



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

February 2017 Newsletter

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



Together Always

Volume 3 Issue 2

Editor – Julie McBee

Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 02/01/17 Chapter Meeting @ 7pm @ Post 7232
02/20/17 DAV Van Unveiling @ EC Ford Dealership @ 5 pm
03/01/17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING @ 6 PM
03/01/17 Chapter Meeting @ 7 pm @ Post 7232
03/18/17 State VVA Council Meeting @ Waupaca
03/25/17 Vietnam Veterans Day @ Eagles Club @ 10 am
03/26/17 Vietnam Veterans Day @ Rusk County
Color Guard needed for this event
03/29/17 Vietnam Veterans Day

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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: 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: Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
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 715-402-0106
Fundraising Co-Chair: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza

CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
Secretary Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
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

Founding principle,
Vietnam Veterans of America
***"Never again will one generation
of veterans abandon another."***



God Bless All Veterans



"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,

Activity has picked up as this New Year progresses. We had our Chapter #5 Christmas Party on January 7th at the Pizza Ranch I didn't get there until the tail end so I missed seeing most everyone who had been there.

Multiple committee meetings have met, and will be meeting on various topics. All the prizes for our annual fundraiser raffle are being finalized so we can get the tickets printed and out for early selling. Eligibility for our scholarships has been expanded. All the details for our annual Vietnam Veterans Day, to be held on March 25th, are also being worked out.

I got a look at the promotional site for our proposed Chapter #5 website. I thought it looked pretty good and Joe Heil said the cost is very reasonable.

Great news on the DAV van for Eau Claire County, it should be ready to go sometime in February and there will be a special day and program for veterans to see the van at Eau Claire Ford on February 20th.

Remember to pray for the recovery and improved health for our members Dennis Werlein, Mac and Julie McBee, Roger Schuh and Dick Quick.

I hope to see many of you at our next monthly VVA Chapter meeting on Wednesday, February 1st at 7 pm at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire

Mike Korger, President
VVA Chapter 5

VVA Meeting of 1/4/17

Call to Order made followed with an opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance led by Joe Graff.

Secretary's Report - President Mike Korger asked for a motion to accept the minutes as mailed and emailed, motion made by Joe Heil and seconded by Ralph Ottum, motion carried.

EDITOR'S NOTE: While a quick correction was given by VP Larry Wrycza stating that the pictures in the December newsletter were incorrectly labeled, I would like to personally apologize to Rick Talford, Ernie Werlein and Joe Heil. Little Norah Talford is the daughter of deceased Sgt. Timothy Talford, son of Rick and Kristina Talford. I would like it to be noted that while I *killed off* Rick in print, I at least promoted him to Sergeant before doing so! Ernie Werlein was omitted from being listed in our Color Guard, he is carrying our POW flag and Joe Heil is carrying the MOPH flag at the Veteran's Day program at Regis High School; my apologies to all of you.

Treasurer's Report - Joe Heil spoke on behalf of the finances stating, "All is in good order." Some expenses this month included Sam's Club, Colby VFW, CVTC Nursing Scholarship and payment for the entertainment during our Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls Christmas Party. Some expected expenses in January will include more stamps for mailing items, two scholarships for high school students and renewal of the raffle license for the Chapter. "All in all, everything is in really good shape." A motion to accept the report was made by Pat Moore and seconded by Larry Wrycza, motion carried.

Joe Graff asked about the Wounded Warrior Project and if things had been corrected with the organization and whether the Chapter would look into donating to them again. There had been national news reports of lavish spending on Christmas parties, etc. Rick Talford has done some research on this and has placed this information on our Chapter's Facebook Page for anyone interested. No motion made to restart funding WPP.

President's Report – President Mike Korger spoke of receiving information on the well being of several Chapter members. Dennis Werlein has had recent surgery for melanoma and will be undergoing chemotherapy for the next six months. Mac and Julie McBee also were mentioned along with Roger Schuh who is now in the American Lutheran Home in Mondovi following a month long hospitalization.

The Chapter #5 'Christmas Party' will be held on Saturday, January 7th, at the Pizza Ranch in Eau Claire from 5-8:30 pm. One last note for the Highground Bowling event for the DAV on January 29th in Marshfield, the Chapter has a team put together and a motion was made by Mike Korger and seconded by Joe Graff for the Chapter to pay for the \$50 entry fee, motion carried.

Vice President's Report – Larry Wrycza then thanked all the volunteers for a job well done in 2016 and stated that there is plenty to be done in 2017 and hoped for more member's assistance with the many upcoming needs. He wished everyone a Happy New Year as well.

