



Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5

Vietnam Veterans of America

P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702

March 2019 Newsletter



Meetings held 1st Wednesday of every month @ 7pm

VFW Post #7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire, WI

Volume 5 Issue 3

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 03/06 **Meet the new Eau Claire CVSO, Eric Killen at 1p.m.
@ the L.E. Phillips Senior Center Thompson Room
- 03/06 VVA Chapter Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
AVVA meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 03/16 VVA State Council Meeting in Waupaca
- 03/27 VN Veterans Day @ L.E. Phillips Senior Center at 1p.m.
- 03/30 VN Veterans Day @ Eagles Club starting at 10 a.m.
- 04/03 VVA Chapter Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
AVVA meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 04/17 AVVA Pizza Ranch Fundraiser from 4-8:30 p.m.
- 04/27 Annual Veterans & Family Spring Conference
@ Menomonie Alliance Gym 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org

Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5

COMMITTEES

Veterans Assistance:

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: Joe Graff 715-579-0912

Minority Affairs: Dave Zein 715-829-9436

Women Veterans: Julia McBee 715-202-0181

POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0912

Service Officer: Peter Breed 715-642-1246

Fundraising: Joe Heil/Julia McBee

Scholarship: Graff/Heil/Korger/McBee/Talford

AVVA Chapter Representative: Rick Talford 715-926-5302

Historical: Julia McBee 715-202-0181

Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-926-5302

CHAPTER CONTACTS

President Mike Korger 715-726-3918

VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106

Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089

Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-0180

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

Founding principle,

Vietnam Veterans of America

***"Never again will one generation
of veterans abandon another."***



God Bless All Veterans

**** Weather permitting; if Eau Claire schools are closed,
the L.E. Phillips Senior Center is also closed.**

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**

Greetings,

SNOW! A four-letter word we are growing very weary of. PLAN! A four-letter word we should be concentrating on. The Vietnam Veterans Day planning committee should be finalizing their plans shortly. They are looking for donations from local individuals, businesses, government, or service organizations to the "Vietnam Veterans Day Fund." Can you help with that?

Also, our fundraising committee should be finalizing the prizes for our annual fundraising raffle so tickets can be printed before Vietnam Veterans Day. Our raffle is where every single member can participate in a small or big way. We had a big success with last year's raffle. Let's strive to top that! Start lining up dates at a business to set up a table and sign to sell our tickets. Please volunteer to help at one of the fairs or community events we are lining up again this summer. There will be ample opportunities to help, so please participate even if it is just to allow head calls.

Upcoming events include a State VVA Council meeting on March 16 in Waupaca, and a Highground greeters meeting, also on March 16th. The Highground does need more greeters. Can you help one day a month? I see that the Eau Claire City Council did approve their support for the Eau Claire Veteran's Tribute Trail. It will be great to get that construction started.

I hope to see all of you at our next meeting on Wednesday, March 6th at 7 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger,
President VVA Chapter 5

VVA Meeting of 2/6/19

Call to Order by President Mike Korger; Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer was led by Joe Graff. A moment of silence was held in honor of Rob Packard, Kuwait and Iraq Veteran, from suicide today. (Do you need help? If you are a veteran and are thinking of taking your own life, contact the [Lifeline for Vets at 888-777-4443](tel:888-777-4443) and speak to another vet or [Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 #1](tel:1-800-273-8255). And just for the record, anyone can call Julie on her cell phone at any time of the day or night, and I do mean ANYONE at ANYTIME!! 715-202-0181)



Prior to the start of the meeting Joe Heil gave a reminder message regarding VVA/AVVA members; AVVA members cannot motion, second or vote on any VVA issues, though AVVA members' input during discussions is always welcomed. Likewise, VVA members cannot motion, second or vote on any AVVA issues during an AVVA meeting, though, again, their input is welcomed.

REPORTS-

Secretary – Motion made by Larry Wrycza, seconded by Rory Schutte to accept the current January 2019 minutes as mailed and emailed; motion carried. Motion made by Ralph Ottum, seconded by Mike Smith to accept the December 2018 minutes as mailed and emailed; motion carried. No further discussion engaged pertaining to Chapter minutes.

Treasurer – Joe Heil reported on bank balances and expenses to date; all accounts balance and are in good standing. Motion made by Dan Ziegler, seconded by Joe Graff to accept the Treasurer's report as given; motion carried. Discussion then turned to the purchasing of a laptop for Chapter business; motion made by Doug Farmer, seconded by Joe Graff to spend up to \$650 for a laptop for Chapter business, newsletters, etc., motion carried.

President – Mike Korger reviewed his President's letter as recorded in the newsletter.

Vice President – Larry Wrycza apologized for missing so many meetings; requested membership to help with this year’s fundraising efforts at the various fairs we will be present at.

