



MIKE VOTH MEMORIAL CHAPTER 5
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER
 MEETINGS 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 7:00 P.M.
 HELD AT VFW POST #7232, 2900 W. FOLSOM, EAU CLAIRE, WI



Volume 5 – Issue 10

EDITOR – Julia McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/02/19 *Chapter Meeting 7:00 P.M. (AVVA 6:30 P.M.)
- 10/16/19 AVVA Pizza Ranch Fundraiser 4:00-8:30 P.M.
- 10/19/19 Benefit Bowl for the Homeless starts 11:00 A.M.
Strike Time Bowl in Neillsville

* We will have two guest speakers present tonight!

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President - Mike Korger 715-404-5796
- VP - Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
- Treasurer - Joe Heil 715-559-2945
- Secretary - Mac McBee 715-202-0181
- Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms - Joe Graff
- BOD Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- BOD Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
- BOD Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
- BOD Mike Smith 601-938-3746
- BOD Al Weix 715-832-4792

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

COMMITTEES

- AVVA Chapter Representative - Rick Talford 715-926-5302
- Color Guard – Rick Talford 715-926-5302
- EC City Veteran’s Council – Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158
- Finance – Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Fundraising – J. Heil, J. McBee
- Government Affairs – Bob Laguban 651-285-8518
- Historical – Julia McBee 715-202-0181
- Minority Affairs – Dave Zien 715-829-9436
- Membership – Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Outdoor Recreation – Bill Anderson 715-530-3481
- POW/MIA/Highground – Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Public Affairs – Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Scholarship – J. Heil, Chair; J. Graff, M. Korger, J/J McBee
- Veterans Assistance – Dave Mayenchein 715-669-3169
- Veterans Home – Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
- Women Veterans – Julia McBee 715-202-0181

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA’S
 FOUNDING PRINCIPLE,

***“Never again will one generation
 of veterans abandon another.”***



God Bless All Veterans





Greetings,

How did it get to be Fall so fast? What I don't like is the three and a half hours less of daylight!

A big thank you to all who got our annual raffle ticket sales going again this year. Even though our total sales and profits were down from last year, we were still quite successful. Thank you to several of our members who again did an "above and beyond the call of duty" effort in selling raffle tickets.

August has been a busy month with ticket sales at the Buffalo County in Mondovi, the Clark County Fair in Neillsville, Steam Engine Days in south Eau Claire, the Bloomer Fair and the Sturgeon Festival in Jim Falls along with a Brat Fry at Stockman's in Osseo. August also saw our Color Guard involved with the Gold Star Tribute rededication at the Highground in Neillsville, the Eau Claire County Board meetings to vote on the "change of venue" on the Veterans Tribute, Prestige Auto's Veterans Appreciation event, and Eau Claire County Veteran Service Officer, Eric Killen, presentation to the veterans gathering at the L.E. Phillips Senior Center.

September was considerably quieter, but it included our regular Chapter meeting which featured our Fall Harvest Raffle drawing, and the VVA State Council meeting in Waupaca.

Upcoming is another AVVA Pizza Ranch night on Wednesday, October 16th from 4:00 to 8:30 p.m. Please consider eating there on that day to help our AVVA with their fundraiser. Also, come to the Augusta American Legion cabin on Hwy 27 on Saturday, October 26th starting at 5:00 p.m. for their annual Steak Feed and their numerous raffles. I am the Commander for that Post, which also includes several of our VVA members.

I hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA meeting on Wednesday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA at 6:30 p.m.) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire. We will have some guest speakers that night, Clint Rudesill from VFW Post 305 will tell us about a special school project, and Denise Wenx will speak about service dog training.

Mike Korger
President, Chapter 5

2019 Fall Harvest Raffle Ticket Winners

Grand Prize – Earl Coffee

1st Place Prize – Destiny Wolters, Eau Claire

2nd Place Prize – Chad Loewenhagen, Altoona

3rd Place Prize – Dylan Gross, Neillsville

4th Place Prize – Steve Wojcik, Jim Falls

5th Place Prize – Lorie Lenarks, Tomah

6th Place Prize – Adam Fuller, Eau Claire

7th Place Prize – Ken Schilling, Abbotsford

8th Place Prize – Kirsten Glaser

9th Place Prize – Corey Penney, Withee

10th Place Prize – Susan McHone, Granton

VVA Meeting of 9/4/2019

Meeting was called to order by Mike Korger, Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer led Joe Graff. Joe Heil asked for prayer for MOPH State Commander, George Greendeer, who was hospitalized for a stroke but is home now. The 2019 Fall Harvest Raffle winners were drawn, thank you to all who participated.

Secretary's Report – Report as mailed and emailed accepted by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report - Joe Heil gave an accounting of income and expenses, all accounts balance with bank records and he was thanked for his report.

