



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



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

Volume 5 Issue 1

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 01/02/19 VVA Chapter Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
 AVVA Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 01/26/19 Vets Fighting4Vets Chili Cook-Off & Bean Bag Tournament
 3p-11p @ Veteran's Center Foxhole Bar & Banquet Hall of
 Menomonie, E 4710 Ct. Rd. BB, Menomonie, WI
- 01/27/19 Highground's 6th Annual Winter Bowl Noon-2:30p
 Rose Bowl Lanes, Marshfield, WI (Go Team VVA5 GO!)
- 01/28/19 AVVA Pizza Ranch Fundraising 4p-8p
- 02/06/19 AVVA's "We Love Our Veterans" Dinner @ 5:30p
 VFW Post 7232 prior to AVVA meeting @ 6:30 and
 VVA Chapter meeting @ 7:00 All Chapter Members Invited

CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
- VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
- Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-01
- Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff

BOARD of DIRECTORS

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

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: 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:
- AVVA Chapter Representative: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
- Historical: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
- Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-926-5302

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**

Hopefully every one of us had a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Again, we accomplished a lot this past year. We give sincere thanks to all (both members and non-members) who helped or contributed to our successes, especially a few certain members who have really given a lot (again). Thank You!

As we begin the new year let's keep our eyes and ears open to help each other and all veterans with prayers and moral support and physical assistance. Let's make this new year even more successful than the last. It will take teamwork, and some new ideas will help also.

Working with and supporting other veteran organizations should be ongoing; the Eau Claire Veterans Council and the Eau Claire County Veterans Tribute Trail (groundbreaking this spring), co-sponsoring with the DAV for a Christmas Party at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls, supporting a Recognition Dinner in April for graduating seniors who will be entering the military, and to support an upcoming National Guard deployment event later this year. Please bring up other veterans' organizations event under "Good of the Order" at our meetings.

Also upcoming is the annual Highground's bowling fundraiser on Sunday, January 27th at Rose Bowl in Marshfield. We have one team already, but if others are interested in bowling, I think there is still another alley available to us. Let me know ASAP!

Thank you to Dave Zein and our members who helped him with his "free Christmas trees" promotion to aid various vets' groups and causes.

I hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA meeting on Wednesday, January 2nd at 7:00 (AVVA at 6:30) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire.

Sincerely,
Mike Korger
President, VVA Chapter 5

P.S. Just in from Joe Heil, we are in receipt of eight VVA bolo ties, anyone interested in on, please contact Joe. Price is \$23.00.

VVA Meeting of 12/05/2018

Call to Order by President Mike Korger; Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer was led by Joe Graff.

REPORTS-

Secretary – Joe Heil reported that Pete Breed communicated with him that the Family Readiness Program for assisting veterans is already in place, it had not been communicated correctly in the newsletter. Ralph Ottum motioned to approve last month's minutes with the correction requested by Pete Breed; Rory Schutte seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer – Joe Heil reported on bank balances and expenses to date; all accounts balance and are in good standing. Rory Schutte motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report; Al Weix seconded; motion approved. Joe then relayed a request from Mike Hanke at Klein Hall for a VVA flag and a U.S. flag with poles and stands for the VVA wing. After discussion, approval to spend up to \$250.00 for these items was approved; Joe will coordinate with Mike on ordering these items. The group was reminded that replacing the Chapter's Color Guards flag poles had never been finalized and that perhaps we could get a better deal by placing an order for these items along with those for Klein Hall. Lightweight, telescoping poles would be ideal for those carrying them was mentioned. Joe will check into options and report back next month with this item tabled until that time.

President – Mike Korger spoke of the many Veteran events held in November, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, the Eau Claire County Board's approval of \$450,000 for the Veterans Tribute Trail, various upcoming Holiday Parties and the free-will donation Christmas Tree give-away on Menomonie Street. Additionally, there was discussion on the Eau Claire County Veteran Service Officer position vacancy, currently being filled by Adam Kohls; Joe Heil will talk with Adam about the situation and report back to us. (NOTE: Since the meeting Adam has reported that he knows the two individuals who are being considered for the position and will have no problem working alongside either candidate; he appreciates all the support veterans have given him.)

Vice President - Larry Wrycza not present, no report.

AVVA – A steak dinner was prepared and served to the veterans at Klein Hall for Veterans Day. AVVA members will be having another Pizza Ranch fund raising night on MONDAY (note the change) 1/28/19 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. We will be focusing our efforts on raising funds to do something for the Women's Veterans Retreat Day at Trinity Equestrian in May. More details to come. Also, the AVVA members would like to give our Chapter members a Valentine's "We Love Our Veterans" dinner prior to our regular February Chapter meeting on February 6th at 5:30p—please note, an RSVP will be appreciated for meal planning. We would LOVE to see as many Chapter members as possible there for this dinner and stay for the meeting afterwards. We will be providing the meal, coffee/tea, lemonade and sodas (from the bar) to all in attendance. Please RSVP via email to Julie at weirleader1@yahoo.com or call/text her at 715-202-0181 so we can plan appropriately.