AVVA – Julie McBee informed the membership that a special election had been held tonight with a change in the Chapter’s AVVA Representative to Rick Talford. Rick plans on adding his name to the candidacy for Region 6 Deputy Director at this year’s National Convention. The Pizza Ranch fundraiser that was held on January 28th brought in \$235 (\$84 and change from our percentage of the evening’s sales, and \$150 from tips). Next Pizza Ranch fundraiser is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16th from 4-8:30 p.m. Weather and the event being held on a Monday night were reflected in the night’s total, but still a good effort and a big Thank You! to all who showed up to support our AVVA members. Finally, a BIG thank you to AVVA member Marilyn Mayenchein for thinking up tonight’s “We Love Our Veterans” dinner and for making the yummy desserts, and to AVVA member Peg Ottum for making the delicious soup and chili that were enjoyed tonight. Thanks, Ladies!

VVA National – National Convention will be held in Spokane, WA from July 16-20, 2019. Anyone wishing to make a constitutional change should have the Chapter present it to the State Council for endorsement by March 16th. Furthermore, anyone wishing to attend the National Convention as one of our Chapter’s delegates, please speak with Mike Korger.

State Council Meeting – Next meeting will be Saturday, March 16th in Waupaca.

VA/Benefits/Claims – Pete Breed spoke of the VFW’s Unmet Needs program and brought up the idea of the Chapter putting together our own “unmet needs” program to assist veterans or their spouse if the veteran is deceased. Joe Heil indicated that he would put this item on next month’s agenda for discussion. Pete indicated that he is willing and available for the vacant Veteran’s Assistance Committee Chair. Pete then gave an update on a recent 9-2 federal court ruling on a Blue Water Navy lawsuit; the Blue Water Navy bill was just reintroduced in the U.S. House and members of both the House and Senate are being urged to pass this bill and send it to President Trump for signing. Additionally, four new diagnoses (Hypertension being one of them) have been added to the Agent Orange presumptive listing; for a complete list contact your CVSO or view the list at www.va.gov/benefits.

Rod Anderson then spoke about the Eau Claire County DAV van and some issues that have been resolved with the VA. Approximately 30% of the veterans that are in the Eau Claire area go to the Tomah VA for services. With the addition of some new drivers, the DAV van will now be able to start offering rides to the Tomah VA on even days while continuing to offer rides to the Minneapolis VA on odd days. If you need a ride, contact the Eau Claire County Veterans Service Office at 715-839-4744 to book a ride or for more information.

Minority Report – Dave Zien absent, no report.

Membership – VVA 122, AVVA 20

OLD BUSINESS

Vets Home – Rory Schutte spoke of the Home's newsletter (copy available tonight) and the need for volunteers to assist with various needs, one of which is for shopping help...if you like to shop, perhaps this is for you? Any assistance you can give with the various volunteer opportunities is appreciated and you can contact the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls at 715-720-6775 for more details. There is also a history project that needs help, and this will eventually be sent down to Madison.

Highground – Joe Graff informed everyone of a “Greeters Meeting” being held in Neillsville on Saturday, March 16th at the Apple Valley Bar. The Rose Bowl event held on January 27th went well with proceeds going to the Veteran's PTSD Retreats (two for guys, one for gals) at Wisconsin Adventures on Wheels in Willard, WI. Find more information at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing – Long sleeved shirts and hoodies (both black & gray) are available. Some completed Color Guard jackets are available tonight, he has taken in five more for completion. Total cost will be roughly around \$500, lower than previously estimated and approved by membership.

Newsletter Deadline – Please submit information for the newsletter by **February 20, 2019**

Communications – Mike Korger shared a letter from the Vietnam Veterans Day Committee for the upcoming 2019 Vietnam Veterans Day event which will be held on Saturday, March 30th at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie starting at 10 a.m. Joe Graff made a motion, which was seconded by Mac McBee, to donate \$250 for this event (past years donations to the Vietnam Veteran Day event have been \$250); motion carried. Don't forget to check out our Chapter, VVA National, State and AVVA National sites at: VVA National at www.VVA.org, State at www.VVAWI.org and AVVA at www.avva.org. Website/E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com.

Eau Claire Veterans Council: Joe Heil requested veteran support for the upcoming Eau Claire City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 11th at the Courthouse. This will be the Council's final vote for their approval of the Tribute Trail. Your presence will show the council members that this project has veteran support and endorsement. Joe also asked how many had seen the television ads for the Tribute Trail on WEAU13; if so, what did everyone think? More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com.

