



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

July News Letter 2015

Meeting First Wed. of the Month • 7:PM



Volume 1 Issue 7 • Editor • Julie Mc Bee, Assistant/Dennis Wood

Upcoming events

Chapter meeting July 1st, 7:PM

19th of Sept. VVA Chapter #5 Fundraiser
Chicken Feed at VFW 7232 on Folsom St.

Chapter contacts:

Pres. Dennis Werlein-Ph. 715-577-8514

V.Pres. Bob Laguban- Ph. 651-285-8518

Tres. Joe Heil-715-839-7089

Sec. Mike Korger-715-726-3918

Chap. Dan Ziegler-715-559-5158

POW/MIA and High Ground:

Joe Graff-715-579-0192

Agent Orange/ Incarcerated
Veterans/Veterans Health Care:
Peter Breed-715-827-0339

Fund Raising Chair: Ron Perry/Julie Mc
Bee- 715-286-5155/715-926-1167

**Wishing everyone with Birthdays or
Anniversaries a very blessed Day!**

Board of Directors:

Joe Graff, Dan Ziegler,
Ken Lensrud: 715-235-9432

Committees:

Finance: Joe Heil- 715-839-7089

Govt. Affairs:

Bob Laguban-651-285-8518

Membership: Joe Heil

Public Affairs:

Roger Schuch-715-926-6052

Veterans Affairs-Benefits:

Peter Breed-715-827-0359

Women Veterans:

Julie Mc Bee-715-926-1167

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



God Bless All Veterans



President, Dennis Werlein, Message

Dear Members,

Well it's turning into one of those summers that you better keep your lawn mower tuned up and its blades sharp. Raining about every other day keeps everything nice and green, but just about stopped our Memorial Day parade. Thankfully the rain held off and the parade went on. It was a good one. We had the best turnout of our chapter members and flag bearers in years. We had about a dozen keeping in step on the pavement pretty good and about 7 or 8 riding in the wagon. Two or three guys came up afterwards to me and said it was a very positive and emotionally high and moving experience. We all looked sharp especially the members wearing our new color guard shirts and hats.

Cannot say the rain held off for our picnic meeting at Irvine Park. We had quite the thunderstorm and downpour. One lightning strike hit about one hundred and fifty yards away and shook the whole pavilion. It wasn't a complete washout though, as we had over 30 people show up. We had a good time and got a lot of business done and ate some really good food. Some of the business done: Passed out clovers for donations to half a dozen or so teams, and selected 2 members to be our delegates to national convention, they are Jim Blaha of Altoona and Joe Graff of Augusta. Thank you for planning to go. It will be the first time in about 15 years our chapter will be

represented at the national convention. What a good thing for our chapter!

By the time you get the newsletter the raffle tickets and the money should have been turned in to Joe Heil for the drawing at our July 1 meeting at VFW post 7232. If you haven't, send them immediately to Joe Heil at 1231 Rowe St., Eau Claire WI 54703. All indications are it will be very successful. Good luck all purchasers!

We had a fundraising committee meeting last week and are making plans for our fundraising raffle including a large TV and other prizes. Posters should be available for distribution at the July 1st meeting. Also taking place at the meeting: 1) Plans for another outing with the veterans from the veterans housing project. 2) Strategies for a membership drive. National has an awesome special life membership deal for new members from August 1st to Dec. 31st. Enrollment just \$100. 3) Distribution of more clovers and more of the donation receipt forms for the fundraiser chicken feed on Sept. 19th.

The next month or so is a very important time for our chapter to carry on the great programs and helpful donations we have given to a lot of needy vets less fortunate than us. Please consider stepping up to carry on the chapter's new tradition by helping out in any way you can. A big thank you in advance. Also big thanks to Ron Perry on being our cochairman of the fundraising committee and coeditor of the newsletter. Thanks also to Julie McBee for stepping up to be editor of the newsletter. Julie, Mac and their family have been have contributed lot to the success of our chapter.

See you at the meeting,

Dennis Werlein, Chapter president

VVA Meeting of 6/3/15

A cookout and meeting was at the picnic/shelter on Flag Hill in Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls.

President Dennis Werlein called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Dennis then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Dan Ziegler said the opening prayer. Dennis was disappointed that none of the specially invited guests were there as it was raining.

A motion passed to accept the secretary's Report as e-mailed and letters sent out.

Our Treasurer, Joe Heil, was not present as anticipated. President Dennis gave a brief treasurer's report.

In the President's Report Dennis said he was very pleased that we had more than 20 members participate in Eau Claire's Memorial Day parade.

He said that we might have 8-10 new members because of the parade. Dennis said that Joe Graff, and Jim Blaha will be delegates at the VVA National convention from July 21 – 25.

The next VVA State meeting will be a picnic meeting at the Highground on June 20 with an Agent Orange meeting from 11-12.

A VA/Claims/Benefits report was given by Peter Breed. Pete said there was a welcome change in the rule about living 40 miles or more from the nearest VA medical facility. The distance will be measured according to actual driving distance instead of "as the crow flies".

Roger Schuh gave a brief Minority Report.

In a Membership Report by President Dennis, he said our official membership was 79 as of April 30, but it currently is about 85. Our goal is still 100. Dennis also gave a brief Vet's Home Report. He said there are 2 accounts with good funds. Pete said there will be a charter bus taking veterans from the Vets home to a Brewers/Twins baseball game.

President Dennis gave a report on the VVA Region 6 meeting held at Janesville on May 15th & 16th 2015. Dennis was pleased that we had 6 of our members there, and our club was noted as having the biggest increase in membership in the last quarter in 7 states. A

big opportunity for a big discount for a life membership will start August 1.

