647-2091

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,

Have a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The holidays are upon us. Thanksgiving has already come and gone and the others are coming up fast.

If at all possible, please plan on attending/helping at our co-sponsored (with the DAV 21 Chapter) Christmas Party for the veterans at the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home on Friday, December 8th. That is our most important upcoming activity.

There were many activities in November, especially around Veterans Day. Hopefully everyone was able to participate in some of those. We did have a VVA Color Guard at Northstar Middle School on Veterans Day for their program for Eau Claire County.

There is a bowling fundraiser for the Highground coming up again at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield on January 28th. Let's sponsor a team again. Please let me know if you can bowl. It's a day for fun!

I'm also checking on the costs for chartering a bus for a trip to "The Wall" in Washington, D.C. instead of a flight. How many of you would be interested if we can get this going?

Let's keep our eyes and ears open for what else we can do for our fellow veterans and active duty military. Bring your ideas to the next meeting.

I hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA Chapter 5 meeting (AVVA meeting at 6:30) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. See you there!

Mike Korger,
President VVA Chapter 5

VVA Meeting of 11/1/2017

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by the President, Mike Korger; Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer with a moment of silence led by the Sgt. at Arms, Joe Graff. Joe updated the members about Dennis Werlein's transfer from Sacred Heart Hospital to the American Lutheran Home in Mondovi for rehab; he hopes to be home by Thanksgiving—please keep Dennis in your thoughts and prayers, better yet, stop by and visit (he has therapy in the mornings so afternoon or evenings would be better if you go).

Guest, Bob McRoberts Jr., was introduced by President Korger. Bob Jr. is the son of Chapter member Bob McRoberts and is the owner of My Foot Rx in Bloomer and is a Certified Pedorthist. He discussed the need for foot care, especially for the veteran, who may have neuropathy issues or diabetes and need orthotics or specialty shoes. Through his recent advocacy for his father with the VA recently, he emphasized the need for veterans to communicate with their physicians, either local or through the VA in Minneapolis or Tomah and to involve a patient advocate from the VA if it is felt that the physician is not listening. He spoke of his ability to interface with local or VA physicians to be able to help veterans get fitted for appropriate footwear and how, depending on a veteran's rating, get the orthotics or shoes a veteran is entitled to. If anyone has any questions about their footwear benefits through the VA, please contact Bob Jr. and he'll help you. He can be contacted at 715-568-1500 or through his website, www.myfootrx.com or his email, myfootrx@yahoo.com.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept last month's minutes as either mailed or emailed by Secretary McBee was made by Joe Heil, seconded by Ralph Ottum and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Heil spoke of the final numbers for the October 1st raffle/fundraiser, checking and savings accounts all balance after last month's bills have been paid and receipts deposited. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Rory Schutte, seconded by Joe Graff and motion carried. Joe Heil then asked for approval to purchase new National VVA flags for the Cadott Veterans Memorial as the flag that was there had been removed due to damage. Motion was made by Pat Moore, seconded by Joe Graff and motion carried.

President's Report: Mike Korger apologized for not being able to attend the last Board of Directors meeting. There was talk of co-sponsoring a trip to Washington, D.C. and he is looking into costs for flights or bus trip. He then asked about how our Outdoor Recreation program was doing; Bill Anderson was not present but it was mentioned that the Chippewa Rod 'n Gun Club had been working with veterans over the summer. Mike spoke of the upcoming Marine Corps Ball to be held November 7th at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire, any Marine interested should contact him about tickets.

Vice President's Report: Larry Wrycza not present.

AVVA Report: Present at tonight's meeting was Sally and Eric Johnson, Rick and Kristina Talford, Peg Ottum and Julia McBee. Discussed items were possible ideas to brighten the Christmas for the homeless veterans out at Klein Hall; upcoming Chapter election in April 2018 and State Representative election in June 2018 (anyone wishing to run for State Representative needs to file paperwork in January 2018); and fundraiser ideas for 2018.

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

State VVA Meeting: Reservations need to be made if you plan on attending the Christmas Party December 1st in Waupaca, more information can be found at www.vvawi.org. State Council Meeting will be December 2nd in Waupaca; at this time Joe Heil, Joe Graff, McBee's and Talford's plan on attending. Anyone else wishing to attend can contact Joe Heil.

VA/Benefits: Pete Breed not present. Dave Zien did speak with regards to the State Assembly Bill addressing property taxes paid by veterans. Dave made a motion asking for support of the Chapter members to sign letters he brought with him to the Governor, State Senators and Representatives, Joe Heil seconded and the motion carried. These letters were passed around and members signed them and Dave will deliver these letters on November 16th in Madison. Any-one wishing to accompany Dave on his trip down to Madison should contact him.

Membership: 147 as of June.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Home: Rory Schutte spoke of the upcoming Veterans Ball and the Veteran's Program at the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. There will be upcoming Board of Director Elections that he will report on when results are in.

Highground: Joe Graff spoke of the Bowling for Veterans event to be held on January 28, 2018 at Rose Bowl in Marshfield. The event runs from noon to 2:30 p.m. and a team costs \$50. Last year's team was funded by the Chapter. Find more information at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing: Joe Heil brought up the continued discussion over the Honor Guard jackets; more research is to be done. Ralph Ottum and his wife wore jackets that they purchased and cost of these jackets would be \$92.00. Some members would still like to see a jacket with a removable liner that would make it more of a three-season jacket. More research and discussion to follow, hopefully, we will have a decision soon.

Fundraising: Julie will contact Pizza Ranch for available dates in January.

