

Mike Voth Memorial
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 5 – Eau Claire, WI
July 6, 2022

VVA

Attendance – 20

Agenda – No changes

Call to Order – Mike Korger

Pledge and Prayer – Joe Graff

Moment of Silence

Deceased Members – Tom Lee, US ARMY – Vietnam (Color Guard will be active 7-31-22 at 4pm)

Welcome Veterans/Guests

Reports

Secretary – Dan Ziegler

Minutes were sent via email to members and hard copies available at the meeting. The minutes were approved. (Note- there were 3000 tickets purchased for the raffle, not 300)

Treasurer – Joe Heil

The finances were discussed and raffle items are still being purchased. Heil was thanked for his report

President – Mike Korger

Korger spoke of some activity the Chapter has been involved with lately. The LaCrosse Memorial was dedicated, after a student (now 22) worked 6 years to make it a reality. Korger acknowledged missing the State Meeting at Camp Victory. He finished with reminding everyone that Bean & Bacon Days was on July 3, 2022, and Mondovi 4th of July parade was the following day.

Vice-President – Ken Piel (Absent)

AVVA – Rick A. Talford (absent)

National Leadership Conference is coming up soon in S. Carolina

Meetings

National Board of Director- August 9-13, 2022 in Greenville, SC

Region 6 – Meeting has not been set yet

State Council – Sept. 2022 in Waupaca, WI

VA/Benefits/Claims – Dave Mayenchein (absent)

Minority Report – Dave Zien

Zien spoke of an award the Hmong received that is getting a lot of coverage. He also spoke of the HWY 8 name change being put together. (It has been drafted) There is initiative to get all schools in WI to continue standing for the flag and saying the pledge of allegiance every day, as well to invite veterans into their schools. Zien provided dates of events that are coming up:

7-16-22 Vet Fest – fund raiser for the vet’s home – Chippewa Harley

7-23-22 Drop Zone – 9am

8-07-22 Red Wing bridge dedication – noon

8-13-22 Road to Freedom – Chippewa Harley – 9am

8-20-22 Ride to Freedom

8-22-22 “Truth about Afghanistan” – Madison WDVA – 7:30am

8-27-22 Cruisin for a reason – Blue Marble – Chippewa Falls

9-14-22 Tomahawk Veterans Parade

Membership – VVA 125 AVVA 28

Old Business

Veterans Home – Rory S.

Rock the River went ok, was reported

High Ground – Joe Graff

Graff provided an event calendar to members at the meeting.

VVA Logo/Clothing – no report

New Business

VVA Goals, Outreach – no report

Fund Raising – tickets are available for members to sell. We need everyone to assist in making this a success.

Chapter Elections – Assistant Treasurer and Secretary are needed.

Committee – The CVTC Scholarship was given in June. The Chapter helps with guidelines and the school approves the award.

Chapter minutes deadline – July 23rd, 2022

Communications – “Thank You” card was received by Ms. Ziegler

Good of the Order

Joe G. – Graff spoke of Camp Victory holding their elections of officers. Camp Victory is back in Al Lamovics' hands again. The camp will be holding an open house the 13th of August. A motion to give a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Joe Heil – There has been no news from Pizza Ranch yet. Please keep Kaye Olson and Mac McBee in your prayers.

Rory Schutte – There is a special “Military Night” on July 21st at Country Jam. There are tickets available for more to join, and carry a flag.

Dave Zien – Jeff LeCount is the new executive director at camp victory. He has two purple hearts and several awards for heroism. Zien is also looking for a Resource Empowerment Officer at a tax office at 10 Platt St. (across from children’s museum). Rich Ellingson is an assistant VFW Service Officer at Post 305. Tom Lee service will be held July 31, 2022 with Honors.

50/50 – Sally Johnson

Closing Prayer – Joe Graff

Next meeting date: August 3rd, 2022 6:30pm at Post 7232 Folsom, EC

Wisconsin State Council Meeting
Camp Victory, Willard, WI
June 25th, 2022

Attendance – 26 (19 Veterans – 7 Associates)

Guests – Jeffrey LeCount (Executive Director) spoke to those in attendance about the vision for camp victory. There has been a separation of camp victory from the Highground, after Al Lamovic purchased the land back, after donating it to the Highground. LeCount can be contacted at 303.945.9996 (director@campvictoryinc.org) There will be an open house on August 13, 2022, as well as a Vietnam reenactment on July 16th, 2022.

