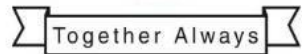




Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5
Vietnam Veterans of America
P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702
March 2019 Newsletter



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

Volume 5 Issue 3

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

04/03/19 VVA meeting 7:00 p.m.
AVVA meeting 6:30 p.m.
04/17/19 AVVA Pizza Ranch 4:00 - 8:30 p.m.
04/27/19 Veterans Spring Conference Menomonie 8:30 a.m.
04/27/19 VFW Loyalty Day in Freedom
04/30/19 Student Recognition Dinner Mill Run Golf Course 5:30 p.m.
05/01/19 VVA meeting 7:00 p.m.
AVVA meeting 6:30 p.m.

CHAPTER CONTACTS

President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-0180
Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
Mike Smith 601-938-3746
Al Weix 715-832-4792

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org

Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5

COMMITTEES

Finance: Joe Heil 715-839-7089
Outdoor Recreation: Bill Anderson 715-530-3481
EC City Veterans Memorial Park: 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: Dave Zein 715-829-9436
Women Veterans: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
Veterans Assistance: Pete Breed 715-641-1246
Fundraising: J. Heil, J. McBee
Scholarship: J. Heil Chair: M. Korger, J. Graff; J/J. McBee, R. Talford
AVVA Chapter Representative: Rick Talford 715-926-5302
Historical: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-926-5302

Founding principle,

Vietnam Veterans of America
"Never again will one generation
of veterans abandon another."



Chapter Moto: Honor the DEAD and fight like Hell for the LIVING!



**"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,

Hopefully most of us were able to attend one or more of the Vietnam Veterans Day events that were scheduled the last week of March; L.E. Phillips Senior Center in Eau Claire on Wednesday the 27th, the Ho-Chunk Nation in Black River Falls on Friday the 29th, the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie on Saturday the 30th or Dropzone VMA in Ladysmith on Sunday the 31st. At our next meeting we will hear a report by our members who attended the State Council meeting at Waupaca on Saturday, March 16th.

Many upcoming events include the AVVA fundraiser at Pizza Ranch on Wednesday, April 17th, the Veterans and Family Spring Conference in Menomonie on Saturday, April 27th, the VFW Loyalty Day in Freedom, also on the 27th, the Recognition Dinner for graduating seniors entering the military on Tuesday, April 30th, and the ground-breaking for the Veterans Tribute Trail in Eau Claire.

Also, huge for our Chapter, is that the raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser are now available. The season has now begun! Start lining up dates to sell at a business with a table and a sign. Get a partner to help with "head calls", coffee breaks, or engaging with veterans. Please look over the list of fairs and events and plan on helping at one or more of them. Also, start planning to participate with our Chapter in the Memorial Day parade in Eau Claire on Monday, May 27th.

I hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA meeting on April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA meeting at 6:30 p.m.) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire.

Sincerely,

Mike Korger
President, VVA Chapter 5

Annual Veteran and Family Spring Conference
April 27th from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Menomonie Alliance Gym, 502 21st NE, Menomonie
info@menomoniechamber.org

2019 VFW Department of Wisconsin Loyalty Day Celebration April 27th
8:00 a.m - 10:00 a.m. meet and greet at St. Nicholas Catholic Church
10:30 a.m. parade steps-off from Freedom High School
1:00 p.m. program and celebration at VFW Memorial Park
Hosted by VFW Post 7692 & Auxiliary and the town of Freedom
www.VFW7692.org

VVA Meeting of 3/6/2019

Call to Order by President Mike Korger; Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer was led by Joe Graff with a moment of silence for a recently departed Veteran from Augusta. Guests present: Kenny P. and Irv T.

Reports

Secretary - Doug Farmer informed the membership that he had been incorrectly given credit for a bowling score at the January's Rose Bowl event in Marshfield; the correct "Doug" was Marilyn Maenchien's brother, Doug Bottlemy, who should have received recognition for his bowling efforts on Chapter 5's bowling team. After review, motion to approve the minutes was made by Dennis Wood, seconded by Joe Graff; motion carried

Treasurer – Joe Heil reported on bank balances and expenses to date; all accounts balance and are in good standing and balance with bank statements. Joe was thanked for his report.

