

Mike Voth Memorial  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 5 – Eau Claire, WI  
March 1, 2023

Attendance - 13  
Agenda – no changes

Call to Order – 6:45pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer – Joe Graff

Moment of Silence –  
Deceased Members – LTC Kerm Morgan, Richard Mitchell and Louis Verbracken

Welcome Veterans and Guests –

Reports

Secretary – Dan Zeigler

The minutes sent out to membership by email were voted upon. The motion to approve was made by Dennis Wood and seconded by Ralph Ottum. The motion carried without objection.

Treasury – Joe Heil (absent – report will be provided next month)

President – Mike Korger

There was not too much activity during February to report on, but Korger did invite everyone to the Vietnam Veterans Day event being held on the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie.

Vice-President – Ken Piel (absent)

AVVA – Rick A. Talford

Talford reported no activity for the past month

National Meeting – The next Convention will be in Orlando, FL (fall of 2023)

Region 6 Meeting – May 19-21 in Johnston, IA

WI State Council Meeting – March 18, 2023 in Waupaca, WI at Par 4

VA/Benefits/Claims – Dave Mayenchein (absent)

Minority Report – Dave Zien (absent)

Membership – VVA 125 – AVVA 28

Old Business

Veterans Home – Rory Schutte (absent)

Meetings are held every third Wed. of the month at the Chippewa Falls VFW

Highground – Joe Graff

Another display will begin on May 10, 2023

VVA Logo/Clothing – Joe Heil (absent)

#### New Business

VVA Goals, Outreach – Joe Heil (absent)

Fundraising – Oct. 4, 2023 will be the drawings for this year's fundraiser. The items selected by the committee are as follows;

- 1- S130 John Deere riding mower
- 2- Meat/Grill/Freezer package
- 3- 55" or 60" Television
- 4- .410 Single Shot Shotgun
- 5- \$300.00 Wal-mart Gift Card
- 6- \$300.00 Cash
- 7- Wooden Flag
- 8- Wooden Train Set
- 9- Wooden Doll House

Chapter Elections – April 2024

Committee – Scholarships applications for 2023, have been updated and sent out.

Chapter Newsletter Deadline – The newsletter has been on hold, as minutes have been provided through email. If you are not receiving the emails, please inform Joe Heil, to be placed on the list.

Anything under the good of the order

Joe Graff – The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "Sugar Bush" orientation will be taking place at Camp Victory on March 4, 2023. For future events, you may contact Camp Victory at 715.267.6832 or

[Director@campvictoryinc.org](mailto:Director@campvictoryinc.org).

#### Future events

April 26, 2023 – "Veterans Day at the Capitol" - The topics include: WI Vet Property Tax Credit Eligibility Expansion, Funding for the UW MIA Recovery Project, Lower 5 year residency requirement for tuition remission program, Reduce fees on all DNR Sporting licenses. You can register at [BIT.LY/VDATC](https://bit.ly/vdatc)

April 29, 2023 – "Toxic Exposure Town Hall Meeting" – Beginning at noon, the talking points under this topic are: Agent Orange, Dioxin, Burn Pits, Fuels, Leads, Biological Warfare, Multiple Vaccinations, PCB's, Asbestos, Fumigants, Fungicides, Insecticides, Depleted Uranium, Oil Fires, Paints and Solvents, etc. Learn and share how toxic exposure is affecting you, your children and future generations. You can RSVP at 920.422.1266 or [frankewitt@gmail.com](mailto:frankewitt@gmail.com).

50-50 drawing – not held  
Closing Prayer – Joe Graff

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Next meeting – April 5, 2023 at Post 7232, starting at 6:30pm on Folsom St, EC

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Vietnam Veterans Day

“Thank You”  
ALL Veterans that served during Vietnam.

WI State Council Meeting  
Par 4 – Waupaca, WI  
March 18, 2023

Attendance – 20 of 23 Chapters w/1 under suspension

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer (10am)

Guest Speaker – Dr. Tom Hall, PhD – 816.363.1234 or [thomashall4800@gmail.com](mailto:thomashall4800@gmail.com)

PTSD Discussion; struggles with denial

- 1- The (D) used after PTS has a definition of Interference with daily activity over a lengthy time.  
“Not just for ourselves we are born” Dr. Hall Stated.
- 2- US Military Core Values; loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage and commitment.

Dr. Hall spoke of looking back at the papers he wrote some 50 years ago, after Vietnam. He noticed that he kept out his own experience in Vietnam, due to the “MAN” telling him to. Not doing so then, is a feeling of loss now. “Retirement can lead to suicide”, Hall replied.

Hall continued to speak of the changes in the VA since the 70’s to now. He feels the Vet Centers should have family therapist on hand. Substance abuse (liquid, pill or smoke) is never started with the intent on becoming an addict. Psychedelics are coming back into use once again.

Traumatic Brain Injuries are not the same as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. One takes manualized care, and the other takes continuing care.

The difference between drug dependence versus drug addiction can be explained easily. Dependence can lead to a withdrawal, and addiction can lead to issues with daily life.

Dr. Hall provided some great insight for those in attendance, and was “Thanked” by all, with a standing ovation.

Topics discussed through the meeting;

- 1- Election information
- 2- Website information – Dr. Whittle Survey (Please go online and take)
- 3- Pact Act additions (Hypertension and MGUS)
- 4- Dissolution – read/discuss it at your Chapter meetings (especially sec. 3.5 on pages 33-36) – 10 year plan has not begun at this point

J. Mullarkey made a motion to create a committee with the Executive Officers, Region 6 Director and the AVVA Representative. A second was received by Larson (Chapter 635). The motion carried without objection.

R. Linbeck then provided information on the next conventions. The 2023 Convention will be held in Orlando, FL. The 2025 Convention will be held in New Orleans, LA. The 2027 Convention is yet to be set. Linbeck added that there are getting to be more and more disabilities at each Convention. There is a sense that there will not be too many more Conventions at the rate of attendance decline that is happening. Finishing up, he added “An AVVA/VVA Dual Membership Pin is being put together for the 2023 Convention”.

AVVA Representative Pat Furno then provided some information on the by-law changes she would like to see at the Convention. One of which is getting rid of the dual membership status, allowing VVA members to vote in the AVVA meetings.

NOTE: Opinion, as I believe there is no reason to take away the status of a veteran in the VVA, to vote in the AVVA. A bylaw change allowing dual members to vote will not take away their status with the VVA. These are two separate organizations, and the Veterans should not only be labeled as AVVA members in order to vote on issues.

Scholarships – Seven applicants completed the paperwork. Three were chosen: Appleton East HS, Marion HS and Menomonee Falls HS. Each will receive \$1,500.00 after completion of the requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.