



Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5

Vietnam Veterans of America

P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702

July 2018 Newsletter



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

Together Always

Volume 4 Issue 7

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 07/11/18 Chapter Meeting @ 7pm @ Post 7232
AVVA Meeting @ 6:30 pm @ Post 7232
07/11-15 NWSF @ Chippewa Falls
07/18/18 AVVA @ Pizza Ranch on Clairemont Ave. 4p-8p
07/25-29 Dunn County Fair, Menomonie

CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-926-1167
Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff

BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0912
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

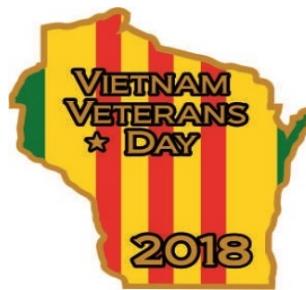
Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com

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: **Vacant – Anyone interested?**
Minority Affairs: Dave Zien 715-829-9436
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 & Co-Chair: Julie McBee
Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, M. Korger, J. McBee, L. Wrycza
AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
Historical: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
Vets in the Classroom: Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-690-7376

**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!

Greetings:

Hopefully everyone had a great 4th of July! There is a lot going on and it would be great if everyone is able to participate in and help out with the numerous activities. There will now be a fair almost every weekend. Be sure to help out with these and relieve those who generously spend so much of their time running our booth. Already we had success at the Eleva Broiler Fest. Please check our listing of fairs and call the contact person to set up a time to help. If possible, set up your own table at a store or business and ask another member to help you.

Other events include another AVVA fund raiser at Pizza Ranch on July 18th. The Highground has been having numerous events and ceremonies including fireworks on June 30th. Check out their website or get a schedule of events from Joe Graff at our next meeting or from our booth at one of the fairs. Contact Adam Kohls at the Eau Claire County VSO office to be a volunteer driver to the VA in Minneapolis or Tomah.

Our annual fund raiser is quickly approaching on September 8th. All members should be selling our raffle tickets and rounding up donations and raffle prizes for the event.

Thank you to everyone who has already participated in or helped with numerous events, such as raffle ticket sales, the Highground, the Chippewa Valley Air Show, the Wisconsin Veterans Home golf outing, the Trinity Equestrian Center's 8th Annual Horsepower for Veterans event, the State VVA Meeting at the Highground, and whatever else I forgot to include.

I hope to see all of you at our next VVA meeting on Wednesday, July 11th at 7:00 PM (AVVA at 6:30 PM) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger
President, VVA Chapter 5



- 7/11-15 NWSF at Chippewa Falls
- 7/25-29 Dunn County Fair at Menomonie
- 8/02-05 Buffalo County Fair at Mondovi
- 8/08-12 Clark County Fair at Neillsville
- 8/17-19 Big Rig Show at NWSF Chippewa Falls

VVA Meeting of 6/6/18

Call to order was made by President Mike Korger with the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer led by Sgt. at Arms Joe Graff. Welcome to Winston Baker, renewed Life Member.

Secretary's Report: Motion made and seconded to accept the Secretary's Report as mailed and emailed was made and carried with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Heil gave the financial report, went over expenses paid, expected expenses, account balances and motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report was made; motion carried.

President's Report: Mike Korger spoke of the pancake feed that had to be postponed in Augusta, will relay new date when available. Also, when someone wants the floor to speak, it is requested that you stand so as to be heard by all in the meeting.

Vice President's Report: No report, Larry Wrycza not present.

AVVA Report: Julia McBee spoke of the upcoming AVVA State Rep election at the Highground on June 16th, of which our own Rick Talford is a candidate. There will be another event on Wednesday, July 18th at Pizza Ranch so mark your calendars!

National VVA Convention: Next National Convention will be in Spokane, WA in 2019. Leadership Conference will be held in Palm Springs, CA this July from the 24th-28th.

State VVA Meeting: Next meeting will be held at Highground on June 16th. This will be an election meeting with a pot-luck picnic to follow. Those planning on attending should RSVP Mike Demske so he can have an accurate head count for the meat; State Council will be supplying the meat for grilling with attending members bringing a dish to share. Contact him at 920-973-3909 or via email at Michael.Demske@yahoo.com.

Membership: 144- but new applications are being processed.

