



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5
Eau Claire, WI 54702
November News Letter 2015

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



Volume 1 Issue 11 Editor – Julie McBee Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/04/15 Chapter Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 11/10/15 Veterans Breakfast @ VFW Post 305
- 11/11/15 Patriotic Council Color Guard @ Regis HS
- 11/11/15 Veterans Day BBQ @ Minnesota Wire
- 11/14/15 HAIRICA EauClaire (proceeds to DAV)
- 12/02/15 Chapter Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 12/04/15 VFW Christmas Party @ Veterans' Home
- 12/05/15 State VVA meeting @ Waupaca
- 12/11/15 VVA-DAV Christmas Party @ Veterans' Home

CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President: Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514
- VP: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518
- Treasurer: Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Secretary: Mike Korger 715-726-3918
- Chaplain: Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0192
- Ken Lenstrud 715-556-9440
- Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

COMMITTEES

- Finance: Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Govt. Affairs: Bob Laguban 651-285-8518
- Membership: Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Public Affairs: Joe Graff 715-579-0192
- Minority Affairs: Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- Veterans Affairs-Benefits: Peter Breed 715-827-0359
- Women Veterans: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0192
- Agent Orange/Incarcerated & Veterans Health Care: Peter Breed 715-827-0359
- Fundraising Chair: Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
- Fundraising Co-Chair: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- Welcome Home Picnic: Rod Pettis, Bob Laguban, Ed Laventure, Peter Breed and Dave Johnson
- Scholarship: Joe Graff, Joe Heil, Julie McBee, Dennis Werlein and Larry Wrycza

Founding principle,
Vietnam Veterans of America
**"Never again will one generation
of veterans abandon another."**

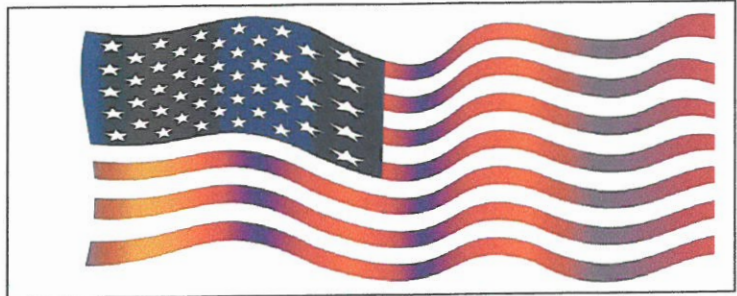


God Bless All Veterans



"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!

The days are getting a lot shorter and the geese will be making their long migration south soon enough. It's been a beautiful fall and the fields and gardens are pretty much harvested. It's been a pretty good year so far for our Chapter as we have done well in our fundraising and have our Chapter membership at close to 100 members. Our membership drive continues as our membership committee chairperson has sent an invitation letter and the \$100 special life enrollment forms to members of the past when we had 140 members on the Chapter roster. Maybe we can be at that number again! If all of our members just asked one friend that's a veteran to join we could do it. As the minutes will show, the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce leaders had some great ideas for our Welcome Home picnic next summer. They have a number of arrangements made already and our planning committee is going to meet with them soon. It should be an exciting summer next year.

Meanwhile, there is still a lot going on yet this year. On Veterans Day we need a good showing of our color guard to help out at the ceremony at Regis High School. The Patriotic Council is having a combined color guard made up of several area Veterans' groups. We will form up at 9:30 a.m. The ceremony is from 10 to 11:00 a.m. in the school gym. There is parking on the North side of the school. On the same day from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m., there is an event at Minnesota Wire; see the flyer in the newsletter. Our joint VVA-DAV Christmas Party will take place on December 11th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls. There will be music too. Try to make it to the party the veterans really enjoy the camaraderie. At our December 2nd Chapter meeting, Eau Claire County Circuit Judge Brian Wright will be our guest speaker. He will be talking about the law and legal matters as they pertain to veterans. It should be informative so plan to attend.