Call to Order

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

POW/MIA

WDVA – Mary Kolar (Secretary) (608.266.4838) (mary.kolar@dva.wi.gov)

- Delivering benefits to spouses of veterans (Wisvets.com)
- Largest living veterans group currently are the Vietnam Veterans
- Evers executive order for the blue ribbon commission
- Focusing on WI veterans issues and needs (Native American vets)
- Long term care facilities are struggling with shortages. Industry lost 250,000 employees
- Workforce Development and Education set for June 22, 2022
- Outreach and Recovery happening in all 72 counties

- Veteran run businesses have received \$300,000.00 in grants for non-profit
- Past two years there have been 2,000 applicants and 4,000 veterans assisted
- Union Grove Vets Home has fought with staffing issues, due to covid. This shortage actually began prior to covid. Unfortunately, Union Grove has received the most citations in the state.
- King has had significant losses to our WWII veterans. They are also in need of a new kitchen.
- Chippewa Falls is in need of expansion
- National Guard has been utilized to help with these shortages, and have received training to become CNA's.
- Termination of employees for refusing the covid vaccination has been a large issue across the state.
- Veteran workforce can assist the veterans into the reintegration for civil employment through three steps; 1- Education in prior service, 2- education in service and 3- education after service
- Suicide prevention services are always needed for PTS, TBI and Suicide
- Homelessness can be assisted with tiny homes, but the veterans need more than just a roof over their heads.

President Report – Demske

- DVA (Nationally) has taken no action on Toxic Exposure.
- A plan to sue the secretary for non-action has been set
- The BOD has agreed unanimously
- University is taking on case, without charge
- There is no national registry for birth defects as of yet
- PACT ACT has passed the House. The Senate made some changes and it went back to the House, where they are now claiming it will cost too much money
- Burn Pits have 23 presumptive illnesses attached to it. Eligibility will begin in 2023, and applications will go through 2033. The estimated cost will be \$150,000,000,000.00 (Billion)

Roll Call (Chapters/VVA & AVVA)

(5)2+1, (92)1+1, (101)1, (115)0, (202)0, (206)1+2, (220)0, (221)0, (224)1, (236)1, (256)0
(324)0, (331)0, (351)2+1, (409)0, (425)4, (437)0, (448)1, (479)1, (529)0, (635)1+2
(729)1, (731)1, (767)0, (921)0, (1130)0, (at large)1

Secretary Report –

- Minutes have a correction. It should be Greenville, not Greensboro, SC, that the Leadership Conference will be held.
- Website is now up and running. It is the third generation of the site. Hackers have caused the need to make changes. Please watch the video “The Last Thing We Ever Do” on the website.

Treasurer –

- Revenue was just over \$9,000.00.
- Waupaca now charging \$250.00 for the meeting.

Region 6 –

- National closing creates the question of “What do we do?”
- WG1 was finally adopted by the BOD in the April 2022 meeting

- Website – www.vva.org.documents/policies for more information
- Guidelines for closing set by New York
- Regional meeting will be set, once a state is willing to hold the meeting. There have not been any that have shown interest at this time.
- Panel of inquiry of the board – Veterans Voice of America. Four VVA Attorneys created the organization. (vetvoa) Veteran’s claims are the priority of the VetVoa if chosen by the VVA to become the successor.

At-Large –

- \$280 Billion will be needed over the next 10 years to fund our veterans.
- August 6-13, 2022 will be the Leadership Conference

Legislative –

- HR3967 Pact Act has added 24 presumptive illnesses
- Arlington is almost full currently, and an expansion is being fought by residents in the area. There is a search for more land.
- Dr. Whittle research – post card mailing to all VVA members for a PTS survey is planned. The hope is to get 10% to respond. The need to work with WDVA is real, as the costs may be near \$1,000.00. A motion to provide \$1,000.00 towards this mailing was made by Foye and seconded by Graff. The motion carried without objection.

AVVA –

- Membership has broken the 10,000 member barrier again, and hopefully will continue to grow.
- Missouri was the top state in membership this past month.
- Project Friendship for the Leadership Conf. was discussed and a request for donation was made.

Old Business

It is to be known that National is NOT going anywhere soon. Meetings in the Regions and States must continue.

New Business

NONE

A motion to give Camp Victory a \$1,000.00 donation was made and seconded. The motion was approved without objection.

Election (State of WI)

President – Mike Demske
 Vice-President – Dan Sciuti
 Secretary – James Mullarkey
 Treasurer – Pat Carney

A motion to approve the four positions as a unanimous ballot was made and seconded. The motion carried without objection. The Officers were then sworn in.

Adjourned at 12:37pm