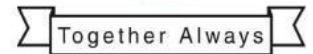




Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5
Vietnam Veterans of America
 P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702
December 2018 Newsletter



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

Volume 4 Issue 12

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/01/18 VVA State Council Meeting @ Waupaca
National Guard 128 Christmas Party @ Post 53
- 12/05/18 VVA Chapter 5 Meeting @ 7:00 pm
AVVA Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 12/07/18 DAV21/VVA5 Christmas Party at Vets Home
- 12/25/18 Merry Christmas Everyone!



- 12/31/18 Happy New Year Everyone!
- 01/02/19 VVA Chapter Meeting @ 7:00 pm
AVVA Meeting @ 6:30 pm

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

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 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
- Service Officer: Peter Breed 715-642-1246
- Fundraising Chair: Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
- Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, L. Wrycza
- AVVA Chapter Representative: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
- Historical: Julia McBee 715-202-0181
- Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-926-5302

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

Founding principle,

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



God Bless All Veterans

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**

President's letter December 2018

Hopefully every one of us had a blessed Thanksgiving! We do have much to be thankful for! And there are those of us who would welcome more blessings especially with health issues. There is where we can all help each other and other veterans with prayers and moral support and physical assistance. Let's keep our eyes and ears open to help each other and others, especially with the upcoming holidays of Christmas and New Year's.

Veterans Day events were plentiful, and I really appreciated the efforts of the sponsors of the events I attended. Of course, the event that I appreciated the most was Sunday afternoon when my entire family (26) got together and filled up a backroom at Pizza Ranch to eat and honor myself and my youngest son, Paul, who is also a Marine veteran. It was a little noisy, but it was great!

On Saturday I, my wife, and Paul attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Florian Gardens. Paul and I wore our dress blues and the Eau Claire recruiters supplied the color guard for the ceremony. The oldest Marine there was a spry and spunky 97-year-old Woman Marine who shared her interaction with Eleanor Roosevelt at an event where she was assigned as an escort. The youngest Marine, 18, was just out of boot camp. The oldest shares and passes a piece of birthday cake on to the youngest. The food was great, and dancing followed. Our members Bob Bonesteel, Dave Zien, and Ralph Palmer were also there (they didn't wear dress blues). All of us are invited to next year's Birthday Ball.

November also included a successful AVVA sponsored meal at Klein Hall, and a successful appearance at the Eau Claire County Board Meeting after our last regular meeting. A lot of veterans including us were there to support the releasing of the \$450,000.00 that was budgeted for the E.C. County Veterans Tribute Trail. Some of the supervisors were opposed, but several of the supervisors made excellent presentations and after much discussion they voted 29 – 4 to release the funds.

December brings us to the State VVA meeting at Waupaca on the 1st and a Holiday Party for the National Guard 128th also on the 1st at Post 53 on Water St. Our big event for the month is the Christmas party at the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home on Friday, December 7th that we co-sponsor with the DAV. Hopefully the free Christmas Trees event spearheaded by Dave Zien (cut and load trees at Willard on Nov. 30th) has plenty of help and is off to a good start.

I hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA meeting on Wed. Dec. 5th at 7:00 (AVVA at 6:30) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire.

Sincerely,

Mike Korger

President, VVA Chapter 5

VVA Meeting of 11/07/2018

Call to Order by President Mike Korger and Pledge of Allegiance and Opening prayer was led by Joe Graff. Welcome of Guests – Martin Viken; and Donn Moe (President of the Mondovi Community Youth Center) A check for \$300.00 was presented to Mr. Moe for the Youth Center kids, in the attempt to give back for the kids work on keeping up the Military Tribute in Mondovi. Mr. Moe “Thanked” the Veterans for their service and spoke of his appreciation for the donation.

REPORTS-

Secretary – A motion was made by Rory Schutte to accept the minutes as received, second was made by Ralph Ottum; the motion carried.

Treasurer- Joe Heil spoke of the balances on accounts and the final numbers received for the annual fundraiser. Everything is in great shape, as we had a very successful fundraiser this year. This will ensure we are able to continue supporting our various programs in to assist veterans in the Chippewa Valley area. A recommendation was made to:

1. Increase the four scholarships we provide to \$1,000 each,
2. Increase the donation to the Trinity Equestrian Center in Eau Claire to \$500,
3. Increase our donation to Adventure on Wheels to \$500,
4. Donate \$500 to the bank account for the families affected by the recent accident in Lake Hallie that took the life of three Girl Scouts and a mother and severely injuring another girl who remains in the hospital with injuries from this accident.
5. Finally, increasing our donation to the Eau Claire Co. Tribute Trail to \$10,000 (\$2,500 this year, \$5000 in 2019 and \$2,500 in 2020).