Meanwhile, at our November 4th meeting we will be deciding what scholarships, organizations and programs our donations and profits from our fundraiser will go. All the rest of the color guard shirts and hats will be available to be picked up. All in all it has been a good summer and there is still more fun to be had before the snow flies.

Later,

Dennis Werlein
Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 President

VVA Meeting of 10/7/2015

President Dennis Werlein called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and he led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was given by Chaplain Dan Ziegler.

Dennis introduced new members Roland Scherer, Ralph Ottum, Rory Schutte, John Dorsey and new member-to-be John Olson. He also introduced special guests Nick White and Amanda Olson who are co-chairs of the Adult Leadership Committee of the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce. Nick and Amanda then gave their presentation to help our Chapter with a "Welcome Back Home" picnic next summer. They propose using the fan deck at Carson Park Baseball Stadium which accommodates 600 people from 3-5 p.m. and could use their vendors. Music would be playing and lawn games could be set up outside the stadium to accommodate families. This could be tied in with an Eau Claire Express baseball game. Warren Petryk could sing the National Anthem, we could throw out the first pitch and we could supply a color guard. Rock 'n Roll to Go could set up their bouncing inflatables for the kids on the softball field. We could tie in with having the Moving Wall set up nearby. A radio interview could be set up during the 4th inning. Business sponsors could cover a lot of the costs. The Chamber could help line up some businesses to cover the advertising. A date in June or July could be determined at the Express game schedule comes out on November 1st.

A special picnic committee was then picked: Rod Pettis, Bob Laguban, Ed Laventure, Peter Breed and possibly Dave Johnson. Other VVA Chapters and Hmong groups could be involved. It could be a Vietnam Vets Night at the Eau Claire Express. The Fan Deck is handicap accessible and there are port-a-potties. The Chamber has tents we could use. There are some Vietnam displays available and we could get the helicopter again. There is a lot to work on.

Our next VVA meeting is November 4th.

A motion passed to accept the Secretary's Report by Mike Korger as e-mailed and mailed out.

A motion passed to accept the Treasurer's Report by Joe Heil. Joe gave us a preliminary financial report from our fundraiser. We did very well it appears. Joe will give us a final report next meeting. It was determined that we should give a plaque to a family who gave us donations of \$700.

A motion passed to give out two \$500 general scholarships and one \$700 nursing scholarship, all setup in a restricted fund. We need to set up a scholarship committee to facilitate the scholarships. Joe also said about \$3,700 from the fundraiser should be put in veteran funds.

Guest John Olson gave an Eau Claire combined Vets Council Report. There are about 25 members on the Council and their priorities are to build an Eau Claire County veterans memorial, to get a vehicle to transport veterans to Tomah and the Twin Cities, and to place a metal box at the courthouse of flag disposal.

There is a special veterans' breakfast on November 10th at VFW Post 305. Cost is \$5.00.

President Dennis read a formal letter from our Chapter signed by him to request an expansion to the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls. There was discussion on whether there should be a fundraiser started and who all should be sent a copy of the letter from us. Peter Breed stated that this must go through state and federal funding.

Joe Heil did the 50/50 raffle drawing for a NAPA gift certificate for \$25.00, the winner was Ed Michels.

In the President's Report, Dennis said that the 9/25 parade will revert back to its original route next year. Veterans Day Ceremonies will be held at Regis High School this year. He reported on the Wisconsin Badgers football game trip and that one of the veterans was unable to continue on the trip.

Joe Heil reported that the next State VVA meeting will be 12/5 at Waupaca. Our current membership is 89 plus pending memberships that have already been sent in.

For the Clothing Report, Joe said 17 more shirts will be arriving on Monday or Tuesday. He also added that expansion of the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls was the main topic at the meeting he attended at the Veterans Home.

The Highground Report was given by Joe Graff. The October 3rd Fall Fest was successful with a chili cook-off, car show and laying of 25-35 legacy stones. The Persian Gulf Tribute is scheduled for July 2016 for six days. Ralph Ottum reminded us the dates will be July 19-25 and will include the Wall of Remembrance.

