



# Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
January Newsletter 2016



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

Volume 2 Issue 1 Editor – Julie McBee Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 01/06/16** Chapter Meeting @ 7 p.m.  
**01/15/16** Picnic Committee Meeting @ Excel Energy on Hamilton Ave., Eau Claire from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**01/16/16 Chapter Christmas Dinner Dance** @ Post 7232 starts at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. followed with dancing 'til ?  
**02/03/16** Chapter Meeting @ 7 p.m.  
**03/19/16** VVA State Council Meeting @ Waupaca  
**06/18/16 "Welcome Home" Picnic**  
**06/18/16** VVA State Council Meeting @ HighGround  
**07/19-25/16** Persian Gulf Tribute @ HighGround  
**09/10/16 Chapter #5's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fund Raiser**

*NOTE: Shirts and hats still available, if interested call Joe Heil. Shirts, depending on whether color guard or not, \$20 or \$40 with \$2-4 more for XL sizes; braids \$12.50; hats \$21.50*

## COMMITTEES

- Finance: Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Govt. Affairs: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518  
Membership: Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Public Affairs: Joe Graff 715-579-0192  
Minority Affairs: Roger Schuh 715-926-6052  
Veterans Affairs-Benefits: Rory Schutte 715-564-1483  
Women Veterans: Julie McBee 715-202-0181  
POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0192  
Agent Orange/Incarcerated & Veterans Health Care: Peter Breed 715-827-0359  
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  
Welcome Home Picnic: R. Pettis, B. Laguban, E. Laventure, P. Breed & D. Johnson

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President: Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514  
VP: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518  
Treasurer: Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Secretary: Mike Korger 715-726-3918  
Chaplain: Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0192  
Ken Lenstrud 715-556-9440  
Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

**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!**



Season's Greetings!

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and may your New Year be filled with joy and goodness. Our VVA-DAV Christmas party at the Chippewa Vets Home was truly a good time. There was excellent music with plenty of good food and drinks. The VFW Christmas party our Chapter was invited to was an equally happy time. I am glad to say the parties are not over with yet. Our Chapter voted to have a Christmas Dinner Dance gathering on Wednesday, January 16, 2016 at VFW Post 242 starting at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. followed by live music. It will be a night of fun and celebration. We've earned it! We've had an excellent year of fundraising, helping homeless vets, recruiting new members and leading the fight on local veterans' issues. We can be proud of ourselves.

Of course with the New Year come the New Year's resolutions and goals. I believe our Chapter should also have some resolution to help make 2016 even better than this year. For one thing, we should start our fundraising business contacts about two to three weeks earlier. A lot of the business contacts said if we could have been that much earlier we could have had a lot more bigger and better door prizes, etc. Also to start the year off I am hoping to make the meetings more interesting and enjoyable so that more of our members will attend. The more the merrier!

As we get more members, more ideas are born. One of our newer members suggested that an outdoor recreation committee be formed to give some of our local children that are handicapped a good time by possibly taking them on a fishing trip. It would be a great community project and be fun for us too. Another member suggested we have one of our monthly meetings at the Chippewa Vets Home, invite the Vietnam Era vets and show a movie in the recreation room on the big screen. Our Chapter has a DVD of the VVA founding convention way back when. Our members could have a tour of the home before the movie. As our minutes indicate, there is some good news on the expansion effort our Chapter has been involved with. Other good news is that our Scholarship Committee has met with a representative of the Chippewa Valley Technical College on writing and promoting the Nursing and General Scholarships our Chapter voted to award. As you will see by the pictures in this newsletter, we presented plaques to businesses that gave substantial contributions to our Chapter. It's an honor for us to receive their trust with their contribution.