VA/Benefits: Pete Breed spoke of the continued issues with the VA's Choice Program. It was reported that the program could be broke by May 31st. It was noted that President Trump just signed a significant bill to allow this program to continue. The Blue Water Navy bill is being readdressed to help those veterans who did not step foot on ground and are not getting benefits that they deserve from having been exposed to toxins, there are more than 90,000 veterans that are in need of help.

Minority Report: Dave Zein spoke of the largest battle between Indian groups in Wisconsin, the Battle of 1861 and the 29 Resolutions. Minnesota seems to be ready to take the lead on the battlefields and a possible Interpretive Center in the making. Dave also spoke of the upcoming pancake feed in Fairchild and that there will be a petition available to support local schools and other organizations in the use of Indian names.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Home: Rory Schutte spoke of the Flag Day events at the Veterans Home for June 14th. Joe Heil added information on the June 14th Golf Outing Event at Lake Hallie.

Highground: Joe Graff spoke of the upcoming events for June 16th and the 30th, which will include a volunteer luncheon and an early 4th of July celebration with fireworks. There will be a stone laying for Dennis Werlein on September 15th, Chapter Color Guard is needed for this and we will have a luncheon served afterwards. Learn more at www.thehighground.org.

Pat Moore spoke of the Working Dog Memorial and told a story by the pastor at the ceremony who told everyone that he had been saved by "Satan" several times while in Vietnam, then he explained that the name of his military service dog was Satan.

Logo/Clothing: Long and short sleeve shirts are ordered. 20 Color Guard jackets, along with an extra five have been ordered.

Eau Claire Veterans Council: More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com.

Fundraising: Our 6th Annual Fall Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 8th here at VFW Post 7232. Posters are available. Raffle tickets are available, contact Joe Heil if you wish to start selling tickets to friends/family/neighbors/enemies/anyone/everyone! Plenty of help will be needed at the fairs; this year we will have a drawing for a FREE 3x5 American Flag to help draw attention to our table. Sign-up sheets at next meeting for helpers at the various fairs will be available. Call Julie with any questions at 715-202-0181.

Communications: Joe Heil read a Thank You note from Maggie, one of our scholarship winners. Remember our Chapter's Website/ E-Mail: www.mikevothmemori-alvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com and don't forget you can find National info at www.VVA.org and State info at www.VVAWI.org.

Newsletter: June 28th

NEW BUSINESS

Pete Breed spoke of the VFW's Unmet Needs Program and wanted everyone to know there are funds available for a one-time payment of \$750.00 to help those in need. The requirement is a DD214 or Honorable Discharge from military service. Widows of veterans are eligible if their family had not requested assistance previously. "District 9 has had this program running since 2006", and National Guards and Reservists are also eligible if they are in District 9, even if they live elsewhere in the state, but are active in District 9. Jerry asked about the Unmet Needs program and the involvement by Burger King. Pete replied that Burger King has been a huge supporter of veterans saying that Mike DeRosa of Burger King intends on doing this "until the need no longer exists."

Dan Ziegler spoke of the Eau Claire Veterans Council backing Adam Kohls to replace the ailing Tim Moore. Adam has done a great job with veterans and should be considered for the position that has become vacant for the CVSO. Currently Adam is the Assistant CVSO and that he has been assisted by the Barron County VSO. A "Letter of Support" was created with most all veteran groups in Eau Claire county signing on to back Adam being named the County VSO.

Joe Graff asked all in attendance to keep Tim Moore in their prayers. He also asked the Chapter members to approve having hamburgers, brats & hot dogs and sides for Dennis Werlein's stone laying at Highground on September 15th. Our Color Guard will be asked to attend the event for the Werlein family. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass as well for this gathering after the stone laying, motion made, seconded and approved for the Chapter to purchase the meat for this event.

Rory Schutte spoke of being in Cadott recently and noticing that our National VVA flag is getting pretty worn and in need of replacement. Joe Heil responded that he has a flag and will get it replaced. Rory also added that he was recently at Longfellow School and that the school appreciated our Veterans in the Classroom Program that he has been involved with adding that this had been something that Dennis Werlein wanted us to participate in and how good he felt doing so.