A motion to approve these increases and donations was made by Joe Graff and seconded by Ralph Palmer. The motion was approved unanimously.

President – Mike Korger spoke of the many events in November. The Elks Lodge Veterans Appreciation dinner held on Nov. 2nd, CVTC with the “Give Vets a Smile” event on Nov. 3rd, LE Phillips Veterans Day program at the Senior Center (Nicely attended), The Marine Corp. Ball on Nov. 10th at the Florian Gardens, “Slum Feed” at Post 53 on Nov. 11th beginning with a ceremony at 10am (Free flu shots available also), Augusta HS will be holding a Veterans Day event with a bus trip to the Highground afterwards (leaves at noon and will return at 5pm) There will also be a breakfast buffet at the senior center beginning at 10:15am. The AVVA will be providing a meal at Klein Hall for the Veterans there on Nov. 12th. It was also noted that Minnesota Wire will be holding an event on Nov. 12th beginning at 11:30am with a meal following.

Vice President - Larry Wrycza told those in attendance that he hoped everyone will have an enjoyable Veterans Day weekend. It was noted at this time that there were 10 Eau Claire Schools having Veterans Day events being held, and next year the Veterans Council plans on an event with Regis.

AVVA – Rick A. Talford spoke of the planned meal for the homeless veterans at Klein Hall on Nov. 12th that the AVVA will be preparing and serving.

State Council Meeting - will have their annual Christmas Party on Nov.30th with the quarterly meeting being held on December 1st in Waupaca. The annual Veterans Home Christmas Party that is co-sponsored with the DAV 21 will be held on Dec. 7th. A donation of \$150 towards this event was motioned by Joe Graff and seconded by Larry Wrycza. The motion carried.

VA/Benefits/Claims – Peter Breed spoke briefly of his trip to Colorado, and the issues Veterans face there. He noted there are two VA Hospitals, and both were nearly 180 miles away. This creates difficulty for their veterans to get services easily. He also noted the State of Colorado taxes the Veterans Military Retirement.

Minority Report – Dave Zein brought up the completion of the tour he is part of, visiting local sites in western WI. He invited any members to join him on Nov. 11th to go to the Lac Courte Oreilles event being held. Tribal members will be present, and this is an event that will look at the possible National listing of the 1861 battlefield. The event begins at 10:30am.

Membership – VVA is currently 123 and the AVVA is at 26 (12 Life Members, 5 current and 9 need to renew/unknown status) It was noted by Joe Heil that on Oct. 20th it was voted by National to approve anyone renewing with 3-year memberships will be automatically made life-time memberships. AVVA National President, Sharon Hobbs, reports that any VVA member may now join the AVVA for a \$50 Life Time Membership (at this time dual VVA/AVVA members will have NO voting rights).

OLD BUSINESS

Vets Home- Rory Schutte provided information on an annual fee of \$234 for the DVD's that are watched at the Vets Home. There will also be a Veterans Day event held on Nov. 12th beginning at 1:30pm.

Highground – Joe Graff did not have a report but did inform the members of a Veterans Day event on Nov. 11th starting at 1pm. Find more information at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing – Long sleeved shirts and hoodies (both black & gray) are available.

Committee- Joe Heil stated a meeting will be needed soon to update the amounts of the scholarships in the letter that goes out for applicants. Larry Wrycza also noted a fundraiser meeting could be held at the same time to look at next year's plans.

Newsletter Deadline – The information will be needed by Nov. 23rd to ensure we can get the newsletter organized and printed in time, as we do have a holiday that will affect completion of printing and mailing.

Communications – A letter was received from Sharon Hobbs (AVVA- National President) thanking the Chapter for the combined donation from the VVA/AVVA of \$150 towards the Project Friendship (Lighthouse Social Services) in Palm Springs, CA. A total of \$13,000 was collected in this effort. A second letter of thanks was received for the \$1,000 donation by the Chapter for

Zach, who was injured recently in an accident. Newsletter deadline will be **December 20th**. Don't forget to check out our Chapter, VVA National, State and AVVA National sites at: Website/E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com; VVA National at www.VVA.org, State at www.VVAWI.org and AVVA at www.avva.org.

Eau Claire Veterans Council: More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Rory Schutte asked the members to assist with a donation of baked goods for the Dec. 1st event being held for the local National Guard HHC 128th being deployed in September of 2019. This event will be held at the American Legion Post 53 on Water St. in Eau Claire.

Rory Schutte spoke of another event being held on Nov. 13th at the VFW on Starr Ave., beginning at 4pm with doors opening, and dinner being served at 5pm. This is an Honoring Veterans Dinner that you will need to RSVP by calling 715-598-7700. Pillar Construction Group is sponsoring this event.

