



Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5
Vietnam Veterans of America
P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702
February 2019 Newsletter



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

Volume 5 Issue 2

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 02/06/19 5:30 p.m. AVVA's We Love Our Veterans Dinner
6:30 p.m. AVVA meeting
7:00 p.m. VVA meeting
02/14/19 Happy Valentine's Day!
03/06/19 Chapter meeting at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA 6:30 p.m.)
03/16/19 State Council meeting in Waupaca
03/29/19 National Vietnam Veterans Day
03/30/19 Vietnam Veterans Day at Eagle's Club, Lake Hallie

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org
Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5

COMMITTEES

- Veterans Assistance:
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: Dave Zein 715-829-9436
Women Veterans: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Service Officer: Peter Breed 715-642-1246
Fundraising:
Scholarship: J.Heil Chair: M. Korger, J. Graff; J/J. McBee, R.Talford
AVVA Chapter Representative: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
Historical: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-926-5302

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 & Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff

BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
Mike Smith 601-938-3746
Al Weix 715-832-4792

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**

Greetings,

We are now in a deep freeze and 10” of snow predicted. But we still have a lot of planning to do, so we shouldn’t get too cozy by the fireplace. Planning for this March’s Vietnam Veterans Day and our annual fundraising raffle are a priority. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please speak up immediately.

By the time you read this the Highground’s bowling fundraiser at Rose Bowl in Marshfield on 1/27, the AVVA Pizza Ranch fundraiser and various committee meetings should have been successfully completed.

Don’t let the winter weather hold us back. Let’s be looking to help each other and other veterans now and into the immediate future. Let’s get ready for the spring and summer.

I hope to see all of you at 5:30 p.m. for a meal put on by our AVVA on Wednesday, February 6th and then at our regular VVA meeting (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) all at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire.

Sincerely,

Mike Korger, President, VVA Chapter 5



Chapter 5 Rose Bowl Team: Bill Buss, Marilyn Mayenchein, Mike Korger, Doug Bottlemey (Marilyn’s brother), Rick Talford, and Rick Ottum; not pictured are Dave Mayenchein and Joe Graff.

VVA Meeting of 1/02/2019

Call to Order by President Mike Korger; Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer was led by Joe Graff with a moment of silence for recently departed Bill Labarron of Augusta. Guests present are Mark Beckfield, Eau Claire Veterans Foundation, Adam Kohls, Assistant Eau Claire CVSO, Wes Porter, LaCrosse Veterans Center, and Leroy Jansky, VFW District Commander.

Mark Beckfield and Adam Kohls gave an update as to the progress on the Eau Claire Veterans Foundation's Tribute Trail and received a donation from Chapter 5 in the amount of \$10,000. Wes Porter spoke about the working being done at the LaCrosse Veterans Center and how the services were begun by Vietnam veterans in 1978 and how the re-adjustment counseling program is being used by veterans.



Pictured are Treasurer Joe Heil, Adam Kohls, Eau Claire Veterans Foundation, and President Mike Korger presenting Chapter 5's donation for the Eau Claire Veterans Tribute Trail.

REPORTS

Secretary – Due to holiday mail, not everyone has received their copy of the newsletter. Approval of the Secretary's Report will be tabled until next month to give everyone a chance to review the minutes after receiving their newsletter.

Treasurer – Joe Heil reported on bank balances and expenses to date; all accounts balance and are in good standing and balance with bank statements. Ralph Ottum made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Rory Schutte; motion carried. Joe then suggested for the Chapter to purchase a laptop computer to be used for Chapter business, as there was assent to this idea, he will shop around for a good deal and will report back in February.

President – Mike Korger reiterated his report as submitted in last month’s minutes.

Vice President - Larry Wrycza not present, no report.

AVVA – Julie reported that there will be another AVVA Pizza Ranch fundraising night on Monday, January 28th from 4:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. with the thoughts of doing something special for the Women Veterans Retreat Day held in May at Trinity Equestrian Center; seeing Chapter members there to support our efforts will be appreciated. Don’t forget to come early to the February 6th meeting as the AVVA members will be providing all Chapter members with a soup and sandwich dinner with dessert starting at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting that night.

VVA National – National Convention will be held in Spokane, WA from July 16-20, 2019.

State Council Meeting – Next State Council will be held in Waupaca on Saturday, March 16th.

VA Benefits – Pete Breed talked of veterans who have a 100% disability rating to be sure to check with your CVSO if your disability is permanent that your rating indicates this because a disability and/or illness that improves with care may reduce if not labeled permanent or total. Pete also mentioned the article on Agent Orange in the Nov/Dec 2018 issue of the *Veteran* which gives a good overview of those presumptive diagnoses and disabilities recognized by the VA as being associated with the chemicals used during Vietnam.