National Meeting – Joe Heil spoke of this year's meeting in New Orleans, August 8-12, 2017. If anyone would like to attend for our Chapter, please let him know and if no one takes this opportunity to be a delegate from our Chapter, he will inform National so that they may reassign those delegates. Please let him know ASAP.

State Council – This meeting is scheduled for March 18th at the Ramada Inn in Waupaca, WI. He will be attending and anyone else that may be interested should let him know.

VA Benefits/Claims – None

Minority Report – None

Membership Report – There are currently 146 members as of November 2016. There is a possible transfer of a MN resident and a member incorrectly signed up as "At Large" that is being corrected to reflect Chapter #5 membership. There are currently six AVVA members that need to be renewed and those individuals will be contacted about renewing their memberships.

Note: Bernie Hartung, a Vietnam Veteran from Eau Claire, recently passed away, his funeral is planned for January 5, 2017. He survived a severe head injury while serving in Vietnam and was a Purple Heart recipient. He also was a former Commander of VFW Post 305.

Old Business

Veterans Home – Rory Schutte spoke about the most recent activities and provided some insight on the financials of the home. He stated that the new officers will be taking their positions in the next couple of weeks.

Highground Report - Joe Graff provided some information on the Bowling event at the end of January in Marshfield. He provided a handout calendar to everyone in attendance that showed the listing of events for the year at the Highground. The month of January will have a learning exhibit called "Through the Eyes" opening at 10 am daily. There is also a Retreat in July that they are preparing for, with PTSD classes being available.

Logos/Clothing Report – Joe Heil has ordered more t-shirts, sweaters, hoodies and braids. Discussion about the Chapter jackets was brief with members raising their hands to show an interest in them. It is believed the cost will be around \$100 each and will have epaulets for Color Guard braid. If you are interested in getting one, please contact Joe Heil or Mike Korger to get more information. Joe Graff asked that we stay away from having patches indicating that the wearer is a veteran who served in Vietnam, such as "I served in Vietnam" as a common logo, to avoid any conflict.

New Business

Scholarships – A meeting is needed to get the 2017 scholarships together and to extend the eligibility to all of Eau Claire County, any "Military Action" (not just Vietnam) as well as any relative of a Chapter #5 member.

Fundraising Report – Larry Wrycza provided some information on the October 1, 2017 fund-raiser at The Eagles Club. The items being looked at are a John Deere Riding Mower as a Grand Prize, 1st Place a large screen TV, 2nd Place a Henry 30-30 Rife, 3rd Place a 32" TV, 4th Place a Henry .22 Rifle, 5th Place a Quilt, 6th Place a Deer Print, 7th & 8th Places will be cash prizes. Other prizes may be available at the time of the event. Help will be needed at all the County Fairs the Chapter plans on attending, so all members are asked to provide a day or two for this cause. Once all the information is secured, tickets will be made up and be ready for selling.

Web Site – Joe Heil spoke of the costs and needs for a website. It could cost up to \$3K to get one created and running and then \$25/month to keep it up-to-date. There were a few ideas discussed with one being to research the National and State VVA sites to see if there would be a way to get assistance with setting up a website for the Chapter.

Good of the Order

The Vietnam Veterans Day Committee is planning a meeting for January 6, 2017 at The Eagles Club in Lake Hallie at Noon, everyone is invited to attend. Ralph Ottum then spoke about having John Schultz speak. It is planned to have Mr. Schultz come to the Chapter to hold a speaking session for 2-3 hours on the benefit and entitlement programs available to veterans.

Rory Schutte gave an update on the DAV van. The van is currently in Appleton getting the lift installed and will be ready for service soon. The planned date for a release event is February 20th at Eau Claire Ford for everyone who donated to the van. On February 21st the van will be available for the public to view. There will be television, newspaper and radio coverage of the event with times on the two days to be determined.

A member gave the Chapter an update about the Tomah VA dentist; attempts to speak with Ron Johnson have not been responded to, but Ron Kind has met with a member and his wife already to assist them. It is important that anyone who used Tomah for dental needs should get information and testing to ensure no health risks were created by this dentist.

Dave Zein provided information on the movie, "Dead Man's Hand." Filming is being done with a Civil War Re-enactment involving Wild Bill Hickok from 147 years ago. The producer, Jerry Allen, is well known and anyone wanting to get involved with this event may do so. It is going to be a recreation of the 1870's. A fundraiser will take place afterwards.

The attendance drawing of \$10 was won by Paul Werlein (not present) and the 50/50 drawing was won by Billy Buzz with the \$9 being donated back to the Chapter for the Vets Project. The next meeting is February 1, 2017 at 7 pm here at Post 7232. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Please note that a meeting has been scheduled for 3/1/17 at 6 pm for a Chapter Financial Audit. Contact Joe Heil with any questions or concerns.

VVA Chapter #5
P.O. 832
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