President - Mike spoke of the upcoming Vietnam Veterans Day program on Saturday, March 30th at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie, Chapter 5's Color Guard will be opening the ceremonies. Contact Leroy Jansky or Joe Heil if you'd like to donate to this event. The WI State Council meeting will be held in Waupaca on Saturday, March 16th; anyone wishing to attend and carpool from Eau Claire, contact Joe Heil. There will be a Highground Greeters Recognition Dinner also on March 16th in Neillsville, if you've been part of the Highground Porch Greeters group, contact the Highground for further details. The Eau Claire Veterans Tribute Trail has received the final approval from the Eau Claire City Council recently and groundbreaking for this park just north of Phoenix Park on Forrest St. is planned for this summer.

Vice President - Larry Wryca absent, no report.

AVVA - Rick Talford reported that Nationally, AVVA membership is 10,121 with 1,084 members in Region 6 and 316 members registered in Wisconsin. Rick informed everyone that he has filed paperwork to candidate for Region 6's Deputy Director at this year's National Convention. He also wishes to have the Chapter's endorsement of an amendment proposal to the AVVA Policy and Procedures/By-Laws on membership. The proposal is that once a year, during the month of January, there would be a special Lifetime Membership Drive with reduced fees to \$100 for those under the age of 59, and \$50 for those over the age of 60. The goal is to increase membership either through new memberships or converting annual members to lifetime members. A motion was made by Joe Heil, seconded by Pete Breed, for Chapter 5 to endorse this proposal; motion carried. Rick will complete the required paperwork to reflect this endorsement. The AVVA will have their next Pizza Ranch Fundraiser on Wednesday, April 17th from 4:00-8:30 p.m. and your support of this event will be appreciated.

National Convention - July 16-21, 2019 in Spokane, WA; Chapter 5 will have three voting delegates and one, Rick, for AVVA. Mac McBee plans on attending and possibly Joe Graff. Anyone wishing to attend the convention, contact Joe Heil.

State Council - Saturday, March 16th in Waupaca. Jon Weiler, Executive Dir. of the Highground is going to give an update on what is new at the park. Richard Lindbeck reported that after the 9-2 court ruling on the Blue Water Navy Bill, the VA has until March 31st to appeal this decision. The Leadership Conference 2020 will be held in Dayton, OH and the National Convention 2021 will be held in Greenville, NC. A new committee was formed to review WSC's By-Laws and make recommendations for changes. John Margowski reported that Working Group 1 has completed their Strategic Plan to be presented at the National Convention.

VA Benefits – Pete Breed talked of President Trump's Executive Order creating a Task Force to investigate veteran suicides. He again spoke of the Chapter having an assistance program similar to the VFW's Unmet Needs program that could provide financial assistance to veterans. A proposed idea would be to take 10% of the fundraiser proceeds to fund this assistance program. There was discussion on how a program could be funded and run. Dennis Wood made a motion to create a committee to formulate guidelines for this program, seconded by Mac McBee; motion carried with one dissent.

Minority Report – Dave Zein reported that there will be a Legacy Sign dedication planned for May honoring the Hmong Veterans and Dennis Werlein by the Roadside Diner. Research is being conducted regarding a Cold War (1947-1991) Monument to be placed at the Wisconsin Veterans Tribute in Cadott, WI.

Membership – VVA 122; AVVA 20.

OLD BUSINESS

Vets Home – Rory Schutte reported that the last meeting had been cancelled due to illness at the Home, but otherwise things are good. Anyone wishing to volunteer with various activities should contact Mary or Katie at 715-720-6775.

Highground - Joe Graff reported that the bowling fundraiser at Rose Bowl in Marshfield raised over \$11,000 which will help run the PTSD programs. The Highground has also donated two prints to the Vietnam Veterans Day Program on March 30th. Upcoming events will be a Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Concert on April 13th, and a Spring Bake Sale on April 27th along with Legacy Honor Stone Placements. More information on these events can be found at www.thehighground.us or by calling 715-743-4224.

Dave Zien mentioned that the Wisconsin Adventure on Wheels campground has been donated to the Highground for the purpose of running their retreat programs and that Al will continue with the veteran hunts as long as he is able. There are some volunteer work days planned April 20-22 for some spring clean-up at the campground. There is also going to be an event in May that will include a display of items from a survivor of the Baton Death March that will be filmed by Dennis Wood and Bill Boyea. If interested in more information.

Logo/Clothing - Joe Heil has four extra Chapter jackets available if anyone is interested. There are also plenty of shirts and hoodies available.

