



Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5
Vietnam Veterans of America
P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702
May 2019 Newsletter



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

Volume 5 Issue 5

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

05/01/19 7:00 p.m. VVA Chapter meeting
6:30 p.m. AVVA meeting

05/04/19 Robert Watkins funeral
05/8-11 Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall in Holman
05/11/19 Rusk County's Honor the Fallen Ride
05/13/19 Lao Hmong Veterans Day in Cadott
05/27/19 Eau Claire Memorial Day Parade

CHAPTER CONTACTS

President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-010
Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-0180
Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
Mike Smith 601-938-3746
Al Weix 715-832-4792

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org
Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5

COMMITTEES

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: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Minority Affairs: Dave Zein 715-829-9436
Women Veterans: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Service Officer: Peter Breed 715-642-1246
Fundraising: J Heil, J. McBee
Scholarship: J.Heil Chair: M. Korger, J. Graff; J/J. McBee, R.Talford
AVVA Chapter Representative: Rick Talford 715-926-5302
Historical: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-926-5302

**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**

Greetings,

May everyone has had a Blessed and Happy Easter! It feels good to have had some Spring weather finally. Hopefully snow shovels can be kept put away!

The report for the AVVA Pizza Ranch fundraising night on April 17th sounded good. Ticket sales for our big annual raffle fundraiser have now begun. Let's not hold back! Look at our schedule of community events and fairs and jump in to help. Don't be bashful and go ahead and set up your own table and sign at a local business to sell our raffle tickets. Include a can with a sign for donations for people who don't want a raffle ticket. Get a helper to assist with breaks for coffee or "head calls". Remember that we are raising these funds to help as many veterans and veteran's causes as possible. We are also there to greet and meet veterans and to help and direct them as necessary. Our fair booth should have plenty of various information pamphlets and membership applications to hand out also. And just our presence should help promote patriotism and support for veterans in general. A goal of one new member per event/fair would be great. There is a limited supply of Vietnam veterans, but there should be an unlimited supply of Associate members.

A few thoughts would be to have an official list of what we use our funds for, and have it posted at our booth and individual tables. Maybe co-ordinate a general mailing campaign to all businesses asking for a small donation to coincide with our raffle fundraiser. Would someone be interested in spearheading this type of campaign? Let me know. It's got to be worth a try, especially since we won't be soliciting for door prizes or action items anymore.

Don't forget to plan on participating if possible, by marching or riding with us in the Eau Claire Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27th. Make our presence known!

Try to attend the Laotian Veterans Day ceremonies on Tuesday, May 14th at 9:00 a.m. in Cadott and from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Highground. Maybe our VVA Color Guard could go to Cadott? Let's show our appreciation for these guys who put their lives on the line to help us.

Check out all the activities at the Highground online or get a 2019 Calendar of Events from Joe Graff at our next meeting. Spring Work Week is May 8-11.

The first annual "High School to Heroes" banquet for graduating high school students entering the military from Eau Claire County should have been successfully completed on April 30th at the Wild Ridge Golf Course. A few of us will be there as we sponsored two tables for that event.

A hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA meeting on Wednesday, May 1st 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.

Sincerely,

Mike Korger,
President, VVA Chapter 5

VVA MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2019

Call to Order by President Mike Korger, Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer given by Joe Graff. There was a roll call of all in attendance to Welcome all Veterans and guests.

REPORTS

Secretary – A motion to accept the minutes as reported in the newsletter, mailed and emailed, made by Dennis Wood Sr., seconded by Mike Smith; motion carried.

Treasurer – Joe Heil provided information on all accounts, which are all in good standing and balance with bank records. Joe was thanked for his report.

President – Mike Korger reported that he attended four Vietnam Veterans Day events over the past week; The gathering held at L.E. Phillips Senior Center; the Ho Chunk National event where he received a jacket for attending; the Vietnam Veterans Day event held at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie where he received a book from the Lao Vietnam Veterans on General Vang Pao; and the Rusk County Vietnam Veterans Day event held at the Drop Zone VMA in Ladysmith.

Vice President - Larry Wrycza not present, no report.

AVVA – Rick Talford gave an update on the By-Law/Policy & Procedure proposal he has submitted. It appears there is no other candidate running for the Region 6 Deputy Director position and that he is the only candidate—Chapter 5 will have a member representing them on the National level. The next Pizza Ranch fundraiser will be Wednesday, April 17th from 4-8:30 p.m. A thought to think on, the AVVA members would like to split the cost of a stone at the Eau Claire Veterans Tribute Trail with the VVA members commemorating Chapter 5.

VVA National – National Convention will be held in Spokane, WA from July 16-20, 2019. Chapter will have three voting VVA delegates (Mac McBee, Joe Graff, and another) with one voting AVVA delegate (Rick Talford). The Chapter will pay the registration fees and consider reimbursement for costs connected to travel, etc. A motion to pay these costs was made by Joe Heil, seconded by Dennis Wood Sr.; motion carried.

