



# Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

May 2017 Newsletter

Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ 7pm at

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



**Volume 3 Issue 5 Editor – Julie McBee Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

05/03/17 Chapter Meeting @ 7232 @ 7pm  
05/14/17 Hmong Appreciation Day @ Cadott at 9 am  
Followed with Stone Laying Ceremony at Highground at 1 pm  
05/15-20 Armed Forces Appreciation Week  
05/27/17 Northern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery in Spooner  
05/29/17 Eau Claire Memorial Day Parade  
06/18/17 State VVA Meeting @ Highground

**Chapter e-mail:** [Mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:Mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com)

**Chapter web site:** [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://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  
AVVA Delegate: Julie McBee 715-202-0181

## 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,

There has been an increase in activity already in April and lots to do in May.

Our biggest concern is getting all our members to help man booths to sell our raffle tickets at the numerous upcoming community events and fairs. If this is really successful we won't have to come up with other raffles or fundraisers. Look at the list and please let Larry Wrycza know where and when you can help. Thank you.

The Eau Claire County Supervisors have unanimously approved supporting the proposed veteran's tribute along the Chippewa River in Eau Claire. On 4/26 there will be a meeting of the city of Eau Claire's Waterways and Parks Commission to vote on this. Then hopefully the Eau Claire City Council will vote to approve it at their meeting on 5/9. Let's try to get to these meetings to show our support for the veteran's tribute.

On 5/14 there will be a Hmong Appreciation Day starting at 9 a.m. at the Veterans Tribute in Cadott, and then at 1:00 p.m. at the Highground.

On Saturday, 5/27, all veterans' organizations are invited to post their colors at a ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Spooner. Are there any of you who would be interested in doing that with our VVA Chapter 5 colors?

On Monday, 5/29, all VVA and AVVA members are strongly urged to walk (or ride on the wagon) in the Memorial Day parade in Eau Claire. Let's have a big turnout for this, if at all possible.

The scholarship committee members just met and picked two winners for our scholarships that we are again giving out this year.

Julie and Mac recently found out that we will not be able to hold one of our VVA meetings at the Veteran's Home in Chippewa Falls. But, we as a group can get a clearance to help with an activity such as their Bingo on a Saturday afternoon. We can discuss this at our next meeting.

In the VVA magazine for March/April there was an item of interest in the letters to the editor on page 8. A VVA Chapter president from West Virginia explained that there is a misconception that the shots fired at a military funeral is called a 21-gun salute. Instead, the shots are called the firing of three volleys in honor of the fallen. Hopefully you still have your magazine to read his full explanation. Also, he states that federal law mandates that an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of no fewer than two members of the Armed Forces. I can pass this article around at our next meeting.

I hope to see you all at our next regular meeting on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 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 4/5/2017**

Call to Order made by Vice President Larry Wrycza followed by Pledge of Allegiance led by Joe Graff, Opening Prayer and Moment of Silence for POW/MIA led by Dennis Werlein and guests and new members were introduced; Sally Johnson, Al Weix

**Secretary's Report:** Roger Schuh was not present; on-line and mailed copies sent out and motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Ralph Ottum, seconded by Rory Schutte and motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe Heil states that all is in good shape for the Chapter with bills paid. The Vietnam Veterans Day at the Eagle's Club in Lake Hallie had sales of over \$300 on Chapter items. Jam Tickets were purchased for \$200 by a Chapter member. Expenses were clothing/color guard braids for \$200 and the donation to the Trinity Equestrian Veterans Wellness Program for \$250. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Mac McBee, seconded by Ralph Ottum and motion carried.

**President's Report:** Mike Korger spoke of the Vietnam Veteran's Day program that had been held on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Eagles Club with approximately 120 people in attendance. The VA Program was well received. The Gulf War Illness was an eye opener for all wartime soldiers. We will be getting the survey results on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the final committee meeting. There was plenty of food and good service. He also visited the Memorial Park and said that it was very nice. Joe Graff added he had been asked about having another Agent Orange Seminar for Veterans, maybe longer this time so as to better inform vets with as much information as possible.

Mike added that this could be looked into by the Board of Directors in a meeting. Dennis Werlein then asked if we could get Legislators in to speak that would have legal knowledge on the Toxic Exposure information as well to be included in this seminar.