I'm going to wrap up by reminding you to attend our January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Send in your reservation for the Dinner Dance by January 6<sup>th</sup> or bring it to the meeting. Other subjects to be discussed are 1) progress on the Welcome Home picnic, 2) discussion and vote on giving appreciation certificates and 3) deciding on fall/winter jackets for the color guard

Bring a Veteran friend to the Christmas Dinner Dance on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Yours, truly,  
Dennis Werlein, Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 President

## **VVA Meeting of 12/02/2015**

President Dennis Werlein called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Opening prayer was given by Chaplain Dan Ziegler.

President Dennis recognized new members Ralph Ottum and Jim Waidelich. Ralph stated that the Girl Scouts had donated 12 cases of cookies to him to give to Veterans so he brought enough cookies along with him tonight so that everyone of us here could take a box home. President Dennis read a thank you note from Haley.

Joe Heil then introduced our special guest tonight, Judge Brian Wright, Eau Claire Circuit Court Judge. Judge Wright started by thanking us for our service. His Dad did two tours in Vietnam and Judge Wright wound up growing up in different countries and at Fort Benning, Georgia. Judge Wright then went on to say that Eau Claire County is one of the few counties in Wisconsin trying to reduce recidivism with its jail prisoners. Eau Claire has good law enforcement personnel and good treatment courts which provide services and help. Included are the Veterans Court which have about 30 participants at any given time and mostly due to alcohol or drugs. There is a team of about 12 people helping with Veterans Court and there are many agencies that want to help. Judge Wright mentioned that over 90% of civil cases are settled by negotiation. He said participants in the Veterans Court are there if they are really trying, treatment is given and there is a financial impact because of it. Judge Wright feels that Veterans Court has been effective but the government grant that has been funding it is running out so public and private donations will be needed. Judge Wright said that Eau Claire County was one of only four counties in the U.S. to start a Veterans Court and others have followed since. He will give us a blue book with names and contact information for Wisconsin lawmakers and he will talk with Judge Cray about volunteering to help with Veterans Court. Judge Wright wrapped up his presentation by asking us for our signatures to sign his petition to run for election if you are a resident of Eau Claire County.

A motion passed to accept the Secretary's Report by Mike Korger as e-mailed and mailed out.

A motion passed to accept the Treasurer's Report given by Joe Heil.

The President's Report by Dennis: The special \$100 Life Membership deal is still available until the end of December. Dennis would like to have two man teams to personally contact all former VVA members and ask them to rejoin our Chapter. Joe Heil stated that we currently have 97 members. Dennis then said we should participate in the Christmas Parade on 12/19 in Chippewa Falls. It was brought up that we would have had to pre-register and it might be too late. It was also brought up that it can be very cold for that parade so it was decided to skip this year and reconsider for next year. Dennis said that a special meeting deciding on VVA jackets will be held right after this meeting. He also stated that our big "Welcome Home" picnic will be on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> next summer. The first pitch will be at 6:35 p.m. There will be 300 free tickets available. We have four different traveling walls that we can choose from to set-up for our picnic. Dennis gave a report on the Eau Claire United Council. The DAV doesn't have a van available for Eau Claire. Rory then said that we have to find out how many Veterans would go in a van to Tomah and the Twin Cities. Rory also said that more volunteer drivers need to be added to that list. Rory said that Eau Claire County will probably have to buy a van and that donations will be needed from the various Veterans' organizations. Rory said he will know more next week. Dennis then said we needed to have an Education Committee to deal with going to the schools to talk to the students on various patriotic issues. Fred said he would be on that committee. Dave Zien then said that President Dennis has done a great job of getting Veterans access into the schools. Dennis also reminded us about the VFW Christmas Par-

ty at the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home on 12/4 and that we are all invited to attend and of our VVA Christmas Party there on 12/11. A motion passed to spend \$400 on the party. Dennis then brought up having a TET Offensive Victory dinner/dance party, maybe combine it with a Christmas theme, figure out a date and have it here at the VFW. Larry will check on a band and the Chapter will pay half of the meal costs. A motion passed to have the party here at the VFW and we pay for our own meals and the Chapter will pay for the band.