On 12/4 the Chippewa Falls VFW is hosting a Christmas party at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls. We are invited to participate. Our Chapter's Christmas party combined with the DAV at the Veterans Home does not have a date set yet.

Our annual fundraiser date has been set for 9/10/16. Joe Heil suggested that we give free meals to those who help us at the fundraiser.

Julie McBee gave a Newsletter Report.

Under "Good of the Order" Joe Heil said there is a judge who could like to speak to us at a future meeting about the law. President Dennis said that we need a scholarship committee: Joe Graff, Joe Heil, Larry Wrycza, Julie McBee and Dennis will be on the committee. Joe Graff said that we should sponsor an Agent Orange meeting and maybe tie it in with the Eau Claire County's annual Vietnam Veterans' Day or have a town hall meeting. Samples for window decals for VVA supporters were passed around. A motion passed to order 250 large decals for \$175.00.

Joe Heil drew a name for the monthly attendance drawing winner. Ed Laventure was present and won \$10.00. Next month's amount will be \$10.00. Peter Breed said that we don't have to contribute to the field trip fund at the Veterans' Home at this time because there are sufficient funds in that account.

A motion passed to adjourn at 8:46 p.m., but guest Dave Johnson was invited to speak. Dave is a former VVA president and he said he was returning numerous VVA stuff, including can coolers, bumper stickers, t-shirts and caps.

The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Dan Ziegler.

22 members were in attendance.

2015 Raffle Winners!

50" TV - Dorothy Krause, Cadott
Quilt - Don Aubart, Chippewa Falls
\$200 - Grant Hanson, Osseo
\$100 - Ron Perry, Augusta
\$50 - Larry Offerdahl, Mondovi
\$25 - Kim Nelson, Stanley
\$25 - Lori Kutchera, Augusta

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



Wishing everyone with a Birthday or an Anniversary this month a very Blessed Day!

Rory Schutte would like everyone to know of an event happening on Saturday, 11/14/15 called HAIRICA Doing Hair for America being held at THE PLUS, 208 S. Barstow St., Eau Claire at 7p.m. The event is Eau Claire's premiere hair show and fine food gala with proceeds going to the DAV Chippewa Valley Chapter. Ticket prices include food and spirits. General Admission is \$20 (advance) and \$30 (day of) with reserved seating for \$25 (advance) and \$35 (day of) along with an AYCD bracelet option for \$10 (add-on) which allows wearer FREE Coors Light tap beer for the entire evening. Hello Wisconsin will feature this event on Friday, 11/13/15 at 6:20 a.m. For more information or to purchase tickets go to www.hairica.bpt.me or at THE PLUS.



CHAPTER MOTTO

"Honor the DEAD and fight like Hell for the LIVING"

Happy
Thanksgiving



Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.



* SPECIAL ONE-TIME LIFE MEMBERSHIP OFFER *

**This application is for the Life Membership Special being offered from November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 only. The application must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2015 to be accepted.*

This application can be filled in online and printed to sign and mail, or it can be printed blank and filled out by hand.

State: _____ Chapter: _____ At-Large? Yes No
Are You a Veteran? Yes No Are you eligible for VVA? Yes No
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Member # _____

Name: _____ Sex: M F

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Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

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No payment plans are offered with this special.**

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(Checks, money orders or credit cards accepted)**

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2015

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- 11:00 am Colors and Dedication Ceremony
- KENOTE ADDRESS: To Be Announced
- 11:30 am Food & Beverages Provided
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- 2:00 pm Event Concludes ~ Freedom Continues!

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One Time Special Offer

August 1 – December 31, 2015

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Life Membership Dues \$100.00

Life Membership Payment: Check _____ Money Order _____

Credit Card: Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Amex _____ Discover _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility: Membership is to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purpose) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975. **You MUST submit a copy of your DD214 with this application.**

Send To: Vietnam Veterans of America, PO Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299

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

Postage
Here

On the previous page is an application. Please use it to bring in new members.
Please bring the application back to the Chapter so we can send it in.
Make checks payable to: Vietnam Veterans of America
You help to build Chapter #5 is greatly appreciated

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