

Mike Voth Memorial
Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 5 – Eau Claire, WI
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2025

AVVA – no meeting

VVA

Attendance – 9 (2) AVVA

Any Additions to agenda – correction – State Council Meeting Sept. 13, 2025

Call to Order – Mike Korger (6:35pm)

Pledge of Allegiance – led by Joe Graff

Opening Prayer – Joe Graff

Moment of Silence – none

Deceased members – none

Welcome Veterans and Guests – none

Reports

Secretary – Dan Ziegler (absent) (AVVA Assistant – Rick A. Talford)

A motion to approve the minutes as emailed was made by Ralph O. and seconded by Rory S. The motion carried without objection.

Treasurer – Mike Smith

Income and expenses were explained to the members present, with Smith being “Thanked” for his report.

President – Mike Korger

Korger spoke of local funerals attended, as well as his attendance to the KIA event, in which Chapter 5 received a \$500.00 donation.

Vice-President – Rod Pettis (absent)

AVVA – Rick A. Talford

No activity while healing up from Heart Surgeries.

Meetings

National Convention was held in August, with the April Proposal being shot down. They will kick this can again down the road to Washington, DC in 2027.

Region 6 – no future meeting set

State Council – The next meeting will be in March 2026, with Chapter Elections due in April 2026 and State Elections in June 2026.

VA/Benefits/Claims – no report – need a chairperson
Minority – Dave Zien (absent)
Membership – VVA 125 AVVA 29

Old Business

Veterans Home – Rory Schutte

The Veterans home is currently under covid mask mandates. Member Al Weix is now staying at the home, and has asked for address change. Schutte also explained he attended the DAV event in Vegas, in which it was stated “the VVA is becoming non-existent”. Klein Hall has officially closed as well. If Chapter 5 has anything at the property, it would be good to make contact with them soon. Shirts have been ordered for the Recreation Committee members also.

Highground – Joe Graff

Sept. 20 – Military Working Dog and Legacy Stone Ceremonies

Sept. 30- Oct. 3 – Education Days

Oct. 4 – Legacy Stone Ceremony and Bake Sale

Oct. 9-10 – Fall Cleanup Days

Oct. 17-19 – “Operation re-connect” Military Couples Retreat

VVA Logo/Clothing – Rick A. Talford

Talford will bring items to the next couple meeting for members to purchase.

Vietnam Veterans Day 2026 – It is planned for the Committee to start meeting the Saturday after Veterans Day 2025 to get planning started for next year’s event. Nov. 15th will be the day we hope to get setup for the 1st meeting of many.

VVA Goals/Outreach – None

Fundraising – none in 2025

Chapter Elections – April 2026

Committee – Scholarships – no report

Communications – (3) CVTC Scholarship “Thank You”, WI State Patrol Donation “Thank You” and Joe Heil Donation to Chapter 5.

Good of the Order

Rory Schutte – Sept. 12th in Chippewa Falls is Military Appreciation Night

Rick Talford – Idea to send all members a post card informing them that attendance is needed for the Chapter to continue business. The requirements for meeting are barely getting met currently. This will get researched and it will be brought to the next meeting for further discussion.

Closing Prayer – Joe Graff

Next meeting will be on Oct. 1st at 6:30pm, with the AVVA meeting at 6pm. Post 305 on Starr Ave.

Adjourn – 7:50pm

WI State Council Meeting
September 13, 2025
Waupaca, WI
Par 4

Minutes Summary

Attendance – 14 Chapters and At-Large, absent 11 Chapters (35 members)

The Minutes of the March 15, 2025 meeting were approved without objections.

Reports

President – the convention in New Orleans had an April 23, 2025 Resolution by the BOD to dissolve or reorganize was brought forward that created plenty of stink. Members were feeling jolted, as the information was NOT brought to them prior to the proposal being put forward. In the end, the resolution was turned down. A second resolution was brought forward without any action. The can will be kicked down the road to Washington, DC in 2027. Currently, it is stated there are 93K Vietnam Veterans remaining.

Officers Reports

Treasurer – The State Expenditures ran \$10,953.28 and the State Income was \$99.79. Assets remain over \$40K.