President's Report - Mike Korger thanked everyone who has worked so hard to make this year's fundraiser a success. Thank you also to our Color Guard for their efforts to make the Gold Star Tribute rededication at Highground and the flag folding and presentation to a fallen Afghanistan soldier's family meaningful. Reminder, Eric Killen, Eau Claire County's VSO will be at the September 28th veterans gathering at the Eau Claire Senior Center. Remember, he works for us, not the VA, but the county and us veterans.

Vice President's Report – Larry Wrycza not present, no report.

AVVA – Rick Talford shared that the AVVA was able to present a check for over \$17,500 to Volunteers of America during this year's VVA National Convention in Spokane. Our AVVA members will host another Pizza Ranch fundraiser on Wednesday, October 16th from 4:00 to 8:30 p.m. Your support is appreciated!

National Convention – Will be in Greensboro, North Carolina in 2021, Leadership Conference will be in Dayton, Ohio in 2020.

WI State Council – Meeting on September 21, 2019 in Waupaca. President Richard Lindbeck gave a recap of the events of the convention held in Spokane during July, noting that nothing had been voted on addressing the future of the VVA rather, this will be addressed again in 2021 in North Carolina. There are \$20 million in assets that will need to be dissolved/dispersed, otherwise the State of New York will become the ultimate beneficiary of VVA (National's) assets if membership cannot determine how/when it will cease to exist as a corporation. Note: WI State Council's assets are separate from National's and are not affected by this decision.

Guest speaker was Sam Rogers, SSgt. U.S. Army and Sr. Intelligence Officer who completed three tours in Afghanistan and presented information on Concerned Veterans for America (CVA4A) who spoke on the CVA's goal to share their projects with other veteran groups to broaden awareness and engage more people in "holding our government accountable for its use of our military men and women." The CVA-Wisconsin supports "pro-veteran policies, engagement, and events in Wisconsin, both directly and indirectly, by empowering advocates and activists..." Currently there are 150 volunteers in 18 state chapters, the majority of which are in southeast Wisconsin, specifically in the Milwaukee area. Sam further defined the CV4A vets from Student Veterans of America (SVA) as these are veterans who are post-secondary education as the SVA have no Veteran Service Officer and there is no continuity or further involvement once a veteran student graduates from school. (Richard Lindbeck pointed out the SVA as John Rowan, President of VVA, likes looking at them as possible beneficiary of the VVA legacy.) Should anyone wish to contact Sam for further information about Concerned Veterans for America, he can be reached at (414)374-2195 or srogers@CV4A.org.

There are 23 veteran organizations represented on the State's Council of Veteran Programs which makes recommendations to the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) advising on legislative issues. Current discussions regard Assembly Bill 88 and Senate Bill 116 which seeks to lower the threshold for veterans and their surviving spouses to claim a property tax credit from 100% to 70% disability rating.

We were also informed that the Veterans Trust Fund (mostly from King) is looking at other programs since the census at King is low. Some suggestions include creating an independent housing option and/or a memory care unit on the King campus. Some funds are also going to be used for the Chair of Honor at the state capitol in Madison.

Pat Furno, WI State Representative, also gave a recap of events in Spokane, stating that “everything was as expected.” She introduced Rick Talford as Region 6’s new Deputy Director and stressed the upcoming chapter elections next spring. Only chapters that have elected representatives will be able to have voting delegates at the next National convention in Greensboro, NC in 2021. She would like to have a meeting in December to discuss the rules for chapter elections.

Region 6 Director, Bob Grabinski, was present and reports that he has also been appointed to the VVA’s Budget Committee. He would also like to hold another Region 6 conference and would like to entertain ideas of a location (last conference was held in Altoona, IA, which is felt to be centrally located to all states within Region 6) as well as speakers membership would like to hear from and the topics that they would like to know more about or discuss from the National and Regional level. He requests that membership forward suggestions for location, speakers and topics to both the state council and himself (www.VVAWI.org) and ([www.bgrabinski@vva.org](mailto:bgrabinski@vva.org)) with something like “Region 6” in the subject line.

John Margowski spoke again about the state legislature’s bills AB88 and SB116 regarding property tax credit, and about AB452 and SB446 that pertains to funding of the University of Wisconsin MIA Recovery and Identification Project to assist with the over 1,500 Wisconsin service members still missing in war zones around the world. He also spoke about a federal bill that will reduce the 10-year DIC period down to 1 year (Note: I believe he is referring to HR4106 and S1990 which increases the rate of compensation, lowers the length of time and lowers the age for a surviving spouse to remarry without losing their benefits to age 55; also pertains to changing the name from DIC to Dependent and Survivors Income Security Benefit.)

There are also some costs that the VA will be “on the hook for” which pertains to the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill; also, for denied emergency care at local hospitals. If you have had hospital bills related to denied VA coverage, be sure to speak to your CVSO about them.

There will be a new National Veteran Cemetery calls Northwoods Veteran Cemetery in Harshaw, WI which is in Oneida County in the town of Cassian.

For veterans who may be filing for divorce, veteran benefits are now not considered to be available income for the purposes for determining assets.