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraising - Julia McBee reported that the finalized raffle prizes will be a Grand Prize of a Meat/Grill/Freezer package like last year (\$1,000); 1st prize of two pairs of three-day general admission tickets to Country Jam 2020 (\$900); 2nd prize of a Henry 30-30 rifle, brass with an octagon barrel (\$1,000); 3rd prize of a Mathews Sniper Lite Crossbow with case, scope and quiver (\$1,000); a 50" Flat Screen 4K TV (\$250); a handmade Queen sized quilt; (2) \$250 cash prizes. Raffle tickets will be available in time for the Vietnam Veterans Day Program on March 30th. Joe Graff mentioned that Kenny Piel has another handmade wooden garden wishing well available as a prize. Ralph Ottum requested consideration of the Chapter to pay for the \$45 site fee to set-up his camper at the Clark County Fairgrounds allowing him to stay onsite for this year's fair in August; Pat Moore made a motion for the Chapter to pay the \$45 fee, seconded by Dave Mayenchein, motion carried.

Newsletter Deadline - March 22, 2019

Communications - Joe Heil reminded everyone of the upcoming Vietnam Veterans Day Program at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie. The Chapter Color Guard will be opening the ceremonies for both Lake Hallie on Saturday, and Ladysmith on Sunday. Please contact Rick Talford if you are available. Line-up for Lake Hallie is 9:30 a.m. and for Ladysmith at noon.

Joe also read Thank You notes received from the Mondovi Food Pantry and the CVTC Nursing Scholarship recipient. Joe also thanked everyone for attending the monthly Chapter meetings as we have been having close to 30 members attending on a regular basis. Don't forget to check out our Chapter, VVA National, Wisconsin State VVA Council and AVVA National sites: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org; www.VVA.org; www.vvawi.org; www.AVVA.org.

Eau Claire Veterans Council - Joe Heil spoke of the Recognition Dinner to honor graduating seniors who are entering the military on April 30th at the Mill Run Golf Course. Cost of sponsoring a table is \$250 and he is asking if the Chapter is interested in sponsoring tables; after discussion, a motion was made by Dennis Wood for the Chapter to sponsor two tables for a total cost of \$500, seconded by Rory Schutte; motion carried. More information on the council or the Veterans Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rory Schutte and Joe Heil requested prayers for Kaye Olson, Gold Star Mother, who was on a recent trip, became ill, and in the process of being treated, was found to have cancer. She is currently undergoing treatment and could use our good thoughts and prayers.

Doug Farmer reported on a scam he has learned of targeting veterans whereby accounts are being seized due to the veteran's death when in fact, the veteran has not died. It takes time to get things straightened out and creates a hardship during the process. Joe Heil added that he was hit by a computer scam last year--be careful!

Dennis Wood reported on the "Honor the Fallen Ride" that is planned for May 11, 2019 and again on September 28, 2019 put on by AmVets Post 127. A motorcycle is not necessary to be included on the ride as there will be a bus following the bikers for non-riders. For more information, contact John Vacho 715-415-4580 or john.vacho@yahoo.com. There will be a pancake breakfast in the morning, a 95 mile ride with two stops, ending with a meal and raffles back at the Drop Zone VMA in Ladysmith.

Dennis also added that there will be a Vietnam Veterans Day Program in Ladysmith on Sunday, March 31st at the Drop Zone Veterans Memorial Association, 605 Summit Ave., Ladysmith starting with lunch and registration at 11:00 a.m. with the program starting at 1:00 p.m. Chapter 5's Color Guard will be opening the ceremonies, please be there by noon.

Dave Zien reminded everyone of special vets gathering at the L.E. Phillips Senior Center on Wednesday, March 27th starting at 1:00 p.m. This will be a potluck gathering that day, all are welcome. He also added that there will be additional filming on the Dead Man's Hand this summer, he will be involved with filming in Alabama during April. Dave also applauded the Veteran's Council on reaching one million dollars towards the Tribute Trail, adding that there are plans to include Hmong and Native Americans in the tribute.

the 50/50 drawing was won by Pete Breed; the attendance drawing was won by Dennis Wood.

Closing prayer was given by Joe Graff and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. There were 27 in attendance.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 1st at VFW Post 7232 at 7:00.

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

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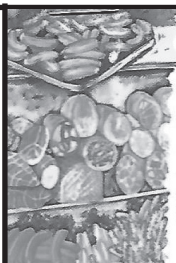
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