

Mike Voth Memorial
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 5 – Eau Claire, WI

May 1, 2024

AVVA
6pm

Attendance – Micki R., Sally & Eric J., Peg O. and Rick T. (Guests – Diane W. and Andy B.)

Discussions;

- 1- Fundraising – We recently held a FR at the local A&W in Altoona. This went very well.
- 2- Finances – We are in better standing now, with some breathing room after the fundraiser was held.
- 3- Membership – 30
- 4- High School to Heroes was attended by Rick T., and the event was great. Meeting the parents and enlistees was the highlight of the evening. The following were a couple that were met at the event; Bryce Reheiser – National Guard (Large Equipment), Joshua Lor – National Guard (MOS 68W), Madyson Miller – Army Reserve (74 Delta), Julian Hoff – Army National Guard (Combat Engineer). Chapter 5 sponsored three tables.
- 5- Colfax Fair – Eric and Sally will be making contact with the fair board to see if Chapter 5 will be able to sell their raffle tickets, and at what costs.

Adjourn 6:22pm

VVA
6:30pm

Attendance – 23 (4 guests)

Agenda – (1) Change – Rod Pettis has replaced Ken Piel as V-President

Call to Order – Mike Korger

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer – Joe Graff

Moment of Silence – none

Deceased members – member's wife Marlyin Thoms (funeral May 27)

Welcome Veterans and Guests – Karin and Katie Rassback (VVA) & Diane W. and Andy B. (AVVA)

Scholarship Winner Katie Rassback then read her interview of Joe Heil to all the members present at the meeting. The young lady really listened to Heil and did extra research to put together an extremely nice essay on Heil's experiences in the service, during Vietnam. She was one of three students that received scholarships from Chapter 5.

Reports

Secretary – Dan Ziegler

A motion to accept the minutes as provided was made by Rory S. and seconded by Ralph O. The motion carried without objection.

Treasurer – Joe Heil

After providing all the financial information to the members, Heil was “Thanked” for his report.

NOTE- Heil also provided some information on upcoming activities.

- 1- Altoona Tribute will be laying 45 stones on Memorial Day. They will also be dedicating a flag burning pit for Flag Retirement Ceremonies.
- 2- The Patriotic Council meeting was held on Apr. 24th, and Chapter 5 will be starting 16th in the Memorial Day Parade in Eau Claire. We will begin at Wilson Park and end at Owen Park. Line-up will begin at 8:30am. Chapter 5 will be leading the parade in 2026. It is hopeful that we will have a trailer for those unable to march in the parade.
- 3- Sunday, May 26th at 8:30am, Chapter 5 Color Guard is requested at St. Matthews in Eau Claire.

President – Mike Korger

- 1- On May 14th, The Hmong will be celebrating their Veterans Day at Cadott. There will be a program there, as well as another in the afternoon in Neillsville at the Highground. Chapter 5 Color Guard has been requested at both locations.
- 2- High School to Heroes was attended by multiple members of Chapter 5, with the event going well (Wild Ridge Golf Course). Before closing the event, every enlistee spoke to the crowd.

V-President – Rod Pettis (Absent)

AVVA – Rick Talford

Talford provided information on the successful fundraising at the Altoona A&W, as well as introduced the guests the AVVA had in their meeting.

Meetings

National – no update

Region 6 – no update

State Council – June 24th will be the next meeting in Waupaca at Par 4. (Elections)

VA/Benefits/Claims – Still needing a chairperson (Dave Z.)

- 1- Experience can help you get a bachelor’s degree
- 2- DAV can help you start up your own business
- 3- Spouses can go back to school to further their education under chapter 35

Minority report – Dave Zein

- 1- April 5th – Congressional MOH recipient came to VFW Post 305 (Gary Wetzel)
- 2- April 22nd – Neil Korn received medals for his service. 102 year old was part of the 7th wave on D-Day in Normandy.
- 3- May 18th – Armed Forces Day – activity at Post 305

Membership – VVA 125 AVVA 30

Old Business

Veteran's Home – Rory Schutte

- 1- June 25th at 10:30 am will be the shelter dedication. Gov. Evers will be present for a meet and greet at 10am.
- 2- Vets home meetings are held each 3rd Wed. of the month at the Chippewa Falls VFW

Highground – Joe Graff

- 1- May 8th – Spring Cleaning begins
- 2- May 11th – volunteer appreciation picnic
- 3- May 14th – Hmong Veterans Day Program
- 4- May 18th – Legacy Stone Ceremony and Bake Sale
- 5- May 27th – Annual Honor Ride and Memorial Day Ceremony

VVA Clothing/LOGO – Joe Heil

New clothing has been ordered

New Business

County Fairs – Here we go with another season of fairs to cover for our annual fundraising. The following is a list of events, please take time to look at it, and see where you can help.

- 1- Eleva Broilerfest – May 31st - June 2nd (Sunday during the parade, help most needed)
- 2- Colfax – June 13th – 15th
- 3- NWSF – July 10th – 14th
- 4- Buffalo Co. – July 24th – 29th
- 5- Sturgeon Fest – Aug. 31st – Sept. 2nd

NOTE- Also, please take time to stop into stores and see if you can set up for a day or two out front.

VVA Goals/Outreach – no update

Fundraising – covered above

Chapter Elections – April 2026

Committee – The Scholarship Committee discussed providing an additional \$500.00 to the best essay each year. A motion to provide this added award was made by Mike Smith and seconded by Mike Schmidt. The motion carried without objection. A second motion was then made to provide this year's best essay to Katie Rassback by Mike Smith and seconded by Rory Schutte. The motion carried without objection.

Chapter Newsletter – any information that you would like added to the minutes, can be submitted to Joe Heil or Rick Talford.

Communications – none

Good of the Order

Dave Zein – a presentation of an imitation gun was given to Bob Bonesteel in recognition of his service.

Joe Heil – The Eagles Club has been sold to a recreational vehicle business

50/50 drawing – Ralph O. \$11.00

Closing Prayer – Joe Graff

Next Meeting – June 5th, 2024 at 6:30pm – Post 7232

Adjourn - 8pm