



MIKE VOTH MEMORIAL CHAPTER 5

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

September 2020 NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 7:00 P.M.
HELD AT VFW POST #7232, 2900 W. FOLSOM, EAU CLAIRE, WI



Together Always

Volume 6 – 8

EDITOR – Julia McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

09/02/20 Chapter Meeting 7 p.m./AVVA 6:30 p.m.

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Mike Korger 715-404-5796
VP - Kenny Piel 715-533-2732
Treasurer - Joe Heil 715-559-2945
Secretary - Mac McBee 715-202-0181
Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms - Joe Graff
BOD Bill Buss 715-5-669-3952
BOD Joe Graff 715-579-0912
BOD Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
BOD Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
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
Eau Claire 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,

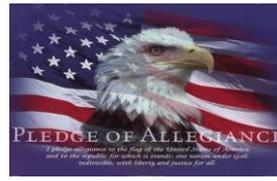
***“Never again will one generation
of veterans abandon another.”***



God Bless All Veterans

P.O. Box 832, Eau Claire, WI 54702





September 2020

Greetings,

Hard to believe summer is going to be done already. I'm hoping for continued warm weather for a little while yet.

There were a few veteran activities in August. I missed the Open House at Highground's Camp Victory in Willard on August 8th. I will try to make the dedication of the Legacy Stones at Roadside Diner on August 21st. I did participate with Billy Buss to honor a WWII veteran at his funeral on August 13th. I participated with Kenny Piel during an "informal" presentation of the new van for Klein Hall on August 14th. There will be a more formal presentation of the van at a later date that we could participate in.

September looks pretty quiet except for our regular Chapter meeting. Check out the Highground's activities at <https://www.thehighground.us> to see what's scheduled.

Remember to pray for our various members and their wives who have had operations and health issues: Joe and Gladys Heil, Rory Schutte and his wife, Joe Graff, Rick Talford and Dave Mayenchein. There are probably others, so keep your eyes and ears open and let us know if there are members in need.

I hope to see many of you at our next regular VVA meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. with AVVA meeting at 6:30 p.m. at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger
President, VVA Chapter 5

VVA CHAPTER MEETING 8/5/2020

President Mike Korger opened our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer, and asked for silent prayer for Dave Winberg's family, members with health concerns and/or recent surgeries, and our still missing POW/MIA's and their families. There are no guests or new members present tonight.

REPORTS

SECRETARY – James "Mac" McBee absent due to health concerns; A correction needs to be made to the recent Highground Report, the new Director's name is Chris Pettis, not Prattis (Editor's Note, my apologies to Chris for this error) and a motion to approve the minutes as sent via mail and email, with aforementioned correction, was made by Billy Buss, seconded by Ralph Ottum and carried.

TREASURER – Joe Heil provided information on the Chapter's bank accounts, all accounts balance and are in good standing; there really has not been any activity with things being shut down due to Covid-19. Joe did ask for approval on some expenses: Clothing/Logo set-up cost with the new embroiderer in Colby is \$344.00; Newsletter printing costs \$91.20; and the CVTC Nursing Scholarship is \$1,050.00. A motion to approve these expenses was made by Rory Schutte, seconded by Ralph Ottum, and carried.

PRESIDENT – Mike Korger recapped some recent events that have been attended by Chapter. The Flag Raising ceremony at the Chippewa Valley Veterans Tribute Trail was held at River Prairie Park in Altoona that was well attended by many veterans and spectators. There was a United In-Service stone laying at the Highground that included Chapter 5's stone being placed and our Color Guard for the opening and closing ceremonies. The Color Guard then led the 4th of July Parade in Mondovi and provided Honor Guard detail at the funeral services for Chapter member, Dwight Winberg. There were three Marines from Minneapolis present to play Taps and do the flag presentation to Dwight's family along with members from the Gilmanton American Legion for the gun salute. Four Chapter members were also present in Augusta to provide Honors for WWII Marine, George Stanek. Mike also provided a reminder that there will be an Open House on August 8th for Highground's Camp Victory in Willard from 11a.m. to 2p.m.

VICE PRESIDENT – Kenny Piel spoke of the new van donation to Klein Hall in Chippewa Falls. The van will be owned by District 10 American Legion, but used by Klein Hall. If Klein Halls changes ownership, the van will revert to District 10. The van is wrapped with designs and is ready for delivery once Klein Hall is out of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. (Editor's Note: the van has been delivered and is in use).

