



# Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

November 2016 Newsletter

Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ 7pm at

VFW Post #7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire, WI



**Volume 2 Issue 11 Editor - Julie McBee Asst. Editor - Dennis Wood**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/02/16 Chapter Meeting @ 7 pm @ Post 7232
- 11/09/16 Sunrise Club Veterans Day Program @ Post 305 at 6:30 am
- 11/11/16 Regis High School Veterans Day Program @ 10 am \*\* Color Guard arrive & line-up by 9:30 am
- 11/11/16 Veterans Day Program @ Highground @ 3 pm
- 11/12/16 "Hairica" Fundraiser for DAV @ Best Western
- 12/2-12/3 State VVA Council Meeting @ Waupaca
- 12/07/16 Chapter Meeting @ 7 pm @ Post 7232
- 12/09/16 Cocktail Christmas Party at Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls from 3-4 pm Cosponsored by Chapter 5 & DAV 21

## 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: 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: Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- 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 715-402-0106
- Fundraising Co-Chair: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
- VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
- Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Secretary Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- 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 714-926-4225

## **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**

Greetings,

There were no big events for our Chapter this past month, but there has been a lot of discussion on upcoming and future events.

Unfortunately, the UW Eau Claire Vets Club fundraiser that was to take place October 22<sup>nd</sup> was cancelled due to poor registration response and will be rescheduled in the spring. Any donations received are being held in a special account for this future date. Announcements about this event will be shared when available.

Regis High School is sponsoring the Veterans Day Program on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Please participate if at all possible, especially with our Chapter's Color Guard.

Plans for our combined VVA and DAV sponsored Christmas party at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls have been finalized. Come out and celebrate with those veterans on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 pm. There will be finger food, drinks and live music.

There was discussion at our October Chapter meeting on our annual fundraiser, and then a committee meeting was held at the Eagles Club in Chippewa Falls to discuss all aspects of us holding our fundraiser there next October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, which will be on a Sunday. Also at our October Chapter meeting, planning for the next annual Vietnam Veterans Day program was started. We are in need of having a couple more of our members to be on this planning committee. Please call me or let me know at our next meeting if you can help.

Hope to see you all at our next VVA meeting on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger, President  
VVA Chapter 5

## VVA Meeting of 10/5/2016

Meeting was called to order by the Sgt. at Arms followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer by Chaplain Dennis Werlein. Membership was informed of the recent illness and hospitalization of member, Mark Lawrence, and a Get Well card was passed around for members to sign. There were no new members or guests present.

Motion was made by Joe Heil and seconded by Larry Wrycza to accept the Secretary's Report as mailed and emailed; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Joe Heil; the Rifle Raffle was very successful with proceeds, after expenses, split between Chapter 5 and VFW District 9's Unmet Needs Program. A check has been cut and given to District 9 Commander, Roland Scherer. Joe further went into the expenses the Chapter had with relation to the recent Chicken Feed Fundraiser and the current balances in the Chapter accounts. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as reported was made by Larry Wrycza and seconded by Ralph Ottum; motion carried. Joe also informed us that he has had contact with Madison regarding the possible payment of taxes on money raised as a non-profit entity and that he would be filing the appropriate paperwork.

Joe Heil then made a motion to donate \$5,000 to DAV 21 for the Veteran van being purchased. Rod Anderson of DAV 21 then took the floor and spoke regarding the van. He said if the Chapter gave a \$5,000 donation, then the van, which has been ordered, will be paid for. He explained that the van ordered is a Ford and that Ford gave \$5,000 off the purchase price and an additional \$1,000 for the Eau Claire County wrap that is going on the van. He also mentioned that there will be a sign on the back of the van making it recognizable as the Eau Claire County van when it is at the VA in Minneapolis. Rod went on to say that the DAV is planning on a large media event for sometime the end of November with coverage by print, radio and TV. There will be a cake and coffee reception where plaques will be given to recognize those organizations that have donated to the purchase of this van. He went on to say that, at present, there are eight volunteer drivers and more are needed. If anyone is interested in volunteering, he suggested going on-line at [www.DOT.WI](http://www.DOT.WI) to obtain a copy of your driving record rather than the local DMV. Additionally, the on-line the fee is only \$5.00 as opposed to \$30.00 at the DMV. Tim Moore, EC County CVSO, will give you the necessary forms and a \$25 gas card for your time/effort in getting a physical; proof of insurance will also be required. Rod went on to explain that the van needed to be ordered as all the vans on the lot were 15 passenger and VA requirements are for a 12 passenger. Features ordered were safety glass, large side windows with rear and side window heating that will allow for better vision, a ramp on the passenger side for easy loading, a running board step on the driver's side for easier entry, a higher than normal profile for taller vets, a larger engine for better fuel mileage and standard radio. DAV 21 is purchasing a Garmin for GPS as the installed system is costly and not very accurate. Rod further explained that the DAV is purchasing the van and according to the program, the van will be given to the VA, the VA licenses it (MN or WI not yet determined) and runs the vehicle and pays for it. Then after four or five years, and at a certain mileage, the VA will then give the van back to DAV 21 who will then decide what to do with it as the van will then be replaced free of

