



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



Volume 1 Issue 2 Editor: Ron Perry ♦ Assistant, Dennis Wood

Upcoming events

Chapter meeting March 4th 7:PM
Vietnam Veterans Appreciation
CVTC March 26th 4:PM
Spaghetti Dinner at VFW 305

Vietnam Veterans Day
Eau Claire March 28th
At VFW 305 1300 Star Ave.12 - 5 PM
Ceremony 2:00- 3:30 Great speakers.

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

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



President, Dennis Werlein, Message

Hello everyone from Chapter #5,

Just reading over our latest National VVA Veteran Magazine. On the membership notes pages there sure are a lot of good events taking place at a lot of local chapters across the country. Vietnam Era veterans are helping a lot of needy people and fellow veterans. We all can be proud of our fellow members and the good things they are doing.

Reminds me of our chapter's storied past. To let you know that chapter #5 is the second oldest continuous chapter in the country. We go back to our chapter starting in 1980. That's over 30 years of fundraising and helping our community and fellow veterans. Some of the highlights of events include 1) monthly visits to the PTSD unit in the Tomah VA, in which some of our chapter members had put in over 200 volunteer hours per year visiting the veterans there. 2) Organize a demonstration at the Tomah VA to keep the unit going when the VA was going to eliminate it. Our protest resulted in the VA keeping the program intact a lot of valuable counseling knowledge and techniques were learned in those years that have now helped returning Afghan and Iraq veterans with their PTSD. 3) Organize fund raising golf tournaments to help the veterans in the PTSD units. 4) Held Harley-Davidson motorcycle fundraiser raffles to help

veterans in the area. 5) Organized and held a 24 hour round the clock POW-MIA vigil to raise public awareness of the issue. 6) Carloads of our officers went around to West Central Wisconsin communities to help charter other chapters in the state. 7) Organized, promoted and conducted the first founding state convention to start the Wisconsin State VVA council of chapters from across the state of which there are over 22 chapters currently. 8) Helped sponsor and guard the "Traveling Vietnam Wall" of 58,000 names of veterans that gave their lives to stop communism and promote freedom in Southeast Asia, when the "Wall" came to Eau Claire.

These are all in years past in which we can be proud of our activism to help our fellow veterans. I'm sure there are more I haven't recalled here.

Recently in the last couple of years we have raised and given thousands of dollars to help our local veterans and other programs helping veterans in need.

We have done all this while our national membership has grown to over 600 chapters across the nation. Most of them are doing as much as we have and more.

For all the good things we Vietnam era veterans have done, we have earned the right to be called "The best of our generation", living up to our national VVA motto, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another".

In signing off I need to mention some changes and corrections from last month's newsletter. Good news as the Vietnam Veterans Day event on March 28th will include Vietnam veteran Medal of Honor recipient Gary Wetzel as one of our main speakers. What an honor to have him speak at our event. There will not be a banquet meal, but food will be available from noon until 2:00 pm during social hour. At 2:00pm the colors will be marched in and feature speakers will start with Gary Wetzel first.

Before that date, on March 4th is our next monthly meeting, starting at 7:00pm at VFW Post 4232 on Folsom Street. The agenda includes:

- 1) Ideas and methods to shorten the length of our meetings.
- 2) Selecting staff for our Veterans Day event.
- 3) Electing representatives to the Eau Claire County Veterans Council organizational meeting on April 20th

Yours truly,

Dennis Werlein

Mike Voth Memorial VVA Chapter #5 President

Minutes from VVA meeting 2-4-15

President Dennis Werlein called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Dennis led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chaplain Dan Ziegler said the opening prayer. A guest, Rev. James Norton, was introduced by Dennis.

The secretary's report was given by Mike Korger. A motion passed to accept his report. A brief treasurer's report was given by Dennis as Joe Heil was unable to attend as anticipated.

In his President's report Dennis talked about the Jan. 29th meeting for the annual Vietnam Veteran's Day. It will be held March 28th in Eau Claire county and March 29th in Rusk County. Garth Johnson is a co-chairman from E.C. County and Dennis Wood is the executive committee chairman from Rusk County. Dave Zien is arranging for the speaker to be Gary Wetzel, a Medal of Honor recipient from Wisconsin. Leroy Jansky will be the M.C. The setup for March 28th will be at 10 a.m. at the VFW Club Post 305 on Starr Ave. in Eau Claire. The program will be from noon until 5 p.m.

Dennis reported that Joe Heil has received the patches and pins that were previously ordered.

Dennis also stated the next State Council meetings will be on March 21st at Waupaca with an Agent Orange meeting from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m., and on June 19th at the High Ground with an Agent Orange meeting from 11 a.m. – noon.

Peter Breed then gave the VA Benefits/Claims report. Pete said that there are a lot of benefits available that most of us don't know about. He

showed us the book that is available with all the benefits listed. He said CRDC is for 50% or more disability, and CRFC is for 10% or more disability. Pete said you have to ask your VSO about these benefits as they tend not to volunteer the information. So, ASK!!! Pete pointed out that any disabled vet is eligible for the VA's "home adaptation program" which is available to make changes to your home for you disability.

There was no Minority Report.

