



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter # 5
Eau Claire, WI 54702
May News Letter 2015
Meeting First Wed of the month 7PM
@ VFW Post 7232



Together Always

Upcoming events

VVA mtg May 6, 2015
VVA Regional Conference May 15-16 in
Janesville, Wi.
Memorial Day parade May 25, assembly @
8:30 A.M.
Annual Motorcycle Ride for the Highground
May 25.
Armed Forces Day Open House @ Fort
McCoy, 9 A.M. – 3 P.M. Free and open to
the public. Need photo ID card.
VVA mtg June 3rd will be a picnic at Irvine
Park, Chippewa Falls @ Flag Hill.
VVA National Convention July 21 – 25.
Annual Highground Motorcycle Rally
August 14 – 15, 2015.

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

Committee:

Finance:

Joe Heil- 715-839-7089

Govt. Affairs:

Bob Laguban-651-285-8518

Membership: Joe Heil

Public Affairs:

Roger Schuch-715-9266052

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

Commander's Message

To Chapter 5 Veterans and Associates,

Spring is supposed to be here, but one weekend it feels like it and the next snow is in the air. Summer should be just around the corner.

In getting up to date, if you didn't make the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day event at post 305 on the 28th of March, you missed a good one. Like I mentioned at our April meeting I am so proud of the way our chapter members helped out and made everyone feel welcome, from the vets in wheelchairs to the 30 or so Hmong/Laotian vets that were there. Everyone showed a lot of camaraderie and caring for each other. I am sure the Laotian vets appreciated us making them feel welcome more

than any of the celebrations in years past. Thanks to Dennis Wood of FOG magazine for chairing the planning committee and leading to put together a fantastic event. There were about 240 people in attendance.

In current matters you should all have received an envelope full of raffle tickets to sell as part of our summer fundraiser. Good luck and remember to bring the stubs and money to one of our meetings or send stubs and checks to Joe Heil, our treasurer at 1231 Rowe Street, Eau Claire, WI 54703 prior to the drawing on July 1st at VFW Post 305. Better yet bring them or get more at our June 3rd picnic and monthly meeting at Flag Hill Pavilion in Irvine Park in Chippewa Falls. Also bring a dish to pass and your whole family to have some well deserved fun and relaxation, and enjoy the summer before it passes by. The chapter will be providing Bar-b-que, brats, hamburgers and hotdogs, as well as some beverages. We might have family games available and a DJ playing some Vietnam era music. We'll discuss that at our May 6th meeting. VVA chapter 92 members from Chippewa Falls are also invited.

Before the picnic, in May there are still a lot of fun activities you can participate in. For one, you can still sign up and register for the VVA 7 state national regional conference on May 15th and 16th in Janesville. Registrations will be taken until May 8th. Give me a call.

Secondly we'll be marching in the Eau Claire Memorial Day parade on May 25th. This year for the members and veterans that have trouble marching and would just as soon ride, we'll be pulling a covered recreational wagon with ramps for wheelchairs and handicapped seating for approximately 20 people. So come one come all. Parade time is 9:30 AM. Start forming up at 8:30 at Wilson Park next to Farwell Street and ending up at Owen Park for the ceremonies. Some other business to attend to at our May meeting:

- Picking up your color guard shirts and hats.

- Distribution of Agent Orange Victims and POW/MIA Remembrance clovers.

- Report on the first meeting of the Eau Claire County United Veterans Council.

- Announcement of other fun events for the summer

- Attend and help plan the fun for the summer.

In Comradeship,

Dennis Werlein

President- Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5

Minutes from VVA meeting 4-1-15

President Dennis Werlein called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. He also gave the opening prayer in the absence of the chaplain. Dennis gave a special welcome to members who hadn't been in attendance for a while.

After corrections to the Secretary's Report, a motion passed to accept it.

Joe Heil gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion passed to accept it and approve reimbursement to Joe for his expenses to the state meeting at Waupaca.

Joe Graff discussed buying some table coverings with the VVA logo on them to use when selling clovers and putting up displays at various events. Joe will check on the availability and pricing for them.

The need for buying more clovers was tabled until an exact inventory can be determined.

The CVTC fundraiser for Unmet Needs was a success. Dave Zien gave a talk and there was a live auction.

