



## Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5

Vietnam Veterans of America

P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702

May 2018 Newsletter



Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ 7pm  
VFW Post #7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire, WI

Together Always

Volume 4 Issue 5

Editor – Julie McBee

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 05/02/18 Chapter Meeting @ 7pm @ Post 7232  
AVVA Meeting @ 6:30 pm @ Post 7232
- 05/14-19 Armed Forces Appreciation Week
- 05/19/18 Helicopter/Military Vehicle Expo @ Highground
- 05/26/18 Eau Claire Memorial Day Parade (COLOR GUARD)
- 5/31-6/3 Eleva Broiler Fest, Eleva
- 06/06/18 Chapter Meeting @ 7pm @ Post 7232  
AVVA Meeting @ 6:30 pm @ Post 7232

### CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918  
VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106  
Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-926-1167  
Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0912  
Ralph Ottum 715-223-6160  
Rory Schutte 715-563-1583  
Mike Smith 601-938-3746  
Al Weix

Chapter web site: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org)

Chapter email: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5](https://www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5)

### 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 Park: Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158  
Govt. Affairs: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518  
Membership: Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Public Affairs: **Vacant – Anyone interested?**  
Minority Affairs: Dave Zien 715-829-9436  
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 & Co-Chair: Julie McBee  
Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, M. Korger, J. McBee, L. Wrycza  
AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181  
Historical: Julie McBee 715-202-0181  
Vets in the Classroom: Rory Schutte 715-563-1583  
Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-647-2091

**Founding principle,**

***Vietnam Veterans of America***

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



God Bless All Veterans

## **Chapter Moto: Honor the DEAD and fight like Hell for the LIVING!**



**"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:

Finally, some decent weather has arrived! Hopefully it will only get better. We can do outdoor activities and soak in some Vitamin D from the increasing sunshine.

I just finished attending the American Legion 10<sup>th</sup> District Convention in Chippewa Falls, and after it was concluded I attended their New Post Commander Course. I knew it would also help me as President of our Chapter and I learned a lot. One of the many items of interest was to interact with other organization by attending their events and inviting them to our events. Since many of us belong to other organizations, let's make sure we announce their events at our meetings and then make sure we extend an invitation to them to attend ours. Also, we need a member to spearhead public relations for our Chapter. Let's supply the news media with pictures and articles instead of hoping they come to us. These are just a couple of items out of many. Our interactions can help each other.

Hopefully, some of us were able to participate in the various events in April, such as Chapter 351 (Appleton) putting on a program with their display of memorabilia from Vietnam at CVTC on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and the Spring Work Week at the Highground which ran from April 25-28<sup>th</sup>, and the AVVA fundraiser at Pizza Ranch on April. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Be sure to check "Upcoming Events" on the front of this newsletter or on our website. Please make the effort to participate in one or more of these events. Thank you to everyone who already has and will be participating.

I hope to see all of you at our next VVA meeting on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger  
President, VVA Chapter 5

## **VVA Meeting of 4/4/18**

Call to order was made by President Mike Korger with the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer led by Sgt. at Arms Joe Graff. Welcome to our new VVA member Jake Dunlac and a new AVVA member, Ralph Palmer.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made by Joe Heil, seconded by Dennis Wood, to accept the Secretary's report for March as mailed and e-mailed; motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe Heil gave the members present an update of expenses and receipts for January, February and March; all accounts are in good standing and he reviewed upcoming expenses. Motion was made by Larry Wrycza, seconded by Ralph Ottum, to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; motion carried.

**President's Report:** Mike Korger provided information of the four Vietnam Veterans' Day programs attended by Chapter 5 members in March at the Eagles Club on the 24<sup>th</sup>, at the VMA in Ladysmith on the 25<sup>th</sup>, at the L.E. Phillips Library in Eau Claire on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration held at VFW Post 305 in Eau Claire on the 29<sup>th</sup>. You can watch videos of these events by going to denniswoodsr@youtube or find him on Facebook as he has them posted there as well.

**Vice President's Report:** Larry Wrycza thanked those that attended the program in Ladysmith, as our Color Guard made the front page of the newspaper.

**AVVA Report:** Our Chapter's AVVA members met and elected Julia McBee to be the Chapter Representative, election results will be forwarded to both the State Rep and the Regional Dir., so there should not be any question of our Chapter Representative going forward. The AVVA will again host a fundraiser at Pizza Ranch on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the January Pizza Ranch fundraiser paid for the prime rib dinner the Chapter provided for Klein Hall. Your support of this fundraiser will be appreciated. After discussion the Chapter members have decided to apply AVVA patches to our grey Chapter 5 tee shirt (logo and printing already done) for our AVVA members to wear while attending Chapter function to differentiate our AVVA members from our veteran Chapter members. Rick Talford added that Mike Hanke of Klein Hall, as did Dennis Wood Sr., had good things to say about Chapter 5 and its AVVA members at the Vietnam Veterans Day event in Ladysmith.

