



## Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5

Vietnam Veterans of America

P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702

November 2017 Newsletter

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



Volume 3 Issue 11

Editor – Julie McBee

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/01/17 Chapter Meeting at Post 7232 @ 7pm  
\*\*\* AVVA Members meet **6:30 pm**
- 11/04/17 Marine Corps Birthday Ball @ Florian Gardens, EC
- 11/07/17 Veterans Ball @ Veterans Home, CF
- 11/11/17 Chapter 5 Color Guard @ Northstar Middle School
- 11/11/17 Blood Drive @ Veterans Home, CF
- 11/14/17 Pillar Construction's Veterans Dinner 4:00 p.m.  
\*\*\* held at VFW Post 305 in Eau Claire

**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](http://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: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Minority Affairs: Vacant
- 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, J. McBee, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza
- AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- Historical: Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514
- Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-647-2091

### CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
- VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
- Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-0180
- 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**

**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,

I think the month of October has given most of us some respite, although if we are sitting still we run the risk of going backwards. So, let's have our eyes and ears open and put on our thinking caps for ways of helping veterans and supporting our active duty military. One possible interesting idea is to sponsor a bus trip to "The Wall" in D.C. We also need to make our presence known at the Highground and to contribute to the new Eau Claire County Veterans Tribute Trail. Of course all ideas depend on what funds we have. We should find out at our next meeting what we made at our annual fundraiser and raffle, so we could hopefully be able to start planning various veterans' activities.

What we can do now is make it to one or more of the upcoming events at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls: Veterans Ball on November 7<sup>th</sup>, Blood Drive on November 11<sup>th</sup>, VFW sponsored Christmas Party on December 1<sup>st</sup> and our Chapter 5/DAV sponsored Christmas Party on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The veterans who are residents there appreciate seeing and visiting with us.

Attention to all Marines! The annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball, which has been held at the Three Bears Lodge in Warrens, is being held at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire this year on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>; but, you must have reservations so contact me as soon as possible for details.

I hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA Chapter 5 meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA meeting at 6:30) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger, President  
VVA Chapter #5

## **VVA Meeting of 10/4/2017**

- NOTE: Board of Directors meeting not held at 6 p.m. due to insufficient member presence. Board of Directors meeting rescheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m. in Osseo.

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Korger at 7 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant at Arms, Joe Graff as was the Opening Prayer and Moment of Silence for those fallen and missing. Additional prayers were asked for all those members who are dealing with illness. Welcome new members and guests by Joe Heil who mentioned the Hero Hunt in Willard, WI on various dates. For more information, please contact Joe Heil.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion made by Larry Wrycza to accept the Secretary's Report for the minutes of last month's meeting as mailed, seconded by Joe Graff and motion carried. NOTE: Joe Heil emailed the report to those who receive email copies—they weren't received and he will resend them, anyone not receiving an emailed version, please contact Joe to be sure he has your correct email address.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe Heil spoke of the Chapter's finances and preliminary fundraiser numbers. For the Pizza Ranch event, the chapter received \$189 as our portion of the restaurants income, \$236 in tips (Thank You members for your excellent service!) and we were able to sell an additional \$245 in raffle tickets. As for our October 1<sup>st</sup> Chicken Feed, while the final totals aren't available, it looks like we did very, very well—comparable to last year's joint event with the VFW. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Ralph Ottum, seconded by Tom Neunefeldt and motion carried.

**President's Report:** Mike Korger thanked everyone for their hard work for the Pizza Ranch and October Chicken Feed Fundraiser events. He then reminded everyone of some upcoming events at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls; Veterans Ball on November 4<sup>th</sup>, Blood Drive on November 11<sup>th</sup>, VFW Christmas Party on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and our own VVA/DAV Christmas Party on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Mike then spoke of the funeral service that was held for member Dennis Schramm and the memorial service that was held this afternoon at the Highground.

**Vice President's Report:** Larry Wrycza recognized Ralph Ottum for selling the most raffle tickets for this year's fundraiser and offered his apologies for not being around as he has been busy and has had truck issues.

**AVVA Report:** Julie read Sharon Hobbs Thank You note to the Chapter and thanked everyone for their help in the fundraising activities this year.

**National VVA Convention:** Next National Convention will be in Spokane, WA in 2019.

**State VVA Meeting:** Veteran Suicide Prevention Program was held on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and Joe Graff gave a summary of the day's events; the first half was on PTSD and the second

half of the day was by Dr.'s Berger and Hall on suicide prevention. One Marine who was present stood up and told the group, "If you don't know what you're doing, don't! Call the Police or Sheriff to have the situation dealt with and DON'T say, 'I know .....' Be patient with the individual but get help." State Council meeting summary was provided by Mac and Julie McBee; the Car Show at the Dells wasn't quite the success hoped for, but plans are starting now for a better show next year. The big topic of discussion was the Household Goods account that nobody seems to have a good understanding of; there is money in an account and it needs to be used so it was the suggestion, and carried by vote, that the State Council will ask all Chapters to endorse to the State their portion of the Household Goods account and the State will utilize the proceeds for education and veteran's programs in the State. Letters explaining all this will be sent to the Chapters and should be received by our November meeting. The next scheduled State Council meeting is in December with a Christmas Dinner on Friday night, 12/1 and State Council meeting on Saturday, 12/2. Joe Heil will be attending, if anyone is interested please contact him. Reservations need to be made for the dinner, if you plan on attending the Christmas Party, more information can be found at [www.vvawi.org](http://www.vvawi.org).