Minority Report – Dave Zein reported that there was approximately \$2,400 received in donations for the Christmas Tree Program in which 277 were cut and donated from Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels in Willard. Dave also talked about the additional Living Legacy signs that are being dedicated to the Hmong and Dennis Werlein this coming May 13th at the Roadside Diner on Menomonie Street.

Membership – VVA 123; AVVA 17.

OLD BUSINESS

Vets Home – Rory Schutte reported that the Home received a donation of a picture from the American Legion of Rome, WI. A Veterans Ball is being planned for November 11th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with a cost of \$20/person. Rory also shared the most recent Veterans Home Newsletter and Events Calendar; there are several opportunities for volunteers to assist with outings and events at the Home. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call Mary or Katie at 715-720-6775.

Highground – Joe Graff reminded everyone of the upcoming bowling benefit at Rose Bowl in Marshfield on Sunday, January 27th starting at noon. Chapter 5's team is filled but come on out and support them at this fundraiser for the Highground's PTSD program. Find more information at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing – Long sleeved shirts and hoodies (both black & gray) are available, see Joe Heil if you are interested. Also, five of the Color Guard jackets have had repairs completed with additional jackets being worked on. Joe also shared that new arrangements are being worked on to transfer the Chapter's embroidery design to a new individual who will continue to provide the Chapter with embroidery work.

Committees – Mike Korger, Joe Heil and Joe Graff will be heading a committee to assign committee chair positions; if you are interested in being on a committee please speak with them.

Scholarship – Joe Heil will Chair this committee with Joe Graff, Mike Korger, Mac and Julie McBee and Rick Talford assisting; the scholarship forms will be updated and available for distribution by the next month's Chapter meeting.

Fundraising – Ralph Ottum brought up his suggestion of obtaining a 4-wheeler ATV as the Grand Prize for this year's fundraiser; the cost will be approximately \$4,000 and he is also looking into getting a trailer donated to haul the 4-wheeler. More research on raffle items is being done and a committee meeting will be held to discuss options to present to the membership by the next Chapter meeting.

Veterans Assistance – John Dorsey has asked to be removed as Committee Chair; this position is available for anyone who is interested. Please contact Mike Korger if interested.

Newsletter Deadline – Please submit information for the newsletter by **January 20, 2019**

Chapter Elections – Joe Heil spoke of the differences between Chapter delegates for State and National for voting purposes. Our Chapter is allowed eight (8) delegates for State and three (3) delegates for National with only those identified delegates being allowed to vote. A motion was made by Pete Breed, seconded by Dave Zien, to approve Mike Korger, Joe Heil, Mac McBee, Joe Graff and Mike Smith as Chapter delegates; motion approved.

Communications – A letter of thanks was received from Adventure on Wheels for the donation of \$500 made by the Chapter. Don't forget to check out our Chapter, VVA National, State and AVVA National sites at: Chapter Website/E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com; VVA National at www.VVA.org, State at www.VVAWI.org and AVVA at www.avva.org.