Jim Blaha said he would go to the next VVA State meeting and he will ask for the Agent Orange presentation to be set-up in conjunction with our next annual Vietnam Veterans Day.

A VA Benefits Report was given by Peter Breed. Pete has brochures for the Veterans Cemetery at Spooner where the Veteran is free and the spouse is \$550.00, but pre-registration is required. Pete also had brochures for the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home where the cost is free to any veteran who has a disability rating of 70% or more, otherwise it is \$253.00 per day. The first step has been taken to approve the expansion of the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls as 20 VSO's from 13 counties are supporting it. Dave Zien said that this first step is a major accomplishment and that Peter Breed's efforts for that should be commended. President Dennis stated that all Vietnam Veterans with permanent residence at the Veterans Home are eligible for a free Life Membership in the VVA. At the annual meeting for the Veterans Home the officers were elected and a resolution passed that money can be pledged to the recreation committee to build the new addition.

A HighGround Report was given by Joe Graff. A very humbling "Quilt of Valor" presentation was done for six Vietnam Veterans at The HighGround by the Quilts of Valor of America-Wisconsin Chapter. Each Veteran is specially honored for their military accomplishments and then each is formally wrapped in a quilt which each Veteran then keeps and takes with to use in times of special need. Next summer the Persian Gulf Tribute is scheduled for July 19-25, we should be there on the 19<sup>th</sup> with our VVA shirts being worn.

Good of the Order: Ron Perry said there are questions about the pictures that were taken at our annual fundraiser such as how many we want, what size, who is going to decide, etc.

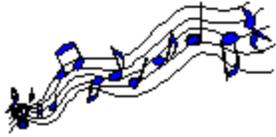
Dave Zien had something on Agent Orange (8 pages) and he needed signatures from us on his letter to the editor for a message to the Eau Claire School District. Dave also needs a letter from us to support "Maxin for Action/Pride in Patriotism" that he will arrange to be delivered to all Wisconsin legislators.

Joe Heil conducted the 50/50 drawing and the monthly meeting attendance meeting. The 50/50 winner was given a gift certificate and the attendance drawing winner was Ernest Werlein. Ernest was not present so next meeting's drawing will be for \$20.00.

Ron Perry reported that he went to Washington D.C. to the Capitol with the Rolling Thunder to discuss Veteran's issues with the lawmakers. They pushed to get legislation on the floor on Agent Orange and other dioxins before leaving on their recess for the holidays.

Peter Breed suggested that we should talk to the administrators at each school that we go to and give them a copy of bullet points on our classroom presentation.

A motion passed to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Dan Ziegler.



**Mike Voth Chapter #5  
Christmas Dinner Dance**

**Held at VFW Post 7232  
2900 W. Folsom St.  
Eau Claire, WI**

**Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
Starts at 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
Live music and dancing!**

**Cost of meal depends on turnout, will  
average between \$5-10 per person  
R.S.V.P. to Joe Heil by 1/6/16  
715-559-7089 or let him know  
at the 1/6/16 Chapter Meeting**

**Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 Vietnam Veterans of America 2016 Meeting Schedule**

All meetings held the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.  
at VFW Post 7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire

January 6<sup>th</sup>  
February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
April 6<sup>th</sup> (Chapter elections)  
May 4<sup>th</sup>  
June 1<sup>st</sup>

July 6<sup>th</sup>  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
September 7<sup>th</sup>  
October 5<sup>th</sup>  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December 7<sup>th</sup>

Please keep these dates in mind, also our **“Welcome Home”** picnic will be on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> and our **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fund Raiser** will be on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have an e-mail address, please let Joe Heil know so that you can be sent info by e-mail. Joe’s e-mail address is [jheil13@att.net](mailto:jheil13@att.net).

VVA Chapter #5  
P.O. 832  
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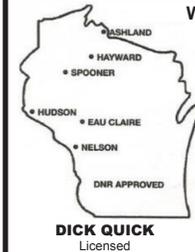
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