Peter Breed spoke of the VFW Un-Met Needs Program, informing members that a family readiness group could be developed to assist families that may need help. There is always an attempt to get assistance to these families within 72 hours. There is an easy process to complete the request, by contacting the CVSO to verify veteran status. Dick Quick spoke of issues he has run across trying to assist needy veterans and the problems he has run across. Pete Breed told him to call him if he has issues. Pat Moore commented he felt our scholarship increase was too much in his opinion. "Veterans should be first" was stated. Rory Schutte then replied he knew of a family in Tomah that needed help and Leroy Jansky was able to assist them quickly.

Doug Farmer shared that if anyone is aware of the need for headstones and/or brass plaques that need repair and/or cleaning (at any cemetery), contacting the cemetery sexton is the proper process for getting these taken care of in the right manner.

Dave Zein explained that help will be needed for the Christmas Tree program that is upcoming. There will be approximately 200 trees cut on Nov. 30th in Willard at the Adventure on Wheels property. Assistance in cutting, hauling and setting up these trees in Eau Claire on Water St. at the former DQ will be needed. There will also be help needed for assisting shoppers and getting trees to those who don't have a way to get the trees home from Dec. 1st to Dec. 24th. A group will leave DQ on Nov. 30th at 8am and arrive in Willard to start cutting around 9am.

The next meeting will be held on Dec. 5th at 7pm at Post 7232. The closing prayer led by Joe Graff and adjournment by Mike Korger was then completed at 6:20pm.

NOTE- Ralph Ottum made a motion to fine Joe Graff for not removing his hat during the closing prayer. No recognition of this motion was made.

NOTE- this meeting was held early to assist with getting veterans to the Eau Claire Co. Board Meeting at 7pm. There was a great presence of veterans at this meeting, and the board approved the \$450,000 donation to the Eau Claire Co. Tribute Trail. A vote of 25-4 was completed on the motion/proposal. Groundbreaking and project should be able to start in Spring of 2019 with this action by the County Board.

Thank a Veteran for Your Freedoms

By J.L. Sager

It was a Veteran, not a reporter,
Who guaranteed freedom of the press.

It was a Veteran, not a poet,
Who guaranteed freedom of speech.

It was a Veteran, not a campus organizer,
Who guaranteed freedom to demonstrate.

It was a Veteran, not a minister,
Who guaranteed freedom to worship.

It was a Veteran, not a salesman,
Who guaranteed freedom to own property.

It was a Veteran, not a travel agent,
Who guaranteed freedom to travel.

It was a Veteran, not a politician,
Who guaranteed freedom to vote.

It is a Veteran who salutes the flag,
Risks it all for the flag,
And who is buried beneath the flag.

This is very fitting for this Veterans Day, for EVERYONE in this country to understand.
Thank You Veterans for everything you have done for all of us. God Bless.

Just another little ditty, I (Rick) heard and felt I would share.

H - Honor our Veterans for their service

E - Educate those that need teaching on what a veteran does

R - Remember those who have served and what they sacrificed for their country



Mondovi's Community Youth Center (MCYC) President, Donn Moe, accepting a check from Chapter 5 recognizing the Center for their commitment to maintaining the Veterans Park at Mirror Lake in Mondovi. Thank you for a job well done to all the youths for your participation and patriotism. Pictured are Mike Korger, Chapter 5 President, Donn Moe, and Joe Heil, Chapter 5 Treasurer.

**When you are filling out your
Christmas Cards this Year take
a Card and Send to this Address:**

**A Recovering American Soldier
C.O. Walter Reed
Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue
NW Washington, D.C.
20307-5001**



**Pass this on and Think of how many
Cards these Wonderful, Special People
who have Sacrificed so much would
get. Please Share on your Wall,
it's the Least we can do!**

VVA Chapter #9
 P.O. #32
 Eau Claire, WI 54702

Photo
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<p>Western Wisconsin's Annual Damage Control</p>  <p>Phone: 715-836-1111 Fax: 715-836-1111</p>	<p>Altoona Family Restaurant Open 7 Days a Week • 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Breakfast Served All Day 715-836-5000 2000 W. Wilson Hwy. • Altoona, WI 54601</p>	<p>1 column inch \$100 Annual Donation \$8.33 a month Price of a breakfast = a good investment</p> <p>2 column inches \$150 Annual Donation \$12.50 a month Price of buying a Veteran a good lunch a great investment</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Stand out from all the rest with 3 column inches \$200 Annual Donation \$16.66 a month Take a veteran out once a month the best investment All donation are tax deduct ble PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!</p>
<p>Mondovi Family Restaurant Home Cooked Meals Open 6am - 9pm 715-926-5550 899 E. Main St. • Mondovi, WI 54755</p>		

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