Secretary – (18) members attended the Xmas Party the evening before the Sept. Council Meeting. The food was great. It is hoped more attendance will come next year. Six thousand emails were sent out, with 100% opening the emails. Very few responded to the email. “This could be better”. The website VVAWI.ORG has had a 48% Increase in viewing in just the last month. There is more information being placed on the site, with training and virtual meeting by zoom in the future.

Regional Directors – (1) no report (2) no report (3) no report (4) absent (At-Large) no report

Region 6 Director Report – 752 attendees at the National Convention, with (53) from Region 6. Many cases of flu and covid upon members returning home from New Orleans. There is an expectation of the National VVA closing in 2028, with more information coming in Washington, DC in 2027. Many of the members felt blindsided by the proposal brought forward in New Orleans. The entire convention was placed on youtube and facebook for everyone to see. There were many moving presentations. The VA has denied more claims in 2025, then 2024 and there appears to be a 2.5 year wait on appeals. “We need federal legislatures to get busy”. A “Dissolution” plan of the Charter in New York is needed. The VVA to VVA Legacy is NOT being allowed.

AVVA State Representative – (87) delegates attended this year in New Orleans. An agenda was approved to discuss the VVA Legacy Society. The amendments put forward by WI State Rep. Pat Furno were NOT adopted. (1) Dual Membership voting (2) Proxy voting (3) delegate of record. The remainder of by-laws was minor word changes that passed. To be part of the future legacy of the VVA, the AVVA needs to be included in the discussions. As of the convention, only President Sharon Hobbs has been in any meetings, and she is unable to give any feedback to the membership.

The National Officer Elections were held; President Sharon Hobbs, Vice-President Kathy Andras, Secretary Nina Schloffel and Treasurer Joanne Blum. The AVVA members present in New Orleans were informed that the VVA Legacy Society and dissolution date of 2028 was voted down. The next convention will be in Washington, DC in 2027. In order for any member to be a delegate in Washington, you must be elected in April 2026 to a Representative position.

Committee Reports

Awards – no report
Chaplain – no report – idea to create “Sick Call” tab on website (AVVA Rep. Rick Talford)
Constitution/by-laws – met today on future of state council and chapters – legal advice being sought
Convention planning – scratching item
Veterans affairs – covered previously
Education – working with King to educate vets and put info. Online
Finance – no report (NOTE- \$11K spent on New Orleans Convention)
Healthcare – scratch item
Homelessness – scratch item
Incarcerated veterans – scratch item
Legislative – covered
Membership – Nationally, Region 6 was 3rd in the country.
Minority/native – unfilled currently
Newsletter – scratch item
Website – many updates
POW/MIA – 2633 MIA, 1067 accounted for, 1566 not accounted for
PTSD/Substance abuse/suicide – chair filled
Public affairs – no report
Scholarships – (3) at \$1,500.00 each have been awarded. 26-27 application online with Feb. deadline
Sgt. at Arms – none currently
Service – scratch item
Special advisor – Finance – filled
Women veterans – unfilled

Chapter Reports

Chapter 5 - verbal report. The remaining chapters provided written reports to the secretary.

2026 Calendar – (1) March 14th, 2026 (2) June 13th, 2026 with picnic. (6th or 20th) as backup dates. (3) Sept. 11-12th, 2026 with the 11th being “Vetoween” with a white ghost gift exchange.

Election committee- non-candidates – Dan S. and VP

Open the Floor – none
Old Business – none
Special meetings – none

New Business

No More UXO in Laos – Unexploded ordinances is a real issue in Laos after the war. Funding through donations is being accepted to help fight this cause. It is estimated 80 million UXO still remain. The intent is to raise \$50,000.00 to help in cleaning this issue up. Donations can be sent to MAG America Attn: no more UXO in Laos 1233 20st. NA suite 640 Washington, DC 20036. A motion for the WI State Council to send \$500.00 towards this cause was made and seconded. Without any objection it was passed.

A veteran in the Hayward area committed suicide, and the Hayward group is trying to raise funds to help pay a \$3,500.00 bill for blood cleanup, that the family is being billed for. A motion to send \$500.00 contingent on the legal needs. The motion was seconded and passed without objection. Contact with the Sawyer Co. CVSO will be made.

Next meeting at Par 4 in Waupaca in March 2026.
Adjourn at 12:40pm