LTC Kerm Morgan then spoke of the Ladysmith Vietnam Veterans event held in Rusk County on March 26<sup>th</sup>. He wanted to let everyone know there were 25 new people at the event location, which Joe Heil said he believed were 72 in attendance all together. Kerm wanted to say "Thank You" to the Chapter 5 Color Guard and gave a special "Thank You" to Kristina Talford for photography and live-streaming the event for all to see. A brief conversation over continuing the event in Ladysmith followed, most felt that it is a good event for the Veteran's in that area.

**Vice President's Report:** Larry Wrycza reported on the Vietnam Veteran's Day events held, saying "Thank You" to those who participated. He added the Color Guard that attended in Ladysmith was featured on the front page of the Ladysmith newspaper. He concluded by letting everyone know there will be a need for assistance with the Raffle sales this year at various county fairs. "We will need help!"

**National VVA Convention:** To be held this year in New Orleans, LA on August 8-12, 2017. There was discussion in regards to sending Mac and Julia McBee so that Mac could be our Delegate and sending Rick and Kristina Talford to attend for AVVA meetings. The registrations need to be completed by July 15, 2017. There is a minor issue that is being dealt with in regards to the listing of the AVVA Delegate that is being worked on. Pat Furno has informed the Chapter that paperwork was not completed last year appointing Julia McBee as our AVVA Delegate. While she had been informed verbally, there had been no mention of required paperwork to complete the process. The intent on sending these four Chapter members is to maintain the voting ability for Chapter 5 at the National Convention. (We are allowed three voting Delegates this year based on the number of our membership.) So far Mac is our only VVA Delegate and while Julia is our AVVA Delegate, she would assign her voting right over to Rick. Julia plans on attending the VVA meetings with Mac so as to take notes while Rick and Kristina would attend the AVVA meetings and take notes. Note that these meetings are held at separate venues. All together there should be plenty of information coming back from National by having several members in attendance. The registration cost is \$125 and \$50 for the closing banquet meal (per person.) There are 52 delegates from Wisconsin with our Chapter having the aforementioned three delegates. There will be a meeting in June at Highground with more updates on event information and funding available for those who are traveling to the event. The Caucuses must be attended by our VVA Delegate in order to vote. Anyone wishing to attend the conference as our second and third voting delegates should speak to Joe Heil to get the registration forms, etc. Joe stated that this item will be on next month's agenda for further discussion. (NOTE: AVVA registration cost is only \$50, not \$125 as stated in the meeting.) Ernie Werlein stated that he thought Doug Farmer would be willing to go to New Orleans as a VVA Delegate.

**State VVA Meeting:** Joe Heil spoke on behalf of this agenda item. There were no suspended Chapters in the state, 23 of the 25 Chapters were in attendance at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were post cards sent out to members that need to be replied to, either mail or e-mail re-

sponse. Region 6 meeting is unscheduled at this time. The AVVA National Delegate, originally thought to be voted in each year, is actually every two years—next AVVA election will be 2018. The September State Convention, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, will have a program on Suicide Prevention.

**VA/Benefits:** Pete Breed not in attendance; Dave Zien spoke briefly on Hep C and HIV affecting one in ten Vietnam Era veterans and the need for testing to be done every twelve months. He also provided information regarding small business creation money that is available to veterans for their start-up costs. There is a meeting every Wednesday at 9 a.m. at The Local Lounge with the Department of Tourism and other groups that can assist interested veterans with their business proposals. It is believed that a veterans needs to have 180 days in service to qualify.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Veterans Tribute scheduled for downtown is well underway. Questionnaires were given out and all replies are welcome. Feedback is always being searched out. The news media has been informed, as many have already seen on Channel 13. A Foundation is now set-up for donations to be received.

Rory Schutte gave report on the Vets Home stating that there are some new programs and a committee is being created. Donations are always welcomed and can be earmarked for a specific area of need; those not earmarked are deposited in the home's general operating fund. The waiting list is currently near 200.

Dave Zien spoke of the Governor's veto of a planned building of a Veteran's Home in Madison and that the price tag had been near \$31 million; this was considered way over cost. Dave also brought up the events being held May 15-20, 2017 and the possible movie filming by Jerry Allen for a "Dead Man's Hand Two."