President Dennis reported that the Vietnam Veterans Day for Eau Claire County held on 3/28 at VFW Post 305 had a big showing, and he felt that there was a very positive atmosphere and that the large group of Laotians felt welcome. The food that was supposed to be planned did not materialize and apparently we lost some prospective participants when they left to go eat.

Dennis Wood felt the Rusk County Vietnam Veterans Day on 3/29 had a good turnout and was appreciative of the help we supplied. Dennis also stated that videos of both days would be put on the website for viewing. (which website??)

There will be a Patriotic Council meeting on 4/22 at 7 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the E.C. County building for Memorial Day planning.

The National VVA Convention/Meeting will be 7/21 – 7/25. We need 2 delegates to go for voting.

A VVA regional meeting will be held 5/15-5/16 at Janesville. Registration deadline is 4/24.

Joe Graff started a discussion on the possibility of VVA auxiliary members being able to become voting members and officers at these conventions.

There will be a state VVA regional picnic meeting at the Highground on 6/19.

In the absence of Peter Breed for a VA/Benefits/Claims Report, Garth Johnson stated that vets should be able to choose to go to Tomah or the Twin Cities. The Twin Cities is the only choice now. Call Bob Meyer at Dana Wachs' office 608-266-7461 or Tim Moore, E.C. County VSO, 715-608-4744 to show support for this choice. Dennis Wood stated that the DAV had just bought 11 new vans, but he didn't know how they would be dispersed.

Our VVA Chapter needs 2 representatives to attend the Eau Claire County Combined Council meeting on 4/20, 4/27, and 5/4. Jim Blaha and Dennis Werlein will go, but we need an alternate.

Roger Schuh did not have a minority report.

Membership is currently "75". 3 more associate members are joining and a half dozen or so prospects are possible yet. Dennis Wood pointed out that a membership application was included with the last newsletter for us to use. He challenged each VVA member to bring a new member to the next meeting.

The Veterans Home Report was given. The recreation committee met and our LZ Lambeau pizza party on 4/25 was announced. We need to know how many of our members are going to determine how many pizzas to order. Because of a donation, an outdoor pavilion is being planned. And numerous other funds have been coming in.

Joe Graff gave a brief Highground Report. He pointed out several events that were listed on the Highground brochures that he handed out to everyone, including the 5th Annual Memorial Day Motorcycle Ride for the Highgrounds on 5/25, the Maggie Mae and Heartland Country Band concert for the Persian Gulf Tribute on 4/11, the 15th Annual Highground Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally on 8/14-8/15, and the Helicopter & Military Vehicle Expo on 5/16.

The 50/50 winner was Garth Johnson.

It was mentioned that everything for the Poison Control Center was moved to Madison.

President Dennis mentioned the National Toxic Exposure Research Act.

VVA national membership is 74,000 plus 8,500 associate members.

Clothing Report:

Our new armbands should have extensions added to them to make them more adjustable. Sue is working on our shirts. Our boonie caps will be ordered now. Joe said he has 3 berets left, plus some VVA pins and shirt patches.

New Business:

A motion passed to purchase 2 ceremonial AR-15 rifles with bayonets and slings.

Ron Perry gave a Fundraiser Report. He passed around a signup sheet for workers. There will be music 12-5 p.m. and a live band with dancing after the food is done 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. There will be a new musician playing from 5 – 8 p.m. to get some exposure. Ron said to start getting donations now.

Larry Wrycza gave a Gun Raffle Report. Get your gun raffle tickets now. Tickets will be mailed to members who weren't at this meeting. Drawing to be held at our July 1st Picnic Meeting.

Memorial Day activity was tabled till next meeting.

Dennis Wood gave a Newsletter Report. Push for advertising in our newsletter. The rates are included at the end of the newsletter. He said that the Gold Star Mothers still had flags for sale that were at the Vietnam Veterans Day event.

Good of the order:

Joe Heil said that each of our members has a Certificate of Appreciation from the VFW to be picked up if you come to the next meeting. Some were given out on Vietnam Veterans Day at Post 305.

The monthly membership winner was Jeffrey Bourn for \$10. He was not present, so the amount increases to \$20 for our May 6th meeting. The door prize of a t-shirt was won by Pat Laventure.

Ron Perry said to make sure to get a copy of donations for the fundraiser to him or Julia. The sale of t-shirts at the front door at the fundraiser was tabled till next meeting.

Motion to adjourn passed with 18 members present.

President Dennis adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. and he gave the closing prayer.