



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

March 2017 Newsletter

Meetings held 1st Wednesday of every month @ 7pm at

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



Volume 3 Issue 3 Editor – Julie McBee Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 03/01/17 Chapter Board of Directors Meeting @ 6 pm
- 03/01/17 Chapter Meeting @ 7 pm @ Post 7232
- 03/18/17 State VVA Council Meeting @ Waupaca
- 03/25/17 Vietnam Veterans Day @ Eagles Club @ 10 am
- 03/26/17 Vietnam Veterans Day @ Rusk County
- 03/29/17 Vietnam Veterans Day *Thank you Veterans!*

Chapter e-mail: Mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org

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: 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: Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- 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 715-402-0106
- Fundraising Co-Chair: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza

CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
- VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
- Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Secretary Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- Chaplain Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Ken Lestrud 715-235-9432
- Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
- Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
- Ernie Werlein 715-926-4222

Founding principle,

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



God Bless All Veterans



"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,

Things are happening! Our raffle tickets are now here for our annual fundraiser. Let's get selling and see how great we can do. Get your tickets to sell at our next regular meeting on Wednesday, March 1st, or call Joe Heil or Larry Wrycza to make arrangements to pick them up.

Our annual Vietnam Veterans Day is coming up fast now, plan on attending it on Saturday, March 25th at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie. Multiple speakers have been arranged. All veterans are invited.

Our State VVA meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 18th. If anyone else is interested in going contact Joe Heil or myself.

Hopefully some of us were able to attend the Salute to Veterans & Homefront Heroes event at Cadott on Friday, February 24th, including participating in the filming of the movie, "Dead Man's Hand" and the veteran's information and assistance event, along with a fundraiser at VFW Post 305 that evening.

There were a lot of our VVA members at the Eau Claire Ford dealership on Monday, February 20th for the special program for all the organizations and individuals who contributed to the purchasing of the DAV van for Eau Claire County to take veterans to the VA in the Cities (and hopefully, eventually, to the VA in Tomah.) Plaques of appreciation were given to all, including our VVA Chapter #5. The van will start into action on March 1st and will make its trips on odd days of the month. The van, including the newly installed wheelchair lift, looks great!

Hope to see all of you at the next VVA meeting on Wednesday, March 1st at 7 pm at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire. Let's also try holding a regular meeting at the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls soon, like we did last year.

Mike Korger, President
VVA Chapter #5

VVA Meeting of 2/1/2017

Call to Order made by Vice President Larry Wrycza followed by Pledge of Allegiance led by Joe Graff and then an Opening Prayer and Moment of Silence was offered by Dennis Werlein.

Secretary's Report – Motion to accept as mailed and e-mailed made by Ralph Ottum, seconded by Joe Graff and motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report - Joe Heil not present tonight; VP Larry Wrycza provided some information on recent expenditures for the fundraiser in October (John Deere mower, guns, TV's and raffle tickets) and Julia McBee added that there were two \$500 scholarships paid out as well. Joe Heil will provide a more comprehensive report next month. Note: Board of Directors meeting to be held on 3/1/17 at 6 pm to go over Chapter financials with Joe prior to the regular monthly meeting at 7 pm. Joe Graff, Ralph Ottum and Rory Schutte state they will be present for this.

President's Report – President Mike Korger provided his thoughts on the website, “I liked what I saw” and the cost per year to have the website will be \$100, “which is very reasonable.” He then spoke of the Eau Claire County Veteran van and encouraged everyone to attend the unveiling event to be held at Eau Claire Ford on February 20th.

Rory Schutte spoke of the DAV van stating that an inspection was recently done on the van and a federal license has been issued. The van wrap has been ordered and will cost approximately \$2,600, which will be paid for with the proceeds from the recent Hairica DAV Fundraising event.

Vice President's Report – Larry Wrycza asked to pass a hat for a donation to provide Cal Briggs, our Chapter's website creator, with a VVA Life Membership for his efforts on our Chapter's behalf with website creation and being its webmaster; \$102 was collected for this membership.

National Meeting – This year's meeting will be held in New Orleans, August 8-12th and will be attended by the McBee's and Talford's.

State Council – This meeting is scheduled for March 18th at the Ramada Inn in Waupaca and will be attended by Mike Korger and Joe Graff.

VA Benefits/Claims – None

Minority Report – None

Membership Report – There will be 147 with the addition of Cal Briggs' Life Membership.

United Veterans Council Report – Rory Schutte reported that land has been purchased along the Eau Claire River across from Phoenix Park for a walkway/bike path tribute recognizing military actions from the Civil War to present. Cost will be between one and two million dollars and all Eau Claire City Council approvals have been received, more information to follow.