VVA National – National Convention will be held in Spokane, WA from July 16-20, 2019. Anyone wishing to make a constitutional change should have the Chapter present it to the State Council for endorsement by March 16th. Furthermore, anyone wishing to attend the National Convention as one of our Chapter's delegates, please speak with Mike Korger.

State Council Meeting – Highlights of the December State Council meeting: State Council President Richard Lindbeck emphasized for individuals NOT to get in a panic about the VVA “shutting down”, there is planning being done for recommendations on how and when this will happen which will be presented to the membership at the National Convention in July, 2019 for membership to vote on and nothing is going to happen “any time soon” and not without the consent of the membership. Dr. Tom Berger has resigned from the organization (no reason given). National has received a \$100,000 grant from the Wounded Warrior Project. Yearly memberships will no longer be offered, only a \$50 Life Time Membership and a DD214 will no longer be required unless requested by National. The American Legion is now allowing membership to ALL veterans. Chapters should update and file paperwork to both State and National regarding deceased members. Four cities are being evaluated for the next National Convention in 2021. The Leadership Conference in 2020 will be held at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH. Election and Financial reports must be filed every year; pages 1 & 2 with National, and pages 1, 2 & 3 with State. Page 3 pertains to a Chapter's voting delegates (which are elected) though alternates are appointed. If changes are made, a special election must be conducted, and Chapter Officers are not automatically recognized as delegates, unless they are elected as such. The VA Volunteer Services (VAVS) is looking for a VVA liaison for both Madison and Tomah VA hospitals. More information was requested about this program and will be obtained and presented at the next WSC meeting in March. The scholarship deadline is February 14, 2019, please review the application online through the WSC website or contact Virginia at 715-524-2487. There remains 1592 Vietnam POW/MIA's. It is important to the passage of the Blue Water Navy Bill HR299 for everyone to contact their Senators to get this bill on the floor yet this year and voted on before the new Congress is seated in January. Up-to-date information on Agent Orange may be found at agentorangezone@gmail.com. WSC meeting dates for 2019 are March 17th in Waupaca, June 15th at Highground, September 21st and December 7th in Waupaca.

VA/Benefits/Claims – Pete Breed not present, no report.

Minority Report – Dave Zein spoke of the proposed signs for the Hallie Peace Park and near the Roadside Diner on Menomonie Street. The sign proposed for the Roadside Diner will recognize Hmong veterans and Dennis Werlein. There will once again be a Free Will Christmas Tree program to provide Christmas trees with delivery also available, set-up will again be next to the Roadside Diner on Menomonie Street. There is some discussion of veterans in the Superior area wishing to start a VVA chapter there.

Membership – VVA 123; AVVA 12 Life members, 5 members current, 9 with unknown renewals.

OLD BUSINESS

Vets Home – Rory Schutte reports that all positions remain the same after recent elections.

Highground – Rose Bowl Fundraising event on Sunday, January 27th. Our Chapter's bowling team is already formed but come on out to cheer them on and support Highground. Find more information at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing – Long sleeved shirts and hoodies (both black & gray) are available. Joe Heil reports that he had his Color Guard jacket liner fixed locally and after discussion, it was felt that the Chapter should take care of the cost to get the repairs to the liner made; Al Weix motioned to approve up to \$600 for the repair of the jackets, seconded by Mac McBee, motion approved.

Committees – Mike Korger, Joe Heil and Joe Graff will be heading a committee to assign committee chair positions for Fundraising and Scholarship. Once a Chair is selected, the Chair will select members to serve on the committee. If you would like further information/details, please contact Mike Korger, Committee Selection Chair. Committees will be reviewed yearly.

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 voting. Only elected delegates can vote during State or National elections, but for State, we may add as many alternates to our election paperwork as we wish (there is one Chapter who lists every member as an alternate to cover themselves.) Our Chapter is allowed eight (8) for State and three (3) for National. Chapter elections will be held in May and in addition to Officers and Board of Director members, we will elect delegates and appoint alternates.

Communications – A letter of thanks was received from Adventure on Wheels for the donation 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 – Members from the Council (and the press) will be present at our January meeting to accept our Chapter's donation for the Tribute Trail. More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Doug Farmer spoke of needing additional volunteers for the Veterans in the Classroom program at Memorial High School, December 10th.

Rory Schutte commented that the Christmas Party held for the 128th National Guard on December 1st at American Legion Post 53 went very well.

There were 30 members in attendance. The attendance drawing was won by Dennis Woodford, not present; the 50/50 was won by Ron Perry. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at VFW Post 7232.