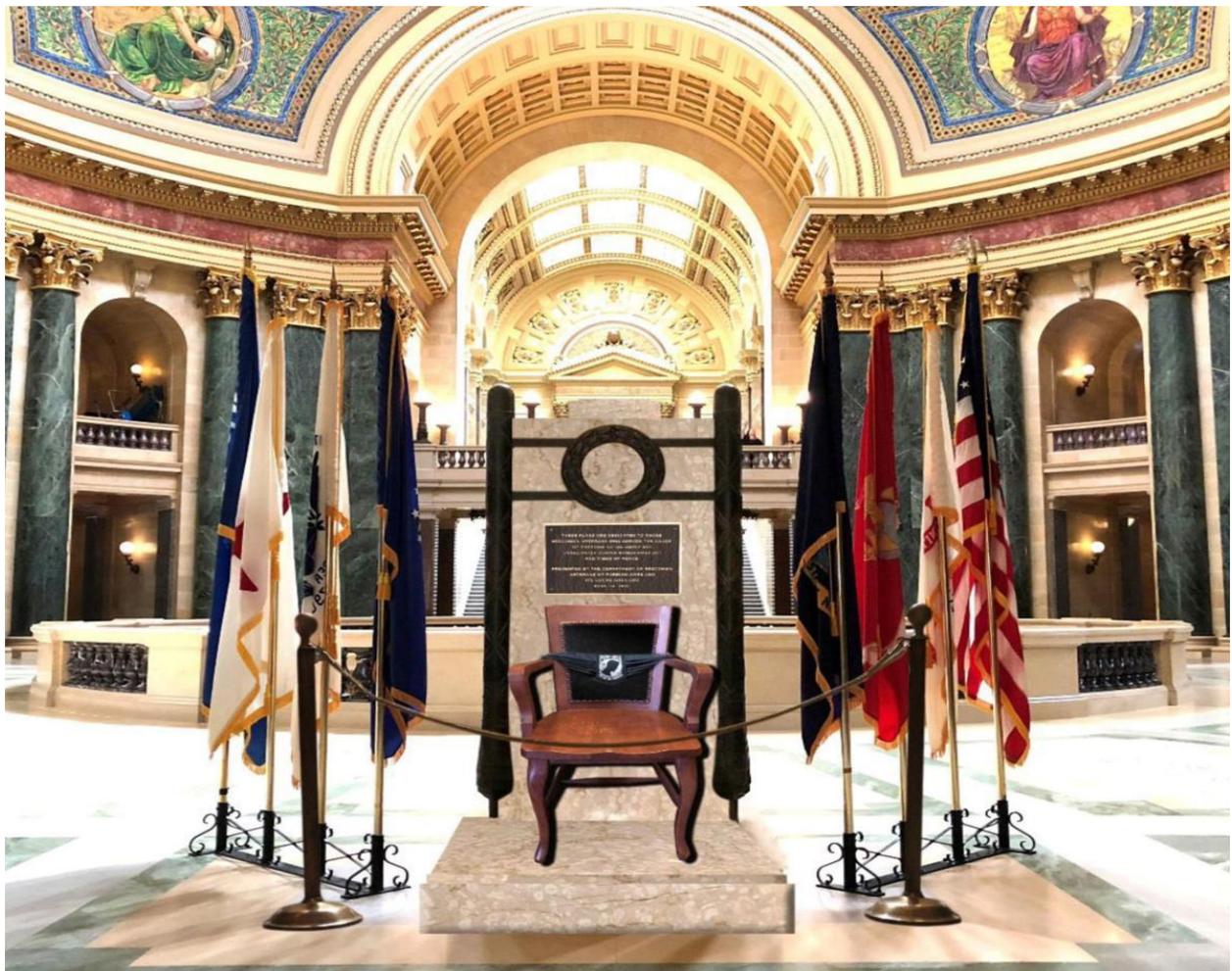
Eau Claire Veterans Council – More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com. While the Chapter has donated \$10,000, further discussion

about how we would like that donation used (bench, lighting, statute, etc.) will continue as the project gets underway.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rory Schutte commented that the Christmas Party held for the 128th National Guard on December 1st at American Legion Post 53 went very well, and he thanked the Chapter for its contribution of various certificates (approximately \$80 worth) and baked goods for this event.

A motion was made by Dave Zien to send a “Letter of Support” for placing a POW/MIA Chair of Honor at the State Capitol in Madison, seconded by Mike Smith; motion approved. An artist’s rendering of how that would look is shown below as reported in the Kenosha News of 9/21/18:



AVVA member Dean Adsit was presented with a \$50 gift certificate along with the Chapter’s appreciation for his work at the Buffalo and Dunn County fairs, as well as for his donations and auctioneer capabilities during our last fall’s fundraiser event.

Joe Graff requested the membership to bring in any items they have that would assist our Vets in the Classroom Program. Last month Doug Farmer, Mike Smith, Joe Heil, Mike Korger, Dave Mayenchein and Bob Bonesteel made a presentation at Memorial High School on December 10th at the request of a History teacher, which was well received, and they were invited back. Any items would be appreciated.

Rick Ottum reminded everyone to come early to Rose Bowl so that the event can start at noon, Chapter 5 will be bowling on Lane 1. Again, proceeds benefit the Highground's PTSD Program.

Dave Mayenchein informed the membership of the Branson Purple Heart event in April that is free for Purple Heart recipients. He and Marilyn attended last year and had such a great time and met many great folks. They plan on attending again this year, so you can get more insight from them or find out more information at Branson.com.



Leroy Jansky spoke of this year's Vietnam Veterans Day event is being considered for March 29th or March 30th at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie. More information to come when available.

Julie McBee reminded everyone of the Vets4Vets Chili Feed being held on Saturday, January 26th in Menomonie. There will be a Chili contest and a band later in the evening. These are primarily Iraq and Afghanistan vets and a good way to show our support of younger veterans.

Dave Zien announced a meeting (I believe it was Wheels of Liberty, sorry he talked so fast I didn't get it down in my notes—my bad!) on January 16, 2019 at 29 Pines from 3-5:00 p.m. Please contact him for further information about this.

Attendance drawing was won by Michelle Laventure, who was not present; 50/50 drawing won by Dan Zeigler.

Next meeting will be February 6, 2019 at 7 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) at VFW Post 7232. Don't forget to come early at 5:30 p.m. for dinner!

There were 30 in attendance and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