Membership is currently at 73, and soon to be 74. Under New Business, Dennis stated that our goal is to have 100 members by the end of the year. Dan Ziegler stated there is a fundraiser by the DAV on June 6th. There was nothing new to report on our fundraiser on Sept. 17th. April of 2016 will be the next officer elections as the terms run for 2 years. Dave Zien said that there will be a roundtable meeting on March 17th with Ray Boland from 5 – 6:30 at VFW Post 305 concerning being a "Commemorative Community Partner" and place 13 markers for 13 years of the Vietnam War starting with 1965. Numerous other issues also will be discussed. A motion passed to be a Commutative Community Partner for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and to spread the word to all the other veterans' organizations.

Richard Quick asked to please have available a monthly calendar for all veteran events and meetings.

Dennis said we should start getting prizes lined up for our fundraiser.

Dennis Wood talked about our monthly newsletter getting set up at a very reasonable price. Deadline for news items is the 20th of each month.

Joe Graff gave a High ground report. Joe gave out a 2015 High ground Events brochure. He said the Working Dog Monument is now half paid for and is scheduled for 2015. He pointed out that the 4th of July fireworks is great for the whole family to see. On that day Hardees will have a mobile eat stand on the grounds with a percentage of the proceeds to be donated to the High ground. He pointed out other activities, and stated that Hardees wants to pay for the Iraq/Afghanistan Monument.

Dennis gave the "Veterans Home" report. Some new software is needed and there was a big donation to build an outside special events structure.

The Clothing Report was given by Ken Lestrud. Ken had a sample shirt with VVA logo on the backside and some sample patches. Ken sent around a sign up sheet for shirts and hats and to specify

sizes. A motion passed to wear black pants with the shirts. A motion also passed to wear any black shoes to be in uniformity. Dan Ziegler mentioned that the Army/Navy store has web belts with buckles. There was much discussion on having the emblem on the backside of the shirt to say "Life Member", as there are 42 life members in our chapter. A motion carried to have the emblem say "Life Member". A motion also carried to have a POW/MIA patch placed above the right side pocket.

Dennis showed the framed certificate of appreciation for Micron Cinema that we are going to give them.

A motion passed to reward our chapter presidents with a Life Membership if he/she is not already one. An amendment passed to pay for it upon completion of a successful 2 year term.

Dave Zien gave the "Good of the Order".

- Correspondence that was received from the State DPI is unacceptable on how vets are being treated by some school districts.
- Replenish the Veterans Trust Fund with 1% of the mining net proceeds. So contact your state lawmakers about this now.
- The third issue of the Fog magazine is being composed now. Be sure to read all of the articles in it.
- We can be a charter member of a new AMVETS chapter being organized in Eau Claire.
- Dave recommends that, because we are a non-profit group, we should apply for a grant for our chapter. But, apparently we would have to change our classification.
- There is a "Wheels of Liberty" display at the 29 Pines Eau Claire Travel Center from Feb. 3rd to Aug 1st. There is a pamphlet rack and display area. There are possible car wash/windshield cleaning events to be scheduled and volunteers will be needed. A portion of proceeds could go to picnic tables there, but there will be a focus on mobility challenged veterans and loved ones to drive trikes and other motor vehicles.

Drawings were then held:

The 50/50 was won by Mike Korger.

The general membership drawing for \$20 was for Ed Laventure, but he was not present, so the drawing increases to \$30 for the March meeting.

The various patch locations on the shirts were finalized and agreed upon.

A motion passed to donate money to Bruce Tallman because his wife has been having medical complications.

A motion passed to adjourn.

Chaplain Dan Ziegler gave the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. with 19 members and 1 guest present.

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Little Memory from LZ Lambeau 2010

LZ Lambeau ~ This was the Tribute to All Vietnam Veterans. These empty chairs represent every Man and Woman killed or lost in Vietnam from Wisconsin! 1,244 Wisconsin KIA and MIA.

Vietnam Veterans Day * Celebration on March 28th 2015

Hosted by VFW Post 305, 1300 Starr Ave, Eau Claire, WI. 54703

Sponsored by FOG, Family Outreach Group

Co-Sponsors include, VVA #5, VFW, DAV,
American Legion, AMVETS, CVSOs, GSMs,
Wheels of Liberty, Purple Heart and others.

Lobby Opens at Noon with food, refreshments Displays

2: PM Ceremony begins,

Posting of the colors Opening presentations

Featuring;

CMH Recipient, Gary Wetzel

Ret. Col. James Norton, Chaplin

Ret. SFC Kaye Olson, GSM

DAV Past State Commander current I.G. John Hoeft

CVSO, Tim Moore, several Representatives from various organizations

Main Speaker, Long time Veterans Advocate, Ted Fetting

Surprise Special Singer in opening

3:40 -4:00 Open Mike to say thank you and give honor.

4-5:00 farewells and goodbyes, end of event!

Please contact Garth Johnson, 715-703-8000

Or Chairman, Dennis Wood, 715-532-9139



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!

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

Make tax deductible donation of \$100 or more, for one column inch in every newsletter for one year.

\$150 for two column inches and \$200. For three column inches.

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

<p>1 Column Inch \$100 Year Donation \$8.33 a month, Price of Breakfast</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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!</p>
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