Dave Zien spoke of a few items; first, he brought in two flags that have been signed by numerous folks and stated that these flags belonged to the Chapter and he didn't know where the Chapter wanted them kept. Secondly, he spoke of Veterans for Prosperity and of the chance for people to be interviewed about the VA (pro or con) and then he spoke of the upcoming Fairchild Rod & Gun Pancake breakfast event and the placement of a flag pole honoring a veteran who had received two Purple Hearts, asking for everyone to join in.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rick Talford thanked everyone who attended the Memorial Day Parade in Eau Claire to represent Chapter 5 and a special thank you to Jerry Bergtram for bringing his Jeep to be part of the parade. Rick also spoke of Mike Korger and his attendance at the St. Matthews Church service the day prior to represent Chapter 5 as part of the Color Guard for the service.

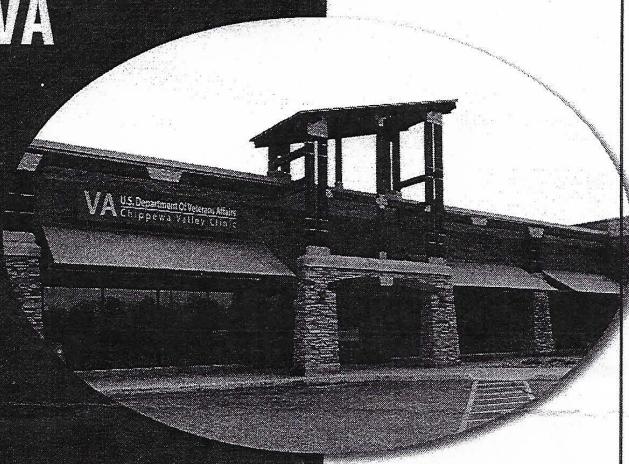
The Chippewa Valley Air Show was briefly discussed; a B29 will be at the event and volunteers can come out and help the Eau Claire Veterans Council Foundation raise funds. Jerry will be there with his Jeep as well and for those who would like to help at this event, shifts will be three hours long. Dan Ziegler added that it would be nice to see Chapter 5 represented at this event.

Attendance Drawing was won by Jim Norton, not present, so next month it will be \$20, and the 50/50 was won by Bob Bonesteel.

Closing Prayer and Salute was offered by Joe Graff and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. There were 23 members in attendance.

Chippewa Valley VA

Open House



Thursday, July 12, 2018

12:00 pm -1:30 pm

**475 Chippewa Mall Drive, #418
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

**Guest Speaker: Jake Leinenkugel
VA White House Senior Advisor**

12:00 *Alicia Beranek, RN, ANM Chippewa Valley VA*

12:05 *Dr. Chris Ploenzke, PharmD, BCACP, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
Dr. Stephanie Bazal, DPT, GCS
Dr. Grant Bauste, Psychologist
Angela Castillo-Sterry, RT, RDMS, RVT, RT R*

12:20 *Mr. Patrick Kelly, Director,
Minneapolis VA Health Care System*

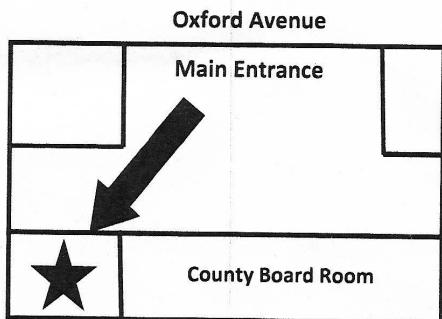
12:30 *Jake Leinenkugel, VA White House Senior Advisor*

*Chippewa Falls, Minneapolis VA staff and Mr. Leinenkugel
will be available for questions.*



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

Clinic will be open for tours from 12:00 pm -1:30 pm.



**Veteran Services Has Moved
Same Great Work, New Location
Eau Claire County
Government Center Suite 1130
off of the main entrance*

We are excited about the move and hope that you will be, too!

More time...

- Veteran Services and the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) now share a reception and waiting area.

Great customer service...

- Friendly Eau Claire County staff will greet you and help you with your needs
- Veterans will have access to more streamlined services than before! For example, you can now get help with Medicaid, Medicare and VA Healthcare access and questions at the same location.

No interruption in service...

- We are settled into our new offices and are looking forward to serving you

**You are welcome to come visit us in our new
space during office hours**

Monday—Friday from 8:00AM—5:00PM

Or

Give us a call at 715-839-4744



VVA Chapter #5
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