



# Mike Voth Memorial

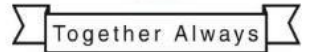
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

July Newsletter 2016

Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ 7pm at

VFW Post #7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire, WI



Volume 2 Issue 7

Editor – Julie McBee

Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 07/02/16 Color Guard @ Mondovi
- 07/03/16 Color Guard @ Augusta
- 07/04/16 Color Guard @ Rock Falls
- 07/06/16 Chapter Meeting @ Post #7232 @ 7 p.m.
- 07/10/16 Color Guard @ Gilmanton
- 07/19/16 Start of Persian Gulf Tribute @ Highground
- 09/10/16 Chapter 5's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser @ Post 53

*Note: Shirts, hats, pins & braiding are still available, contact Joe Heil if interested.*

## 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: 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: Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- Women Veterans: Julie 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
- Fundraising Co-Chair: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Mike Korger 715-726-3918
- VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106
- Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Secretary Roger Schuh 715-926-6052
- Chaplain Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Ken Lestrud 715-235-9432
- Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260
- Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
- Ernie Werlein 714-926-4225

## **Founding principle,**

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



**God Bless All Veterans**



**"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 test!**

Greetings,

I am honored to have been selected by you to be president of this chapter. But, I have big shoes to fill as past president Dennis Werlein has been very active and extremely dedicated to this chapter and veterans affairs.

The last 2 months have been very active with activities and extra meetings. 5/14 was the dedication of the Hmong Lao Veterans Memorial at the Veterans Tribute in Cadott. We supplied a color guard and Dennis Werlein was one of the speakers. 5/29 was the Memorial Day weekend Sunday service at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. We supplied one of the color guards present for the inside service and the program outside immediately after. 5/30 was the Memorial Day parade and program in Eau Claire. Thousands of spectators enthusiastically cheered and clapped as we marched along the parade route. There were about a dozen of us with our VVA chapter unit and other VVA members marched with other veterans units. On 5/5 four of us gave a classroom presentation on the Vietnam War to three history classes at Memorial High School. On 5/18 four of us plus a VVA member from the Appleton chapter and two Lao Hmong veterans from Wausau gave a classroom presentation to a large group of students at North High School.

June was no slowing down. Two of our members went to the VVA Region 6 National Council Meeting in St. Cloud, MN from 6/2-5. Then all our attention was focused on the "Welcome Home Picnic" at Carson Park and related activities. What an accomplishment! On 6/16 the Vietnam Traveling Wall from Texas and the Canadian Traveling Wall met at the truck stop in Osseo and were escorted from there to Carson Park in Eau Claire by a large group of motorcycles and other vehicles. The wall was set up in short order by a bunch of hardworking volunteers. The Huey helicopter on the trailer also arrived. On 6/17 opening ceremonies were done and included guest speakers. 6/18 was the big day. Military vehicles from the Eau Claire Army Reserve and private owners arrived. The large Vietnam War memorabilia display was set up at Chippewa Valley Museum. Thanks to an anonymous donor all who viewed the display got free admission. Various booths were set up for veterans in the courtyard of the ballpark including our Chapter 5 booth. Starting at 1:00 free food and drink were given to all veterans and family members on the fan deck in the ballpark. About 1:30 a Huey made a live landing Vietnam style on the softball field behind the centerfield wall of Carson Park. 2:00 saw guest speakers including Tom Berger from the National VVA. He spoke about critical health issues including Agent Orange and Hepatitis C. He also presented to me for our chapter a certificate of recognition for 36 years of service. The booths and the fan deck had to shut down by 5 to prepare for the 6:30 Eau Claire Express baseball game. Free

tickets to the ballgame were given to all interested veterans and their family members. About 8 veterans took their turn throwing the first pitch of the game. Then three planes did a flyover multiple times over the ballpark. On 6/19 closing ceremonies started at 10 a.m. at the Wall and then many hardworking volunteers disassembled the Wall. We said goodbyes to our new Canadian friends who brought the Canadian Wall.

There are so many people to thank for setting up and putting on this whole event including the following:

To Dennis Werlein for spearheading this event, to all the committee members who attended the numerous meetings and put in hours and hours of extra time on this, to all the members of the Chamber of Commerce Adult Leadership Committee who attended the numerous meetings, put in hours of extra time and physically helped throughout the events. A special commendation to Rick Talford and his wife Kristina for their 80 hour marathon at Carson Park of preparing for, helping set up, providing security for, and helping take down the Vietnam Traveling Wall. Thank you Julie McBee for all of your organizational skills, and timeless hours you spent making the event a huge success. I am humbled by how much was done by so many to make this event successful.