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

Communications: Newsletter deadline will be November 27, 2017.

Website/E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com
Don't forget you can find National info at www.VVA.org and State info at www.VVAWI.org

NEW BUSINESS

Elections: April of 2018

Veterans Day Events: Many events are going on in the area, see if you can participate in some of them:

- November 3rd —Eau Claire Veterans Trail Meeting at the Senior Center at 1 p.m.
- November 7th—Marine Corps Ball, Florian Gardens
- November 9th—Hormel Girls/USO Program with lunch at the Senior Center at 10 a.m.
- November 10th—Dinner for Veterans at the Elks Club, reservations required, at noon.
- November 10th—Veterans Day BBQ at Minnesota Wire at 10:30 a.m.
- November 11th—EC Veterans Council Veterans Day Program at North Star Middle School
- ***Chapter 5 Color Guard participation (line-up @ 9:30 a.m., program at 10 a.m.)
- November 11th—Soup Lunch at VFW Post 305

There are other programs at various schools, free meal offerings at various restaurants—check these out through the local news stations/newspaper and participate.

Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels: Joe Heil made a motion to donate \$250 to this organization that provides outdoor experiences to all Veterans, including those with special needs or are mobility challenged that is free of charge to the veteran. Motion was seconded by Joe Graff and carried. Anyone wishing more information about WAW can contact them at 715-720-1148, or their website, www.wawheels.org or email Al & Kay Lamovec at alamovec1148@charter.net.

VVA5/DAV21 Veterans Christmas Party: Joe Heil spoke of our co-sponsored Christmas Party out at the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls to be held this year on Friday, December 8th from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. This year the home has asked for monetary donation and they will shop for food to be served during this “Happy Hour” Christmas Party. Total cost for food will be \$200 with \$275 for the entertainment. Motion was made by Joe Graff, seconded by Jim Blaha and carried for funds for this party, which are being shared by Chapter 5 and DAV 21. It should be noted that Joe Heil said that the Vets Home would prefer only 5-6 people from the Chapter attend and assist with the party. Contact Joe Heil about this if you have questions before our next Chapter meeting on December 6th.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dave Weix spoke of some comments he heard from some of the homeless veterans out at Klein Hall with regards to their meals. When he shared what some of their meals consisted of, the Chapter asked Bill to look into what would be the best way for us to help them. Dave will un-

dertake this and report back to us at our December meeting on how we can help improve the meal service at Klein Hall. Thoughts were possible monthly donations of either food or funds to purchase food to provide a more rounded meal for these veterans; more info to follow.

Ralph and Peg Ottum thanked everyone present for the funds they used to enjoy a meal at the Texas Roadhouse as our way of thanking them for such successful raffle ticket sales for this year's fundraiser. Peg brought along their local paper with a photo of our fundraiser's Grand Prize Winner, Doug Bruesewitz of Athens.

Dave Zien has books available for sale from the Military Week Tribute Tour that was held this past May. The week-long tour will also be repeated this fall. For more information, please contact Dave.

The Attendance Drawing was won by Julie McBee in the amount of \$20. The 50/50 was won by Mike Korger in the amount of \$12. There were 24 members in attendance for this meeting. Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 5, 2017 at VFW Post 7232 at 7 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30) The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Winners of the Fall Harvest Raffle for 2017

Doug Bruesewitz, Athens (ticket 26) John Deere Lawn Mower

Steve Elam, Strum (ticket 307) 49" TV

Gary Tauselub, Marshfield (ticket 2098) 30-30 Rifle

Steve Manier, Neilsville (ticket 2910) 32" TV

Jay Barnier, Chippewa Falls (ticket 3050) .22 Rifle

Steve Schlinkert, Merrill (ticket 2885) Quilt

Larry Offerdahl, Mondovi (ticket 984) Deer Print

Al Weix, Eau Claire (ticket 1483) \$200

Mark Odegard, Mondovi (ticket 2016) \$100

Galen Aase, Mondovi (ticket 1900) 6 Oil Changes at Hallie Auto

Tony Huettner, Eau Claire (Ticket 1733) Augusta Meat Certificate

Lucas Crawford, Mondovi (ticket 2323) Walmart Certificate

Carol Howard, Eau Claire (ticket 1757) Korgers Furniture Certificate

Nolan Windsor, Knapp (ticket 2285) Leffel Roots Apple Orchard Certificate

Tiffany Bruesewitz, Colby (ticket 2153) Foster Cheese Factory and Mouldy's Archery Certificates

Norm Baunkow, Fall Creek (ticket 1498) Massage Envy Certificates



Athens man wins raffle grand prize

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No. 5 held their annual fall harvest raffle drawing at the Eagles Club in Eau Claire on Oct. 1. Chapter treasurer Joe Heil, left, presents Doug Bruesewitz of Athens with the grand prize of a John Deere X350 lawn mower. Tiffany Bruesewitz of Colby also won a gift certificate from Foster Cheese Factory and tickets for a free shooting at Mouldy's Archery in Chippewa Falls. The fundraiser event also included door prizes, silent auction, bake sale, music and a meal of brats, hot dogs and chicken. *SUBMITTED PHOTO*

Winner of our 2017 Raffle Fundraiser Grand Prize, Doug Bruesewitz



Rory Schutte was honored to present Dave Zien with a Plaque of Appreciation and flags that were flown over the State Capitol in Madison recognizing Dave for all his work on behalf of Veterans.



Quilt of Valor recipients Bill Buss and Dennis Werlein with their hand-made quilts .