AVVA - Rick Talford reported that the AVVA membership has approved the purchase of five service flags for the Chapter to be used by the Chapter's Color and Honor Guard for funeral services. Further, he reported that there has been a Veterans Voices of America organization created, trademarked, patented, and most recently became incorporated in April 2020. The buyers of the VVA's Household Goods Program have come together, along with a few VVA members, to create this new VVA. There is a possibility that this new VVA will become the successor of the current VVA. It should be noted that the largest source of funding for the VVA has been the Household Goods Program. GA-XX, Motion 18 on creating a new name for the Vietnam Veterans of America, has been stated to be "dead" by VVA President John Rowan.

VVA NATIONAL – Plans are to continue with Board of Director meetings via Zoom.

WI STATE COUNCIL – Meeting scheduled for September has been cancelled.

DISTRICT 6 – No plans at present to hold a District meeting.

BENEFITS – Dave Mayenchein absent, he recently had cataract surgery, please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

MINORITY – Dave Zien explained that there are several projects underway; the Old Abe Stone Salute Project started with ten stones being placed along with the Legacy Signs at Roadside Diner on Menomonie Street. Past NRA President, David Keene, is coming to the Eau Claire area and will be speaking at several engagements, his first being at the Roadside Diner on August 21st, then Tomahawk, Chippewa Falls, Fairchild, Augusta, Wheaton and Eau Claire. Dave is hopeful that the Hmong/Werlein sign will be done and ready to be installed by Veterans Day.

MEMBERSHIP – Currently we have 125 VVA members and 26 AVVA members.

OLD BUSINESS

VETERANS HOME – Joe Heil reports that the home is still closed to the public and the Lake Hallie event on August 14th has been cancelled; the Tee Up for Troops scheduled for September 11th at Hickory Hills Golf Course is still on.

RAFFLE/FUNDRAISER – Looking to have a meeting in January 2021 to discuss another raffle attempt. Kenny Piel has offered another wooden wishing well and will be donating a wooden flag.

HIGHGROUND – Joe Graff absent, he underwent shoulder surgery this week, please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

CLOTHING – Joe Heil reports that our new vendor will have to recreated templates for our clothing, hence the cost of \$334.00, and there will be some minor changes, specifically to the size of the POW/MIA logo and that the U.S. flag will be a sewn on patch rather than embroidered to help save on costs per item.

Scholarship – CVTC has requested that our Nursing Scholarship be delivered earlier this year, Joe Heil will be handling.

ELECTIONS – April 2022.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business to discuss.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dave Zien commented that there are an additional 13 Legacy Signs to be placed at various locations along with a wooden eagle statue at each location being made by Tom Neuenfeldt. Veteran Assistance meetings are held at VFW Post 305 on Starr Avenue every Wednesday and everyone is invited to attend. Also, all veterans should file for your military records by using the proper form.

Ralph Ottum that there is an article in the recent VFW newspaper that explains a plan to have those who qualify, to pay only the difference instead of in full and then wait for a refund. Example: if you are 70% disabled, you would only need to pay 30% of your taxes instead of 100% and then wait for a refund of the 70%. Keep watching for further development of this plan. Ralph also mentioned that he purchased the mower lift that had been part of this year's defunct fundraiser mower package and is happy with it!

Daniel Gumbert with the Wisconsin Convention of States presented information about the 2019 Joint Assembly Resolution 77 that would assist in creating a fiscal restraint on the federal government's spending, which has received over 30,000 Wisconsin signatures so far. Mike Korger states that the Board of Directors could hold a meeting to discuss further involvement.

Joe Heil thanked everyone who sent cards and called regarding Gladys who underwent a six-hour surgery to replace a heart valve back on August 5th. She is doing well and going through cardiac rehab. He then informed everyone of his diagnosis of Stage 4 Renal Carcinoma and reminded everyone that this is a slow growing cancer, it is under control and there is a plan in place to monitor it. There will still need to be discussions of an assistant to step up and act as Treasurer when the time comes. (Editor's Note: as we are all aging and experiencing health issues, we too as a Chapter need to consider how long we wish to be a functioning organization. Much like National is considering, and State should also, we as a Chapter need to have discussions of how long we will be in existence. We have 125 VVA members but meetings only have, at most, 25-28 present. Do we decide to be a last man standing organization, do we call it quits when active participating membership is less than 10? What does our By Laws state about having a quorum to decide on business? We have assets that need to be planned for in the event "we" are no longer active. Just a thought everyone, we should be planning a "will" so to speak for our own Chapter and how we want to go out, just my opinion – Julie).

Next Chapter Meeting – Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30 p.m. for AVVA members, 7:00 p.m. for VVA at VFW Post 7232.

Mike Korger offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. There were 12 members and two AVVA members present tonight.

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

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