



Mike Voth Memorial
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter # 5
Eau Claire, WI 54702
June News Letter 2015
Meetings First Wed of the month 7:PM



Together Always

***Volume 1 Issue 6 ♦ Editors: ♦ Dennis Wood ♦ Ron Perry ***

Upcoming events

Chapter meeting June 3, 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

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

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!**

Founding principle,

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



God Bless All Veterans



President, Dennis Werlein, Message

Hello Chapter Members,

I just came back from the VVA Regional Conference in Janesville. What a fun and humbling experience. I was so impressed by the reports of chapter activities in the seven state region. Most of the chapters have membership numbers from 100 to 300 members. It shows in all the activities and fundraising success they have. Instead of raising money in the thousands of dollars, some of them are in the tens of thousands of dollars. A lot of the proceeds go to scholarships and the support of different Vietnam memorials that are being built and a POW-MIA museum. We are doing well. We now have over 80 members and, we have contributed thousands of dollars annually to help veteran’s groups and individuals in need.

In April just after our last newsletter was sent, our chapter sponsored the LZ Lambeau Pizza Party for the vets at the Wisconsin Vets Home in Chippewa Falls. “What a great afternoon. We served about 60 vets and some of their family members. A big thank you to Toppers Pizza and Pizza Hut who together donated 15 pizzas, just enough to go around plus some for the staff who helped us. I sent a nice chapter thank you card to Toppers and Pizza Hut.

Our chapter was at the organizational meeting of the Eau Claire County United Vets Council. We all agreed to support the Eau Claire County Board in

VVA Meeting of 5/6/15 Minutes

President Dennis Werlein called meeting to order at 7 p.m. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Dan Zeigler gave the opening prayer. Treasurer’s report was given by Joe Heil. A motion passed to accept his report.

which some of their members are interested in building a veterans tribute/memorial in the county. The Vets Council also addressed other needs for the county like transportation to the VA. Our chapter passed a motion at the May meeting to support both objectives. It was reported at the May meeting that our Independence Day raffle tickets are selling well. Remember to bring the stubs to the picnic on June 3rd, at the Flag Pavilion, in Irvine Park, Chippewa Falls. Sorry I made a mistake in the May newsletter. The raffle drawing will be held at VFW Post 7232, not post 305.

The picnic will start at 3:00p.m. And last until 8:00 p.m. We have to be out of there by 9:00 p.m. Come early please or call me that you’re coming so we can get a head count on how many brats and burgers we need to get, buy and cook in time for us to be done eating by our 6:30 meeting We will start eating about 5:30. We may also need some help with the disabled vets from the vets home who have been invited. Chapter 92 members have also been invited. There will be Vietnam era music, horse shoes, bean bags, and croquet.

The chapter also voted to have a new chapter banner made for parades and 2 smaller ones for displays. Our chapter was honored to carry the American flag and our new banner and display our banner by the altar of Pleasant Valley Methodist Church in rural Fall Creek on May 24 for a Memorial Day service. Other items on the agenda for our picnic meeting are, 1) delegates to the national convention on July 25 in Springfield Illinois and 2) distribution of POW-MIA and Agent Orange clovers 3) make plans for the fundraiser on September 19..

Hope to see you at the picnic,

Dennis

Werlein , Chapter President



The secretary's report as e-mailed and by letter was accepted with 3 corrections. Our next meeting will be a picnic meeting on Wednesday, June 3, at 3 p.m. on Flag Hill at Irvine Park. There will be BBQ, games and maybe a D.J. Next year we will invite all veterans. President Dennis Werlein gave a report on our LZ Lambeau pizza party held at the Chippewa Veterans Home. He said we received 8 pizzas from 2 different Pizza Huts and 7 pizzas from Topper's Pizza. The leftover pizza was given to the staff. He said there was good attendance by the residents and our members. Joe Graff stated that our members should have engaged in more conversations with the residents there. President Dennis said that he had presented our plaque of appreciation to the owner of Micon 8 Cinema and the owner was very appreciative of it.

The National VVA meeting will be in Springfield July 21-25. The next State VVA meeting will be a picnic meeting at the Highground on 6/19. Bring a dish to pass and there will be an election of officers. Member Richard Quick stated that grape seed extract is the best antidote for Agent Orange. Peter Breed gave the VA Benefits/claims Report. He said that prostate cancer is a big concern and gave his report based on the Mayo Clinic Health Letter of May 2015. Basic preventative factors are eating a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding tobacco products, and exercising regularly. One interesting item was drinking up to 6 cups of coffee daily can result in a 50 % reduction of the risk of prostate cancer. Pete also talked about erectile dysfunction. The VA will pay \$103 monthly for this. He discussed the various solutions offered for this. Pete also emphasized that we should get our claims in with the VSO and don't put it off.

There was a short Minority Report by Roger Schuh. Joe Heil said our membership has reached 78. The 50/50 meeting raffle was won by Bob Martin. Larry Wrycza gave a gun raffle report. Larry said there are 2500 tickets and 583 books had been sent out. \$395.00 had been deposited and \$180 had been turned in so far today. Joe Heil said he will be ordering the two ceremonial AR15 rifles plus the bayonets. President Dennis said that at the monthly Chippewa Veterans Home meeting everything was going good. Dave Zien said that no action has been taken by the legislature to expand the Home, even though there are 240 on the waiting list. Joe Graff gave a Highground Report and handed out various pieces of literature. Joe pointed out various upcoming events and said that a psychiatrist is available every Thursday if you call ahead for an appointment.