**National VVA Convention:** Next National Convention will be in Spokane, WA in 2019. Leadership Conference will be held in Palm Springs, CA this July from the 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

**State VVA Meeting:** Next meeting will be held at Highground on June 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be an election meeting with a pot-luck picnic to follow. Those planning on attending should let Mike Demske know so he can have an accurate head count for the meat; State Council will be

supplying the meat for grilling with attending members bringing a dish to share. Contact him at 920-973-3909 or via email at [Michael.Demske@yahoo.com](mailto:Michael.Demske@yahoo.com).

**Membership:** 141- but new applications are being processed.

**VA/Benefits:** Pete Breed provided information that for those veterans rated 70% or more, should they need placement in one of the State's Veterans Home, there would be NO charge and you keep all monthly income. He then asked what members do with their copy of The VVA Veteran when finished reading it and suggested ways to pass it on; put your phone number on the mailing label so anyone picking it up to read could have a point of contact person, pass out to the barber shop, doctor or dentist office for their waiting rooms. Joe Heil added that the extra copies the Chapter receives are given to the CVSO's for their use.

**Minority Report:** Dave Zien confirmed that the Hmong WILL NOT be having their usual May 14<sup>th</sup> observance in Cadott and Neillsville as they have been invited to the State Capital in Madison for their anniversary observance event. He again reiterated that the Indian Battlefield is moving forward and will encompass Minnesota and Wisconsin. He also mentioned that the Native American statue at Highground is the only one of its kind in the USA.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Veterans Home:** There will be a Golf Event on June 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 a.m. and lasting all day, cost is \$75 per person, meals extra. Please see Rory Schutte if you would like more information. Proceeds from this event will go to the Recreation Committee.

**Highground:** Joe Graff spoke of the upcoming events; Vietnam Reunion/Education Afternoon on April 21<sup>st</sup>, Spring Clean Up Week from April 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, Helicopter/Military Vehicle Expos (with a helicopter fly-in) on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Military Working Dog Dedication on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dennis Werlein's Legacy Stone laying on September 15th with a meal following, and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Highground on September 30<sup>th</sup>. As the Highground was originally formed by Vietnam Veterans, it would be good to have as many of our Chapter's veterans in attendance that day. Learn more at [www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org).

**Logo/Clothing:** The Board of Directors had met and want to move forward with ordering the jacket from Galls for our Color/Honor Guard members. Joe Heil was frustrated that this topic had not been voted on at the last meeting as had been planned and that a vote must be made tonight. Dennis Wood made the motion to order the Galls jacket, seconded by Ron Perry; motion carried with one dissenting vote. Joe will put in the order and anyone still wishing a jacket should contact him. Additionally, our long sleeve Chapter shirts are in, see him if you want one.

**Eau Claire Veterans Council:** More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at [www.ecveteransfoundation.com](http://www.ecveteransfoundation.com).

**Fundraising:** Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> here at VFW Post 7232. Committee meeting set for April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Marten Center, Mondovi.

**Communications:** Remember our Chapter's Website/ E-Mail: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org) / [mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com) and don't forget you can find National info at [www.VVA.org](http://www.VVA.org) and State info at [www.VVAWI.org](http://www.VVAWI.org).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Elections:** Voting for all Officer positions; President-Mike Korger, Vice President-Larry Wrycza, Secretary-Mac McBee, Treasurer-Joe Heil. Voting for Board of Directors; Joe Graff, Ralph Ottum, Rory Schutte, Mike Smith, Al Weix. Motion made by Dennis Wood, seconded by Larry Wrycza, to accept these Officers and Board of Directors; motion carried unanimously. Appointed position of Chaplain and Sgt. At Arms will be Joe Graff.

**Newsletter: April 20th**

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

On April 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a Veterans "Life After Discharge" Event sponsored by the Dunn County VSO from 8am-3pm at the Alliance Church in Menomonie.

May 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> is Armed Forces Appreciation Week – contact Dave Zein for complete information of events and times.

Rick Talford thanked all the Color Guard members for their great attendance at the recent Vietnam Veterans Day events, "It was great to see so many turn out."

Attendance drawing winners; February – Eric Johnson, March – Harold Walters (not present), April – Bruce Fredrickson (not present).

Next meeting will be held on May 2nd, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) at Post 7232. There were 16 members in attendance. Closing prayer was offered by Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff and meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



### **COLOR GUARD UPDATE** by Rick Talford

I want to say "Thank You" to everyone that attended the Vietnam Veterans Day event in Lake Hallie, we had 16 Color Guard members in attendance; it was a "GREAT" showing of our Chapter for this event. We will be marching in this year's Memorial Day Parade on May 26<sup>th</sup> in Eau Claire, meeting again at Hibbard Hall and ending at Owen Park. Meet at 8 a.m. with step-off at 9 a.m. **We will be the lead veteran organization in the parade.** We've also been asked to be the Color Guard for the Big Rig Show on

Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>; we will be the **ONLY** Color Guard for this event, more details on this to come. Please contact me so we can have a great turn-out for these events at 715-647-2091.