There will be a press release from the VVA regarding a scam targeting veterans by indicating that they are from the VVA—**THIS IS A SCAM, DO NOT FALL FOR IT!**

The State Council Scholarship application is now available, there are three scholarships available for any high school senior OR college student which will be due 2/15/2020, find it on www.vvawi.org.

Joe Heil then spoke briefly about the Veteran Tribute issues encountered with the Eau Claire City Council and how those have been resolved and look forward to groundbreaking in Altoona in April or May of 2020.

Representative from Chapter 479 spoke about a Vietnam monument that had been at North Central Technical College that has been removed and donated, along with flags and benches, to the Highground.

Joe Graff brought up speaking with a chapter member from Paradise, CA while at the National Convention in Spokane and the veterans that have been affected by the wildfires that devastated the area last year and how our chapter has sent a donation of \$1,000 to that VVA Chapter in Paradise and encouraged others to consider how they could help out their fellow veteran brothers.

A question was raised about the June meeting held at the Highground and how cramped the meetings have been the last few years; Greg Foye will contact Jon Weiler, Executive Director of the Highground about possibly utilizing Camp Victory for the June meeting, which is also the annual picnic barbeque.

The next State Council meeting will be in December with the State Council Christmas Party on Friday night, 12/6 at the Ramada Inn in Waupaca, followed on Saturday, 12/7 with the State Council meeting.

Benefits – Dave Mayenchein reminded all hunters that if you are rated 70% or more, you are entitled to reduced fees for hunting permit, BUT, if you have a Purple Heart, the conservation permit is \$10. Best to contact the Eau Claire VSO at 715-839-4744 for further information. Additionally, if you have hearing difficulties, especially on the phone, Caption Call is available for anyone with a hearing loss with a recommendation from your primary physician or an audiologist. You receive the phone, installation, in-home training and customer support free of charge. The phone allows you to hear and easily read, in-real time, your conversations in addition to being hearing aid friendly. To find out more information contact www.CaptionCall.com or (877) 577-2227 for more information.

Minority – Dave Zien not present, no report.

Membership – VVA 125/AVVA 22.

Veterans Home – Rory explained that there are going to be seven new benches delivered for the outside grounds that are guaranteed to last for 35 years. There will be a Red Cross blood drive on 9/11 and a Military Ball on 11/11.

Highground – Joe Graff reported on the Gold Star Memorial Tribute rededication attended by many of our Chapter members. Chapter 5 members also performed a flag folding and presentation to a fallen Afghan soldier's family. There will be a Veterans Retreat the weekend of September 6th/7th and a Women Veterans Retreat the following weekend, September 13th/14th. October 1-4 will be the Education Days, and on the 5th there will be Legacy Stone Placements at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. with a Bake Sale taking place that day, and then it will be Fall Clean-Up Days from the 9th thru the 12th. Joe will be able to report back at the October meeting the time of our Chapter's Legacy Stone Placement. There will be three veteran memorial walls coming to Highground in August of 2020.

Clothing & Logo – Joe Heil will be meeting with our new clothing supplier and restarting the logo process with them; presently there are items available and if anyone is interested, please call him.

Fundraising – Joe Heil doesn't have final numbers yet as there may still be some expenses outstanding, but it looks like we've done over \$12,500 this year—down some from last year, but still respectable.

Scholarships – CVTC's nursing scholarship will be awarded in November. New forms will be available for on-line and to the student advisors for the new year.

Newsletter – Contributions need to be in by 9/21—please and thank you!

Eau Claire Veteran's Council – Dan Ziegler thanked all that turned out for the various City Council meetings to show their support for the Veteran's Tribute Park. At the County Board meeting there was a 27 yeas to 5 nay votes for moving the Tribute Park from Eau Claire to Altoona. There will be a meeting with the Altoona City Council next week to transfer the design work with more focus on the mall area, which will be in granite; possible ground-breaking in April or May of 2020 with the first Legacy Stone laying in September, which will be something along the lines of Highground's Legacy Stones—there will also be a flag pole displaying a 30'x60' flag. The WI Department of Tourism is looking at doing some signage for the area as well. There is also some talk about bringing the Vietnam Moving Wall and/or the Freedom Wall to the Tribute Park as well. Joe Heil brought up that monies made from selling the Veteran's Tribute Foundation hats for \$25 were donated to the Tribute Park and have been well received and he will have a sign-up sheet if anyone is interested in one of them.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Joe Graff mentioned that he and several other Chapter members recently attended a Suicide Prevention Conference with Representative Jesse James at CVTC. He brought up that there should be a veteran on the SWAT teams to deal with veterans when called out on a suicide call dealing with a veteran.

Mark Lawrence was the attendance drawing winner for July, he wasn't present so tonight's drawing for \$60 was Peg Ottum who was present, next month's drawing will be for \$10.00; Pete Breed won the 50/50 drawing. There were 26 members present and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