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 Form-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 (Visa, MC, Amex) Life Membership - Optional time payment plan - \$50 down, \$25/month

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ___/___/___

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I am a spouse/family member or friend of a Vietnam Vet and would like to join Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA).



VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA

1-800-VVA-1316 or
<http://www.vva.org>
Temporary Membership Card
Valid for 90 days

Date _____ Chapter No. _____

Name _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Sponsor's Phone _____

Chapter Phone _____

Your VVA membership card will be mailed to you within two weeks after receipt at VVA national headquarters. Direct inquiries to VVA, 8719 Colesville Rd., Suite 100 Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 565-4000, or contact your local chapter.

Ken Lestrud gave a Clothing Report. Ken said our VVA shirts would be arriving on Friday, but the patches were not ready yet. The full price of the shirts is \$40.00, and for honor guard members only \$20.00. A tally was taken of those present who are available to be honor guard members and alternates. It was determined that we do not have enough members to do funerals yet.

Joe Graff gave a report on the size and cost of table banners to be used for various VVA activities including clover sales. A motion passed to buy two 3' x 4' banners plus one large banner to replace our current one.

Dave Zien reported that 3 additional highways of honor are being considered in the legislature and the Hwy 12 Iron Brigade sign in Augusta might be replaced and moved. On 5/20 there will be the unveiling of a sign in Portage.

Jim Blaha gave a report on the first Eau Claire combined Veterans Council meeting. Transportation for veterans and land for a bigger veteran's memorial tribute were discussed. The next meeting will be on 5/26. A motion passed for our VVA chapter to support a new veteran's memorial and tribute. It was mentioned that the DAV is buying 10 new vans and maybe one would be for Eau Claire. A motion passed to recommend to the Eau Claire County Board to partially fund veteran's transportation. A motion also passed to support funds for flag disposal boxes for Eau Claire County.

Our chapter needs more volunteers to help with our clover sales. It was stated that the minutes of our meetings and the information for our newsletter is needed by the 15th of each month, the 20th at the latest.

Joe Heil said the boonie hats are here and we can get one from him for \$21.50.

The monthly general membership drawing winner is Tom Werlein, but he was not present, so the drawing at the June meeting will be for \$30.00.

A motion to adjourn passed at 8:40 p.m.

Chaplain Dan Ziegler gave the closing prayer.

High Ground Report

On May 14, 2015 was Lao-Hmong Veterans Day celebrated at the High Ground. Vietnam Veterans Chapter #5 was present and it was very much appreciated by the Lao-Hmong veterans. They laid about (12) Legacy Stones. Their story and some of their lives are being presented at the Learning Center at the High Ground for May and June. There will be Memorial Day ceremonies 25th May. June 20th 2015 is V.V.A. state meeting at the High Ground, 11:-00 a.m. meeting on Agent Orange. June 27th 2015 Freedom Celebration and events (fireworks). Hardee's will be present with hamburgers fries and shakes. Hope to see you there!!!

Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. Our goals are to promote and support the full range of veterans issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for our generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam Veterans. We hold as our first principle that we are measured by our deeds and openness as evidence of our core values of justice, integrity, and meaningful achievement.

For more information on specific issues or programs, check the appropriate boxes below:

- VVA legislative efforts
- Agent Orange Education Campaign
- Hepatitis-C Education Campaign
- The Veterans Initiative program
- VVA veterans benefits filing assistance
- The Veteran's Self-Help Guide on Stress Disorder
- The Veteran's Self-Help Guide on Discharge Upgrading
- VVA product collection (pins, wearables, and logo items)
- Volunteer opportunities
- Local chapters
- Organizing a chapter
- Becoming a membership recruiter
- Member benefits information
- Other _____

New Member Profile

Occupation _____

Hobbies/Interests _____

Blood Type _____ Can you donate? _____

Emergency Contact _____

Contact's Phone _____

Local Contact _____

Your membership dues include a subscription to VVA Veteran

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, 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.

On the previous page is an application. Please use it to bring in new members. Please bring them 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 to this monthly newsletter. Make tax deductible donation. Show your business supports our veterans by sponsoring this publication and newsletter that is shared with all members and sponsors.

Call, Ron Perry, 715-286-5155 or Commander Dennis Werlein at 715-577-8514

1 Column Inch \$100 Year Donation
\$8.33 a month, Price of Breakfast

Please Patronize our Sponsors and let them know you seen their advertisement here! Thank You!

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Mondovi Family Restaurant
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Open 6am – 9pm 715-926-5550
699 E. Main St. Mondovi, WI 54735

2 Column Inches \$150 Annual Donation. \$12.50 a month.
Price of buying a Veteran a good lunch would be a wise investment
And shows your support in Community and our Veterans

Stand out from all the rest with this 3 Column Inch add for only \$200 for a whole year.
\$16.60 a month, cost of a single Dinner out on the town. Consider it like taking a veteran out once a month, while really catching the eyes of our readers. And all donations are tax deductible.

Please show your support
Today!

*

VVA Chapter #5
P.O. Box 832
Eau Claire, WI 54702

Postage
Here