**VA/Benefits:** Pete Breed not present.

**Membership:** 147 as of June.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Veterans Home:** Rory Schutte spoke of the Veterans Ball on November 7<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined, the Blood Drive on November 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Christmas Parties on December 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the VFW's and we are invited to, and our co-sponsored Chapter 5/DAV 21 party on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and clean-up afterwards.

**Highground:** Joe Graff gave the Highground Report on upcoming events. The Fall Fest/Chili Feed will be on October 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 a.m., cost is \$5 to sample up to fifteen different chili options and vote for on your favorite. Find more information at [www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org).

**Logo/Clothing:** More discussion ensued on the jackets for the Color Guard; Board of Directors will meet on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Osseo Community Club to make a decision.

**Fundraising:** Doug Farmer made a motion to give the Ottums a gift certificate for dinner out in recognition of Ralph's hard work selling raffle tickets, motion seconded by Dave Mayenschein and carried.

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

**Communications:** Newsletter deadline will be November 24, 2017.

Website/E-Mail: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org) / [mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com)  
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:** April of 2018

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dodie Neuenfeldt talked about books she found at the Tomah VA that are available free of charge and she brought several copies along with her of Tears of a Warrior to pass out to those interested. She also said that there is a Sesame Street video available that explains deployment to kids that is also free at the VA.

Joe Heil announced the attendance winner, Dennis Woodford—next month's drawing will be \$20. The 50/50 was won by Erik Johnson. The Augusta Quilt of Valor will be presented to Dennis Werlein on Monday or Tuesday.



With our Chaplain, Dennis Werlein, currently in the hospital I thought that perhaps it would be a good time, and in keeping with the month of November and Thanksgiving, to remember how the national day of observance began, and how we too have much to be thankful for, even in times of strife. What follows is taken from "Abraham Lincoln Online."

### **""Proclamation of Thanksgiving**

This is the proclamation which set the precedent for America's national day of Thanksgiving. During his administration, President Lincoln issued many orders similar to this. For example, on November 28, 1861, he ordered government departments closed for a local day of thanksgiving.

Sarah Josepha Hale, a 74-year-old magazine editor, wrote a letter to Lincoln on September 28, 1863, urging him to have the "day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union Festival." She explained, "you may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation, only to become permanently, an American custom and institution."

Prior to this, each state scheduled its own Thanksgiving holiday at different times, mainly in New England and other Northern states. President Lincoln responded to Mrs. Hale's request immediately, unlike several of his predecessors, who ignored her petitions altogether. In her

letter to Lincoln she mentioned that she had been advocating a national thanksgiving date for 15 years as the editor of Godey's *Lady's Book*. George Washington was the first president to proclaim a day of thanksgiving, issuing his request on October 3, 1789, exactly 4 years before Lincoln's.

The document below sets apart the last Thursday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise." According to an April 1, 1854 letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln's secretaries, this document was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 3, 1863, fellow Cabinet member Gideon Welles recorded in his diary how he complimented Seward on his work. A year later the manuscript was sold to benefit Union troops.

**Washington, D.C.  
October 3, 1863**

**By the President of the United States of America.  
A Proclamation.**

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also with humble penitence for our national perverseness and

disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

**By the President: Abraham Lincoln**

**William H. Seward,  
Secretary of State””**

Source: Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Roy P. Basler et al.



I would like to throw out a message to “ALL” active color guard members of Mike Voth Memorial Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 5 of Eau Claire. We are working on 2018 events and would like all of you that will be active participants in 2018 Color Guard activities to please make contact with AVVA member Rick Talford at 715-647-2091 within the next couple of weeks to let him know you are willing and able to participate in parades and/or other activities the color guard may be invited to be involved with. It is also important for the Chapter to know who they can contact when funerals come up and an Honor Guard is needed for fallen members of Chapter 5. Everyone is invited to be a part of the many events that we have available to us, but we need to have knowledge if there are enough members interested to continue having a color/honor guard. This is a volunteer role for the Chapter so please consider if you have the time and would like to be involved. The event calendar for 2018 should be ready by the end of February so keep in touch and watch for updates through the newsletter.

Honorary Veterans Dinner  
Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
VFW Post 305 on Starr Ave., Eau Claire

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner hosted by Pillar Construction Group  
Serving a complimentary dinner for our Veterans and their families.

Featuring Guest Speaker & Live Entertainment  
Doors open at 4:00 PM  
Dinner served at 5:00 PM  
Please RSVP to 715-598-7700  
Seating is Limited

VVA Chapter #5  
 P.O. 832  
 Eau Claire, WI 54702

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**Call Joe Heil at 715-559-2945**

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