State Council Meeting – Next State Council will be held on June 15th at the Highground in Neillsville. Chapter five will have eight voting delegates. All required paperwork and financials have been filed as required.

VA Benefits – Dave Mayenchein brought up that veterans with a disability rating over 50% can get a conservation permit for \$10. Jerry Bertram brought up an article that was in the recent VFW magazine that states the government is looking into taxing veteran benefits to help pay for deficits. Pete Breed requested that the Chapter draft a letter against this action and made a motion for such a letter to be drafted, seconded by Dan Zeigler; motion carried. It was also noted that independent letters should be sent to legislators with a closing statement of, “Please understand I will be sharing your reply with other veterans.”

Minority Report – Dave Zein absent.

Membership - VVA 123, AVVA 20

OLD BUSINESS

Vets Home – Rory Schutte and Joe Heil spoke on the recreation committee’s desire to place an additional seven or eight benches outside (they have the funds for this) and some discussion on the need for more patient lifts so that each wing would have their own lift rather than sharing one lift for all four wings. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call Mary or Katie at 715-720-6775.

Highground - Joe Graff provided some dates for upcoming events: Maggie Mae, April 13, 2019; Spring Cleaning at the Willard Wheels of Adventure site, April 20-22; Legacy Stone placement on April 27th; Highground Spring Clean-Up, May 8-11. Future events for August 2020 will be a Vietnam traveling wall along with the Canadian wall and it is requested that the Chapter provide security at least one night of the stay. Joe completed his report by saying that the Vet Center in LaCrosse is donating a 50th Anniversary flag to the Chapter as our flag has gone missing. Find more information at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing – Joe Heil reports that he has two jackets that were ordered but not picked-up, if you’ve ordered a jacket, call him. He may need to place another order as more people have expressed an interest in having a jacket. There are shirts and hoodies available.

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraising – Joe Heil reports that the Buffalo County Fair forms have been received, Mike Korger is handling the Northern Wisconsin State Fair in Chippewa Falls forms, and Joe is working on getting information on Cinder City Days in Altoona. Raffle tickets are in and we can start selling them, if you need tickets, please call Joe. All prizes are on hand except for the freezer and grill and contacts have been made for them.

Newsletter Deadline – Please submit information for the newsletter by **April 19, 2019**

Communications

Chapter Website/E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com; VVA National at www.VVA.org, State at www.VVAWI.org and AVVA at www.avva.org.

Eau Claire Veterans Council – More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rory reported that he will be able to sell raffle tickets at the August's Big Rig Show working with another vendor. He also informed everyone that he will be going on an Honor Flight soon.

Joe Heil spoke of the Veterans Outreach event in Menomonie at the Alliance Gym on April 27th.

Dennis Wood thanked the Chapter's Color Guard for their attendance in Lake Hallie and Ladysmith for the Vietnam Veterans Day events and for the members of the Chapter who were speakers in Ladysmith.

Joe Heil reminded everyone of the High School to Heroes Banquet that the Chapter has sponsored two tables for and will be represented by Mike Korger, Joe Graff, and the McBee's.

The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall will be at the Holmen High School, 1001 McHugh Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 from May 8 through 11th. For more information you can contact the Holmen American Legion Post 284, 608-526-4444.

Attendance drawing was won by Jim Blaha (not in attendance) and the 50/50 was won by Ralph Ottum. The closing prayer was given by Joe Graff and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. There were 26 members in attendance. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. with AVVA meeting at 6:30 p.m. at VFW Post 7232, 2900 Folsom St., Eau Claire.



It is with sadness we report the recent death of one of our Chapter members, Robert Watkins. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Smith Funeral Chapel, 2222 London Rd., Eau Claire on May 4th with visitation starting at 11:00 a.m., service at 2:00 p.m. followed with graveside services at Lakeview Cemetery at 2:45 p.m.

RUSK COUNTY'S

HONOR THE FALLEN RIDE



Two (2) Motorcycle Rides & Fundraisers ALL Welcome!

May 11 & September 28

Veterans Memorial Assoc.

Drop Zone Bar & Grill

605 Summit Avenue, Ladysmith, WI

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|-------------------|--|
| 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Pancake Breakfast
Served by Women with Courage |
| 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Ride Registration
\$15/person donation
\$25/couple |
| 11:00 – 4:30 p.m. | 95 mile ride w/2 stops |
| 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. | Meal/Raffles |

All proceeds raised from the ride are used to support Veterans Programs, memorials and the community. You don't need a motorcycle to participate. Come for the meal and the many raffles. A bus will follow the bikes for non-riders. Meet old friends and make some new ones. Hosted by AMVETS Vacho-Lybert Post 127 For more information, contact John Vacho 715-415-4580 or john.vacho@yahoo.com or find them on Facebook.



Ladysmith Vietnam Veterans Day March 31, 2019



Vietnam Veterans Day at the Eagles Club, Lake Hallie March 30, 2019



Vietnam Veterans Day L.E. Phillips Center March 27, 2019

Postage

Here

VVA Chapter #5
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