

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 

March 3 – Chapter Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. (AVVA 6:30 p.m.) March 13 – State VVA Virtual meeting @ 10:00 a.m. March 29 – Vietnam Veterans Day @ VFW Post 305

SAVE THE DATE! May 31<sup>st</sup> Chippewa Valley Veterans Tribute Dedication and Legacy Stone laying @ 1:30 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







2021

Greetings,

I hope this finds everyone well. It has been four months since our last meeting. I am cautiously optimistic we can get back into action soon.

Since activities have been cancelled or delayed, the last event I attended was on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Patriot Park by Carson Park, and the Roadside Diner that Dave Zien hosted as part of the first day of his Veterans and Home Front Heroes Appreciation Week. That first day included the unveiling of a sign that was dedicated posthumously to our Chapter's immediate past president, Dennis Werlein, and Vietnam Vets of America.

A Fund-Raising Committee meeting should be held soon to decide the viability of having our annual raffle fundraiser, and to get the wheels turning if we are going to do it. Any members are welcome to join this committee.

At the Highground, from February 1<sup>st</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Museum and Visitor Center has a theme of "The Vietnam Experience." Also, VFW Post 305 will be having a Vietnam Veteran's Day recognition on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Remember to keep your eyes and ears open for veterans who are in need, especially this time of the year. Let's get them some help or help them ourselves.

I am looking forward to being able to see you at our next regular VVA meeting on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Mike Korger, President VVA Chapter 5 WE will again have a Chapter meeting set for March 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with AVVA meeting at 6:30 p.m. at VFW Post 7232. Plan to attend and we hope to see everyone!

## UPDATE ON CHIPPEWA VALLEY VETERANS TRIBUTE

Save the Date of May 31, 2021 for the dedication and Legacy Stone Laying at Veterans Park at River Prairie Park in Altoona. The time for the event will start at 1:30 p.m. Mark Beckfield, along with Kaye Olson, will be attending our March meeting to update our Chapter on the Veterans Tribute Foundation's progress and what is happening. It will be a good informational meeting.

High School to Hero's program may not happen again this year. Major reason is the COVID-19, if something changes, this information will be shared.

Update on the State meetings for VVA; there will be a Zoom-type meeting held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:00 a.m., lasting for about two hours. An invite will be sent out to members who wish to take part in the meeting. They are planning a June meeting to be held at Camp Victory in Willard for June. Usually this is the State VVA Elections and no word yet if this would include a picnic as in the past. More information to share as it is received.

Thanks, keep safe and healthy everyone, Joe Heil

## AVVA NEWS

At the National level, we have been working through updating policies that have needed some minor changes to keep them valid for the changing needs of the organization. The Board of Directors are looking at the 2021 National Convention in North Carolina, and along with VVA, are determining how best to hold the national elections while Covid still has many of the hotels in the area closed. There is a possibility of holding a virtual convention, but details are still being discussed. I will be able to share more details as they are available. Hopefully, we will be able to get back to some normalcy in the upcoming months.

Stay safe, and God bless, Rick Talford

# NATIONAL CONVENTION THOUGHTS

Be sure to check out the latest *Veteran,* and if anyone has any thoughts about an issue they think should be addressed, either on a State or National level, bring them with to the March meeting so we can discuss them. As always, focus will be on the VVA's future and its membership has a voice in that future; if you want it to be heard, let your Chapter officers and Board of Directors know your thoughts and feelings. *James "Mac" McBee* 

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

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