## UPCOMING FAIR DATES

- 5/31-6/3 Eleva Broiler Fest, Eleva – Rick Talford
- 6/14-17 Lake Martha Days, Osseo – Peg Ottum
- 6/15-17 Stanley Rodeo – Anyone in that area interested?
- 7/11-15 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls
- 7/25-29 Dunn County, Menomonie – Larry Wrycza
- 8/2-5 Buffalo County, Mondovi – Mac/Julie McBee
- 8/8-12 Clark County, Neillsville – Ralph Ottum
- 8/8-12 Jackson County, Black River Falls – Joe Graff
- 8/17-19 Big Rig Show, Chippewa Falls – Rory Schutte

These events have been our best raffle ticket selling events for our Fall Harvest Raffle fundraiser to be held this year on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at VFW Post 7232, starting at noon with raffle drawing at 8 p.m. (winners do not need to be present to win.) This year we will only be printing 3,000 raffle tickets to start with, if they sell like hot cakes we can always order more. We really, **REALLY, REALLY, REALLY** need help at these events so that people don't get burned out. Once we are committed to being at these events, we are expected to be there for the entire event by the event rules. Please consider what you can do to help and contact the person name above or Julie for further help. Please remember that we've been asked to be the official Color Guard for the opening of the Big Rig Show on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. This is JUST a VVA Chapter 5 Color Guard – not various veteran organizations marching together for a Color Guard. Contact Rick for helping with the Color Guard and Rory for help with manning an event table during the show.



## EAU CLAIRE COUNTY VETERANS VAN

Eau Claire County has just received approval to take veterans to the Tomah VA, in addition to the Minneapolis VA. However, this will not happen until we have a core of 15-20 volunteer drivers, and currently there is only seven (Joe Heil is one of those seven.)

There is a process to be certified by the VA as a driver, it's not that painful, really! If you or anyone that you can think of who would be interested in becoming a volunteer driver, please have them contact Adam Kohls, Assistant Veteran Services Director. As soon as there is a core of drivers in place, there will make a media buzz about this new service and trips to Tomah can begin. If you have any questions about what its like, ask Joe. Currently the van makes runs to Minneapolis on ODD days; Tomah would be on EVEN days.

Adam Kohls, Assistant Veteran Services Director  
Eau Claire County  
721 Oxford Avenue, Suite 1130  
Phone: 715-839-4744  
Fax: 715-839-6238

## **BECOMING A VA REGISTERED VOLUNTEER DRIVER**

The vehicle donated by DAV to Eau Claire County will become VA property and as such, ONLY VA registered volunteers in good standing will be able to operate the vehicle.

1. CALL Minneapolis VA Occupation Health at (612) 467-2985 and let them know you are making an appointment for a “driver’s physical.”
2. CALL Voluntary/Community Resource Services as (612) 715-2050 to make an appointment on same day of your physical and about an hour later than your physical appointment. Let Voluntary Service know that you are applying to be a volunteer driver for Eau Claire County.
3. BRING the following on the day of your appointment:
  - Your valid Driver’s License and
  - Either a passport, birth certificate, social security card, Veterans ID or Military ID
  - Proof of your personal auto insurance.
4. APPOINTMENT DAY at the Minneapolis VA (plan on spending two hours)
  - Go to Occupational Health in Room 4M-125 to complete your driver’s physical.
  - Bring the driver physical findings sheet from Occupational Health to Voluntary Service, 4G-109.
  - Your meeting with the Voluntary Specialist will include completing the application form, consenting to a background check and allowing us to request a copy of your driving record.
  - You will be given the Volunteer Handbook to take home to review before your second appointment.

It takes 24 to 48 hours before we receive the result of the background check. Upon receiving a favorable adjudication, Voluntary Service will contact you to set up a second appointment.

5. SECOND APPOINTMENT: Bring the following on the day of your appointment:
  - Your valid Driver’s License and
  - Either a passport, birth certificate, Social Security card, Veterans ID card or Military ID card.
  - You will be asked to complete a training quiz on the material in the Volunteer Handbook.
  - You will complete the Safe Driver training.
  - You will complete the Fleet Card training.
  - You will complete the Driving a Government Vehicle training.
  - You will need to get an ID issued by the VA for VA drivers. It will take about one hour to complete this final step.

Questions? Please contact:

Voluntary Services  
MVAHCS  
(612) 725-2050

VVA Chapter #5  
P.O. 832  
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**Call Joe Heil at 715-559-2945**

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