

Mike Voth Memorial  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 5 – Eau Claire  
December 4, 2019  
7 – 8:30pm

Attendance – 23 members – 1 guest

Call to order by Mike Korger  
Pledge of allegiance and prayer by Joe Graff  
Moment of Silence for the POW/MIA's

Guests- Gold Star Mother Kaye Olson spoke over some Altoona Veteran Tribute Updates. There is currently \$1.5 million dollars ready to start the project. There will be fundraisers in January and February 2020 to assist in costs. There will be fundraising for three to five years on this project to assist with purchasing statues. Each statue could cost \$75-85,000.00. The Legacy Stones can be ordered now for \$500.00 each. The first order for stones will happen near the end of December, so everyone should start getting their orders in. There is currently a plan to have a flag and pole similar to the one at Gander Mountain in Eau Claire. The responsibility to operate and maintain the flag will fall on the Veteran Foundation. The groundbreaking is being scheduled for June 12th, 2020, in conjunction with the Blue Angel visit to Eau Claire. There is hope that they will perform a fly-over during the groundbreaking ceremony. A drone is currently being used to survey the property for placement of the tribute development. The foundation is looking at being involved with Country Jam again in 2020 as well. More updates will come periodically.

#### Reports

Secretary – Mac McBee

The report/newsletter was not received and sent out. The minutes will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

Treasury – Joe Heil

The account balances were provided by Heil. The final payment of \$2,500.00 (\$10,000.00 total amount) will be sent to the Foundation towards the Veterans Tribute. There is just over \$10,000.00 in dedicated funds in the account balance. The DAV/VVA combined Christmas party at the Veterans home in on Dec. 13, 2019 (2-4pm). A \$200.00 gift card was purchased by Chapter 5 towards this event.

President – Mike Korger

There were many Veterans Day events held around Eau Claire, including the Appleton VVA Chapter holding an event at the UW campus. The military makeover program continues weekly on Lifetime TV on Fridays at 6:30am. There is a State Council Meeting being held in Waupaca on December 7th. A reminder of the Veterans Home Christmas Party is on December 13 (2-4pm).

VP – Larry Wrycza

Absent – no report

AVVA – Rick A. Talford

The 2020 Pizza Ranch dates have been set (Jan. 8, Apr. 15, July 15 and Oct. 14). A discussion on holding the January 8, 2020 meeting at Pizza Ranch occurred with membership agreeing to change the location for that meeting. A meeting will be held for the AVVA at the State Council meeting following the VVA meeting.

National Meeting – no update

Regional Meeting – no update

State Council Meeting – Dec. 6th will be the Christmas Party and Dec. 7th will be the quarterly meeting in Waupaca.

VA/Benefits/Claims- Dave Mayenchein

A list of Agent Orange illnesses was shared with membership. The commissary process was discussed, with a suggestion for members to visit with their CVS0 for any paperwork to be completed. Mayenchein informed membership that he would not be attending the Jan/Feb. meetings due to traveling.

Minority – Dave Zien

The Christmas tree project will take place again this year on Menomonie St. in Eau Claire. The trees will be harvested from Camp Victory on Friday, December 6th. The lot will open on Sat., Dec. 7th at 9am. There will be art displays during the month at the lot. They will include; Dick Quick (paintings), Tom Neuenfeldt (wood carvings), Dean Moats (stained glass), Bob Heller (creative motorcycles) and Bill Boyea (photography). There is also a plan to unveil the Werlein/Hmong legacy sign. It is still being worked on, as it has been difficult getting a list of names for the Hmong Group.

Membership – VVA 125 AVVA 22

Old Business

Veterans Home – Rory Schutte

The Veterans Day event went very well. There will be a Pearl Harbor Day event on Friday, December 6th at 1:30pm.

Highground – Joe Graff

No report

Logo/clothing – Joe Heil

The glove program was approved last month and the gloves were purchased and brought to the meeting. They are available at the cost of \$20.00 a pair. There would be a \$5.00 per pair returned if the Chapter wanted, or more gloves could be purchased with the rebate, was an offer through the program. The membership agreed to purchase more gloves with the rebate. If you would like to look into the program you can look online at [www.everythirdsaturday.com](http://www.everythirdsaturday.com) or call 715.797.4757 or 715.229.4456 for more information.

New Business

Fundraiser – A meeting should be held in February 2020 for next year's plans.

#### Chapter Election – Joe Heil

Members should start thinking about the positions available with the Board of Directors and Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary). An under-study for treasurer is also being sought.

#### Committee- Joe Heil

The scholarship committee will need to get together to make updates on the 2020 forms.

#### Newsletter Deadline – December 18, 2019

#### Communications – Joe Heil

A biography card was received from CVTC for the scholarship recipient. The CVTC Foundation also sent a letter of thanks to the chapter. A thank you letter was received from the YMCA in Chippewa Falls for the \$300.00 received from Chapter 5 for the "Support the Troops" care packages (\$150.00 each from VVA/AVVA). The Feed My People Newsletter was received and passed around for members to look at. An email was shared by the State Council from Ed Laventure in regards to holding a Toxic Exposure Town Hall meeting. There was discussion on possibly adding burn pit information to the Agent Orange updates at the Vietnam Veterans Day event the end of March at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie.

#### Good of the Order

Dave Zien – Zien spoke of a veteran's reunion being held in Rice Lake at the Best Western. He also spoke of a recently deceased veteran who never joined a veteran organization.

Attendance drawing – Thomas Werlein – not in attendance

50/50 drawing – #4362 Joe Heil \$12.00

Bottle of Run drawing - #4349 Joe Graff

Closing prayer by Joe Graff

Adjourn at 8:30pm

The next meeting will be held at Pizza Ranch (Truax Blvd) on January 8, 2020 at 7pm.