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraising: Joe Heil and Julie McBee will be co-chairs for this committee. Last year's raffle brought in nearly \$23,000 with expenses of approximately \$3,600. With the event's poor turnout by both Chapter membership and the community, it has been agreed to not hold an event but rather sell raffle tickets as that has been our biggest source of revenue. By not having an “event” we would not incur expenses for food or entertainment, nor would membership have to gather door prizes or silent auction items. Eight items have been decided for the raffle:

1. Meat package with small freezer and gas grill (\$1,000)
2. Two pairs (4 total) of 3-Day General Admission Country Jam 2020 tickets (\$900)
3. Mathews Mission 400 Cross Bow (\$800)
4. Henry 30-30 Rifle with Octagon Barrel (\$750)
5. Handmade Queen Size Quilt
6. Two cash prizes (\$250 each)
7. 32" Flat Screen TV (\$200)

The drawing date will be scheduled to coincide with our regular Chapter meeting on September 4th. Banners will be purchased to assist with drawing attention to our fair booths. Last year the purchase price of a 3x5 banner was \$120, Julie will check on pricing for two banners. Projected Fair schedule is:

1. Eleva Broiler Fest May 31-June 2
2. Cinder City Days June 7-June 9
3. Lake Martha Days June 13-June 16
4. Northern Wisconsin State Fair July 10-July 14
5. Dunn County Fair July 24-July 28
6. Buffalo County Fair August 1-August 4
7. Clark County Fair August 7-August 11
8. Big Rig Truck Show August 16-August 18

Help for set-up, manning and take-down of booths at all these events will be needed. ALL fairs require that set-up is completed prior to opening day, that a booth is always manned during fair operations, and booth take-down is not commenced until the end of the fair on the last day. This requires a lot of time and the Chapter has been fortunate to have dedicated individuals who have committed to getting the job done—BUT, it is very draining, and help is needed so the same few individuals aren't BURNT OUT from their efforts on behalf of the Chapter. Please consider how you can help. ***"Many hands make light work." John Heywood.***

Scholarships: There are two \$1,000 high school scholarships; forms are being updated and deadline is April 1st for spring awards; the CVTC Nursing Scholarship is \$1,000 and awarded in the fall through the college; the Dennis Werlein Veteran Scholarship is \$1,000 and deadline is August 1st for fall award. Don't forget that the VVA State Council also has high school scholarships available, so be sure you check out the website www.vvawi.org for more information.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Joe Heil spoke about the Annual Veterans and Family Spring Conference "The Making of a Veteran" hosted by the Dunn County Veterans Service Office for veterans, their families and the public on Saturday, April 27th from 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Menomonie Alliance Church Gym, 502 21st St. NE, Menomonie, WI 54751. This event is to educate veterans of the available resources and programs for them and their families, and to also provide an opportunity for veterans to meet other veterans. Contact the Dunn County VSO at 715-232-1646 for more info.

Rick Ottum spoke about the Rose Bowl Fundraiser for Highground on January 27th; scores after two completed games played were Marilyn Mayenchein 210, Rick Ottum 365, Mike Korger 323, Rick Talford 313, Doug Farmer 291 and Bill Buss 275. He asked the membership if they would like to start the process of getting listed for next year's bowling event and getting on the same lane (1) as this year. This was agreeable to everyone present. Also present from Chapter 5 were Joe Graff and Dave Mayenchein; while they did not bowl, they were busy selling raffle tickets for the Highground and everyone had a good time.

Rory Schutte provided some information that the National Guard Reserve HQ 128 group's deployment is now scheduled for this coming July.

Joe Heil reported that the flag poles for Klein Hall were purchased from the Northern Safari Army/Navy Store here in Eau Claire for \$20 apiece. After discussion, it was felt that for the Chapter's needs for parading, the Color Guard would do better with a stronger pole for outdoor use. Looking into flag poles for the Chapter will continue. Anyone with a good idea, call us.

Attendance drawing was won by Terry McDonald, who was not present, and the 50/50 drawing was won by Peg Ottum.

Closing Prayer was offered by Joe Graff and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. There were 24 members in attendance. Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Post 7232.



**Saturday
March 30, 2019**

**Eagles Club
2588 Bus. Hwy. 53
Lake Hallie, Wisconsin**

9th Annual **Vietnam Veterans Day Program**

Opening Ceremony 10 a.m.
All Veterans Welcome

Program Highlights

- Keynote Speaker:
Col. Daniel Doughty, USAF (Ret)
- Wis. Lao Veteran of America, Inc.
Capt. Noa Shoua Xiong
- Vets Center - PTSD Program and More
- WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar (Invited)
- County Veteran Service Officers Q&A
- Lunch is available for purchase

VVA Chapter #5
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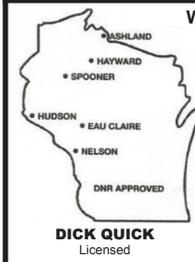
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