Be sure to take advantage of this for yourself or getting a new member.

Joe Graff gave a Highground Report. Joe emphasized the fireworks night on June 27 and Hardee's will be on the grounds and will donate a portion of their proceeds from that day to the Highground. He said the Laotian Day at the Highground was a success. A motion passed to authorize making a special quilt honoring the military and our country for a raffle.

A Clothing report was given. Our shirts came, but the flag patches are in the wrong place and will have to be changed. Our Chapter logo patches need to be made yet.

For the Fundraiser Report we urgently need a replacement for Ron Perry to take over running the fundraiser. We also need a replacement for him as editor of our chapter newsletter.

Larry Wrycza also brought up replacing our silent auction with raffles consisting of sheets of paper with 36 squares on each. Winners would be determined by the throw of 2 dice (1 black, 1 white).

Dennis Wood started a discussion about questions he and Garth had about whether the VVA and the VVA Associates are together or separate. Is the VVA a "last man standing" or are the associates going to carry on their legacy?

President Dennis explained that the IRS ruled they have to be separate organizations, but we can do everything in unison.

A motion was approved to pay the hotel room expenses for the Region 6 conference.

A motion to adjourn passed. Chaplain Dan gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. 14 members had been in attendance, plus a number of family members who attended the picnic.

Joe Graff had bunches of clovers available to be sold. Also we forgot to do our monthly drawings. They will resume at our next regular meeting on July 1.

Our Annual Fund Raiser this year

19th of Sept. VVA Chapter #5 Fundraiser Chicken Feed at VFW 7232 on Folsom St

Mark your calendars and join us, inviting our friends! Volunteers can sign up now!

Our fundraiser is only six months away and now's the time to plan for success! We have some new things planned to make our event more family friendly. We will start our Chicken Feed at noon until either we are out (Lord willing!) or 6pm.

We will then have a live band and dancing from 6pm - 9pm. Looking into a DJ or other music

arrangements from noon till the band starts, any DJ's out there?

We will have some tents with games set up, specifically a balloon dart board and bean bag toss. We'll also have an area set up for kids (really anyone) to write a letter to a Vet--complete with all the stuff to write, **CONT Page 5**

No *ticker-tape parades* greeted the men and women who returned from war.

No *handshakes*, no *thank-yous*.

So they turned to each other and formed

Vietnam Veterans of America

But even as they forged the bonds that would help them survive the peace

They made a vow *Never again* will one generation of veterans *abandon* another

Even while they tended to their own

They've also *reached out* to the veterans of more recent conflicts

Welcoming them home and shaking hands

At airports and parades.yes,

But also offering *comfort in darker hours*.

And *fighting for them* in the halls of state legislatures,

The corridors of Congress, And the maze of the VA.

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: VVA Membership Affairs, P.O. Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299

Name _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____ Email Address _____

Chapter No. _____ Sponsor _____ Sponsor's ID No. _____

• Eligibility: Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. military (for other than training purposes) between February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 (in-county Vietnam), or between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975, for Vietnam-era veterans. Return this application along with a copy of your DD F6rm-214.

• Term: 1 year - \$20 3 year - \$50 Life Membership - \$200 (age 56-60) \$175 (age 61-65)
\$150 (age 66-71) \$100 (age 72+)

• Payment Option: Check Money Order Credit Card (Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet

Signature: _____ Date: _____ and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).

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draw and decorate a note that will be hand delivered. Needless to say, we NEED everyone's involvement to make this work and be successful. There will be sign-up sheets at every meeting for members to sign up for an activity they would like to help with and the times they are available to help. We need set up people, greeters at the door to take money, monitor the activity tables (only from 12p - 6p) and the beer table, help selling raffle tickets, and cleaner-uppers! We want to be good guests of Post 7232 and not leave a mess! We'll have bake sale items again this year, and as requested from last year's attendees, we will have some gluten free and sugar free goodies as well.

Our Rifle Sweep drawing will be at 8pm on 7/1/15 at VFW Post 7232. REMEMBER--Gun raffle participants MUST be eligible to LEGALLY own a firearm in the state of Wisconsin and guns are to

be picked up at Ryan's Sports Shop in Durand, Wisconsin.

Donation forms are available, they are in duplicate this year so a copy can be left with the donator and a copy turned in for our record keeping.

It is NEVER too early to start seeking donations.

While you're at it, mention our newsletter and the chance for a business to advertise. Ad prices vary upon size placed: 1" = \$100/year (\$8.33/month) 2" = \$150/year (\$12.50/month) or 3" = \$200/year (\$16.60/month). Businesses that place ads help sponsor our newsletter and are also a donation. Oh, did I mention that we'll have a helicopter available for our fundraiser? We have much planned and are open to suggestions and ideas. How about having your family help out? Great way to encourage participation and have fun too!

Any questions, call Julia McBee at 715-926-1167 or email at mrsmac1012@yahoo.com and I'll answer or find the answer for you.

Celebrate!



VVA Chapter #5

P.O. Box 832

Eau Claire, WI 54702

Postage
Here

On the previous page is an application. Please use it to bring in new members.
Please bring the application back to the Chapter so we can send it in.
Make checks payable to: Vietnam Veterans of America
You help to build Chapter #5 is greatly appreciated

You can help Vietnam Veterans of America by asking friends to sponsor this monthly newsletter.
Make tax deductible donation.

Show your business supports our veterans by sponsoring
this publication and newsletter which is shared with all members and sponsors.

Call President Dennis Werlein at 715-577-8514


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