Old Business

Veterans Home – Rory Schutte spoke of a donation that was received from Kaye Olson and the plans that are being worked on for a new addition. It was also mentioned that any new donations received for “recreation” need to be designated as such otherwise the money will end up in the general fund.

Highground Report - Joe Graff spoke of the recent bowling fundraiser that had been held at Rose Bowl Lanes in Marshfield. There was great turn-out and Chapter #5 team members, who wore their Chapter uniforms, were complimented on how nice they looked. Thank you to team members Richard Ottum, Dave and Marilyn Mayenchein, Bill Buss and Rick and Kristina Talford for representing Chapter #5. Note: It was asked to be reported that President Mike Korger has an outstanding “TAB” at the Rose Bowl Lanes that needs to be paid. Discussion then centered on the purchase of a Chapter stone at Highground costing \$1,000; some members brought up a possible flag and marker representing the Chapter instead of a memorial stone and in the end, Joe said he would gather more information to be presented at the March meeting. Dennis Werlein made a motion to table approval of this expenditure until next month, seconded by Mac McBee, and motion carried.

Logos/Clothing Report – Joe Heil has ordered more merchandise and is awaiting delivery.

New Business

Scholarships – Our scholarships have been expanded to include students residing anywhere in Eau Claire County and relatives of Chapter #5 members regardless of their residence. Preference will be given to Chapter member’s relatives first, followed by relatives of any U.S. Veteran and then students without veteran affiliation. The requirement that applicants must interview a Vietnam veteran for their essay remains unchanged and April 1st is the application deadline.

Fundraising Report – Larry Wrycza provided some information on the October 1, 2017 fundraiser at The Eagles Club and the items being raffled, as well as other raffle ticket sale possibilities; county fairs, music events, Big Rig event at CVTC, Stanley Rodeo, etc.

Web Site – Both VVA State and National have been notified of our Chapter website and email addresses and all correspondence with them will come through these sites.

Communications – Mike Korger spoke of received letters. A letter has been received from Sue Lamb of Sioux City, Iowa requesting a donation; Mike stated that he would prefer our Chapter focus on donating locally before considering out-of-state requests, to which there was no dissent. Secondly, a letter was received from the Vietnam Veterans Day planning committee announcing this year’s event on March 25th at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie. A motion was made by Joe Graff, seconded by Larry Wrycza, to donate \$250 to this event; motion carried.

Good of the Order

Dave Zein spoke of the movie “Dead Man’s Hand” being filmed in Cadott on February 24th at the Wisconsin Veteran’s Tribute-Citizen Soldier Monument at 641 Hwy 27 South. Filming will

be from 10am-noon and anyone who is interested in coming out as an "extra" should show up in 1860's period dress. You can contact Dave at davezein@gmail.com or call him at 715-829-9436 with any questions or for further information. Later that day VFW Post 305, 1300 Starr Ave., Eau Claire, WI will be presenting their Salute to Veterans & Homefront Heroes with a Veteran's Information and Assistance event from 5-6:30 pm followed with a Fundraiser from 7-9 pm for the proposed picnic shelter and 72 bed building addition to the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls. Wheels of Liberty will be presenting awards to Bobville Talent Park, Leinenkugel's, Menards, Navy Paddles and Dennis Werlein. Jerry Allan, "Dead Man's Hand" movie producer will be performing his Highwaymen Tribute to Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson. Then Dave spoke of the Homefront Hero tour to be held this November 3-4th in which tours of veteran sites around the state are being offered to politicians from around the country. He also spoke of veteran dental needs and the attempt to get more local dentists to accept veterans as new patients. "Hogs for Heroes" will be having an upcoming motorcycle rally event and more information will be made known when available.

Dennis Werlein made a motion for Chapter #5 to make an annual donation of \$250 to Trinity Equestrian Center in Eau Claire for their Veteran's Wellness Program; Ralph Ottum seconded and motion carried.

Rory Schutte announced that the DAV will be meeting on February 11th at VFW Post 305 at 6:30 pm and will continue to meet on the second Saturday of the month at Post 305 at 6:30 pm.

Members who are ill were mentioned; Dennis Werlein undergoing cancer treatments; Bill Connelly also dealing with cancer; Ron Borst in the nursing home in Augusta; Roger Schuh, now at Prairie Point in Altoona, and Dick Quick who is now doing better. All would appreciate a call, note or visit if anyone has the time.

LE Phillips Senior Center will not be having a program this year for Vietnam Veterans Day.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Please note that a meeting has been scheduled for March 1st at 6 pm here at Post 7232 for a Chapter Financial Audit. Contact Joe Heil with any questions or concerns.

There will two attendance and 50/50 drawings next month at the next regular Chapter meeting on March 1st at 7 pm here at Post 7232. Closing Prayer was given by Dennis Werlein and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. There were 17 members in attendance.