charge for the DAV. Rod continued to explain some of the rules that the VA has regarding the van's use. Currently the Chippewa County van runs on odd days and the EC County van will run on even days, as well as making trips to the Chippewa Falls VA Clinic. He was questioned if the van could also run to the Tomah VA and he explained how the counties are divided between Tomah and Minneapolis. After the first of the year the DAV will be asking for a change in the VA's ruling on county division so that the EC County van could go to Tomah but that the VA has to approve the change. He finished by saying that the DAV plans on having an annual "Driver's Dinner" to thank all the drivers for helping with the needs of veterans. Motion to donate \$5,000 to DAV 21 for the purchase of the van was seconded, motion carried unanimously.

President's Report was given by Mike Korger who reviewed our recent fundraising event and that help of more members for such events in the future is always needed. He also expressed a "Thank You" to all members who have participated in our various fundraising events and to Pete Breed and his wife for donating the Henry Rifles that made the raffle so successful.

Vice President's Report was given by Larry Wrycza who thanked all the volunteers for their hard work. He also mentioned that AVVA member Julia McBee is now certified for "Food Safety" by the State of WI and that Joe Heil has the certification on file for the Chapter.

National VVA Council Report: Convention will be in 2017

State VVA Council Report: Joe Heil reported that the next meeting will be the first weekend in December in Waupaca and that he is planning on attending. Anyone else interested in going should contact him.

VA Benefits: Pete Breed thanked everyone for their hard work with the Rifle Raffle and in achieving the goal of \$14-15,000. He spoke of our Chapter's future fundraising efforts and that we could raise that \$14-15,000 without having to do a lot of other fundraising. He spoke of purchasing future rifles direct from Henry in Rice Lake and as a non-profit we could receive \$50 off each rifle. He also suggested having multiple rifles and starting early to have a better chance to capture local fairs, rodeos, etc. and also having a table set-up outside grocery stores, Farm & Fleet, etc. He then discussed that Veteran's "benefits" are really a Veteran's "Entitlements" and brought with him the 2016 Benefit books, along with the older 2014 version. He pointed out that the 2016 version is much thinner because much of the information is being referred to online. He added that there has been no cost of living increase for two years and that there are benefits for spouses that many do not know about. He suggested Veterans start with their CVSO, who should have their DD214 on file and if you've not seen your CVSO, you should make an appointment and take your documentation with you. The CVSO will be able to provide you with six certified copies for future use (copies are needed by spouses upon the death of a Veteran for the Social Security office, undertaker, etc.) and Joe Graff added that it is necessary for children to have a DD214 for their education/health benefits.

Minority Report: Roger Schuh not present, no report given.

Membership Report: currently membership is at 145 with three more new members signed-up by Dennis Werlein. Joe Graff then presented a plaque received from the National Vietnam Veterans of America to Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5 for their membership efforts during 2016. This was awarded at the National Convention in Arizona and forwarded to the Chapter.

Highground Report: Joe Graff spoke on behalf of the Highground. At present, Chapter 5 has no presence at Highground as other Chapters throughout the state have and he has looked into the cost of a 12x12x2 stone on the State of Wisconsin memorial. The stone sites within the shape of the State are for County purchase, not organizations so he has put a hold on the center bottom stone beneath the shape of the State for more of a dominant position. He added that the cost of stones for the Bootprint Memorial cost between \$3,500-4,000. Discussion of the Chapter purchasing a stone ensued and decision was tabled to next month. He spoke of the marathon that will take place on October 8<sup>th</sup> at and Julia McBee informed the membership that 24 cases of bottled water will be donated (left-over from our Carson Park and fundraiser).