Dennis Werlein spoke of the Chapter having one of its monthly meetings at the Veterans Home as the Chapter does have several members residing there. He asked the Chapter to consider having a meeting there soon. NOTE: This was discussed with the Activity Director at the Vet's Home and we were informed that an organization is allowed to hold a meeting at the home one time only—not once a year as we had believed. Since we had a meeting there last year, our one time quota has been met and no further Chapter meetings at the home is possible.

Joe Heil reported that he has ordered more clothing as sales went well at the Vietnam Veterans Event, especially hoodies with zippers.

Joe Graff reported that Highground's Work Week is scheduled for April 26-29, 2017 and anyone interested in helping out with various projects during these days may come out and join those working on the grounds. Meals are provided by local businesses. A sign-up sheet was passed around the room with about 25% in attendance signing on. April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Vietnam Veteran's Reunion, this is a week-long event held in the Education Building. There is also a Hmong Veter-

an's Day event scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m. in Cadott and concluding at 1 p.m. at Highground with a stone laying ceremony.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Scholarships: There have been three applications received to date with two more expected. A meeting will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> by the committee to go through the applicants and make a determination of the two winners so their scholarship certificates can be awarded in May.

Fundraising: Larry Wrycza spoke in regards to the needed help for the raffle sales this summer. A committee meeting will be held soon to get a complete listing of events that is planned for the Chapter to attend. Last year the Chapter had success with the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, and the Buffalo, Clark and Dunn County fairs. There will be sign-up sheets at the next meeting so check your calendars and see when/how you will be able to help us out. We need everyone's participation in order to be successful. Contact Larry if you have any other ideas for a fundraising opportunity. There will be brochures available at the next meeting.

Ralph Ottum requested a donation from the Chapter to the Colby Library project. Ralph has had a tremendous response to our Chapter's fundraising efforts from the people of the Colby area and this is viewed as an opportunity for the Chapter to give back to those who support us. Joe Heil made a motion to donate \$250 for the Colby Library, seconded by Pat Moore, motion carried.

The Memorial Day Parade in Eau Claire was briefly discussed. Chapter 5's Color Guard will be 7<sup>th</sup> in the parade this year (last year we had been 17th.) Joe Heil said that the Patriotic Council was okay with our Chapter having our raffle lawnmower pulled on a trailer with banners on the side of the trailer promoting our raffle (banners are courtesy of John Deere) but did not want us to set up a table/booth along the parade route, or at the end of the route, for raffle ticket sales. It was suggested that there be a phone number on the banner for people who to call who wish to purchase tickets. Another thought was to set up a booth near the parade route to attract sales that way. A question was asked on whether the truck with the lawnmower trailer would be allowed in line with the jeep and wagon the Color Guard uses for the parade. This will have to be researched and reported on at our next meeting.

Website/E-Mail: Updates are being done now with information on our October 1, 2017 fundraiser. Check it out! Newsletter deadline is April 21, 2017.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dave Zien asked for a "Thank You" note and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chapter to Regis High School for their Veteran's Day participation for the past five years. He also asked for the Chapter to support and endorse the Armed Forces Appreciation Week, May 15-20, 2017. A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Pat Moore of possible Chapter Color Guard partici-

pation, motion carried. Chapter Color Guard may also participate in the May 27<sup>th</sup> event in Spooner at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery.

Julia McBee requested a donation for \$100 to be used for mailing/postage for the upcoming Women Veterans Retreat held at Trinity Equestrian Center in May. This is a one day event for women veterans and Trinity's Veteran Program Director, Toni Mattson, has expressed a desire to "get the word" out there to more women veterans by sending out a mailing. Motion was made to send a \$100 donation to Trinity for the Women's Retreat by Joe Heil, seconded by Joe Graff and motion carried.

Attendance drawing was won by Pete Breed; he was not present so next month's drawing will be for \$50. The 50/50 was won by Kerm Morgan who donated it back to the Chapter. There were 25 members in attendance.

Dave Zien spoke briefly about a Russian Exchange event that will be happening June 6-12, 2017, more information at next month's meeting.

Closing Prayer was given by Dennis Werlein and the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 3, 2017 at Post 7232 at 7 p.m.

Picture of our Chapter Color Guard presenting the Colors at the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony in Ladysmith on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as it appeared on the cover of the Ladysmith Herald.



VVA Chapter #5  
 P.O. 832  
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