Logo-Clothing Report: Joe Heil stated that he was planning on placing an order for sweatshirts and additional Color Guard braids. He also spoke of the "Associate Member" patches that were purchased and are available for Associate Members who wear a Color Guard shirt to differentiate themselves from Veteran Members. VP Larry Wrycza spoke of a phone call he had received from an individual in the community who felt that the Chapter should change the color of shirts worn by Associate Members; this idea was squelched by Chapter Members. Motion was made and seconded for Joe to purchase more sweatshirts and braids; motion carried.

New Business: Rory Schutte spoke of the upcoming Hairica event on November 12<sup>th</sup> being held this year at the Best Western, with proceeds going to DAV 21. He said that they are looking for females to participate in the event and that participants will get their admission and meal for free (\$50). This is the second year of the event with approximately 280 tickets sold last year earning about \$3,800 being contributed to DAV 21. He then spoke of the United Vets Council's Memorial being created at Phoenix Park. Each war/conflict will be represented at the Memorial and cost is estimated to be over one million dollars. Possible stone placement for the Chapter could also be placed at this location, discussion on this tabled for the future. He finished by talking about the Vets Home and the change to membership. If member organizations fail to attend a meeting three times in a year, they will be removed from membership.

Ralph Ottum then spoke of a recent seminar that was held in Colby whose keynote speaker was John Schultz, Assistant Deputy Service Officer from Milwaukee who had come and spoke for two hours on Veteran Benefits/Entitlements. He spoke of many things that Veterans present did not know about. Ralph felt it would be good for the Chapter to look into hosting a seminar for all local Veterans and having John speak. John is a Past Commander of VFW District 7 and asks for at least five people to be in attendance to give the seminar. Dennis Werlein then made a motion to create a committee to look into hosting such an event with Joe Heil and Rod Anderson agreeing to get the committee going. Anyone interested in joining and helping with this event can contact Mike Korger.

Fundraising Report: Larry Wrycza spoke of this year's fundraiser and the poor turnout. The Fundraising Committee has looked into having next year's event on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at the Eagles Club on Hwy 53 in Chippewa Falls. The Rifle Raffle went well due in part to the hard work by members at local county fairs. Anyone with ideas should contact Larry or Julie.

Joe Heil quickly spoke of the website creation explaining that he is looking into costs and will get in touch with Pat again. Post 7232 has a site that cost approximately \$3,200 to get put together. Due to time constraints and computer issues being experienced he was unable to pull up either Post 7232 or his Muskie groups websites to show everyone. He will do this next month so that membership can see what the websites look like.

Veterans Home Report: Dennis Werlein provided some information about the available funds at the Vets Home. He also noted the change in attendance for meetings and mentioned that the Chairman had resigned and that Dave Wiggins is doing a fine job in the interim. Election for new officers will be soon.

VP Larry Wrycza asked if the Chapter would consider having a meeting at Post 53 as it is difficult at times, especially with a large turnout, for all members to hear above the noise here at Post 7232 during our meetings. He will look into what day would work with Post 53 for the Chapter to have a meeting there. It was requested that the upstairs room be looked into for those who have mobility issues.

Good of the Order: Ed Laventure was the winner for September, but was not in attendance. Junior Piper was the October winner, also not in attendance so next month's attendance drawing will be for \$70. The 50/50 was won by Ernie Werlein. The Vets Home Christmas Party was briefly discussed, more input from staff needed about a date. This party is being cosponsored by our Chapter and DAV 21. The Chapter 5's Christmas party was brought up and tabled until next month's meeting. The closing prayer and salute were given by Dennis Werlein and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. There were 23 in attendance.





Top Photo: Treasurer Joe Heil presenting Rod Anderson, DAV Commander with a check for \$5,000 for the purchase of a veteran van for Eau Claire County.

Bottom Photo: Treasurer Joe Heil and Past President Dennis Werlein with the Recognition Plaque received from National Vietnam Veterans of America for the Chapter's 2016 membership efforts.

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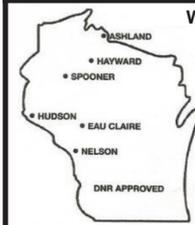
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