Hope to see you all at our VVA meeting on Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street in Eau Claire. The next order of business will be our annual chicken BBQ fundraiser on 9/10.

Mike Korger  
President  
VVA Chapter 5

### **VVA Chapter Meeting 6/1/16**

Call to Order by President Mike Korger  
Opening Prayer by Dennis Werlein  
Welcome Vets and Guests – none  
Pledge of Allegiance by entire Chapter, led by Joe Graff  
Moment of Silence  
Guest Speakers – None

#### **Reports-**

Secretary- Mike Korger provided information that the report was sent out via email. Joe Heil gave everyone notice to watch out who gets their hands on the reports, as they have the financial information in them this past month. This will not be reported in the Newsletter in the future. The information was approved by all members

Treasurer- Joe Heil provided information on the Savings and Checking accounts. Expenses paid out were \$140 on dues, \$61 on posters and \$600 to raffle winners. Joe also provided some insight on costs for postage nearing \$100.00 a month now with 90 newsletters going out in the mail and another 60-70 in email. Joe submitted a bill for payment including \$87.95 for AVVA Gold Pins, \$275.35 for Boonie Hats and \$118.55 for newsletters and postage.

Picnic Funds- Joe Heil provided this information. \$19,306 has been received or promised to this point, with 1K being sent to the VVA Foundation from Presto. VVA has spent \$9,400.07 to date and has \$9,905.93 to spend yet. All extra funds will go towards the Van for Vets. There are two

anonymous donors providing the Museum costs and another additional \$1,500. West WI will be providing 2K for the picnic costs, and Chapter 5 has donated 1K for the memorabilia. The event sponsors who have given over \$750, equals over \$6K, and those under \$500 equal about \$4K. All together \$20,306 has been promised or collected. Joe reported that on 6-2-16 he would be paying \$3K for 500 tickets to the Express game. These will be given to Vets and their families. Joe Graff asked if there will be applications to join Chapter 5 VVA at the picnic, and this was answered with a yes by Joe Heil. It was then discussed on where we have the most needs now. Food Service will need 12 people for 2 shifts each: 12:30-3pm and 2:30 to 5pm. There will be need of people at the Booth for sales and tickets. (tickets with names of people on an envelope will be at the booth for pick-up). Assistance to the visiting Vets near the wall. Motion to approve the report made by Ralph and seconded by Rory.

President Report- Mike Korger provided information and recent activity by the Chapter. May 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 members spoke to the Memorial HS students, and a Thank You card was recd. May 14<sup>th</sup>, There was a Lao Hmong Memorial held in Cadott with a number of Vets attending. May 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 Members from the VVA spoke to students at the North HS. 120-150 students were present for the meeting in one large group. An Appleton VVA member spoke as well as two Hmong speakers. May 29<sup>th</sup>, The Color Guard presented colors at the St. Matthews Church in Eau Claire inside, then a 21 gun salute and ceremony took place outside in light rain. May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Color Guard was present at the Eau Claire Memorial Day Parade, with 8 VVA members being present and 4 additional Vets helped support the color guard. He then added the Leader Telegram had a reporter at the parade and he spoke with him. His comments are part of an article in the Tues. May 31<sup>st</sup> edition. There have been multiple meetings with the Chamber of Commerce, and there is a request for the Color Guard to be present at the July 2 parade with lineup at 12:30 with the parade starting at 1pm in Mondovi.

Joe Heil then spoke of the insert in the Memorial Day paper released on Sunday. A Vietnam Veterans MIA/KIA photo listing was produced, and the idea of getting the Leader to reproduce a few hundred for donation, to be at the wall for the Vets was then brought up. No motion to approve was needed for President report.

Vice-President Report- Larry Wrycza spoke to the members, giving a list of possible color guard parade dates: June 5–Eleva; Jun 12–Durand; July 2–Mondovi; July 3–Augusta; July 4–Rock Falls and July 10–Gilmanton.

The National Meeting is being attended by Joe Graff and Joe Heil this weekend. The State Council Meeting is scheduled for 6/18 at Highground.

VA/Benefits/Claims report- Pete Breed then discussed the Rifle Raffle for Sept. 10, 2016. He brought in 2 banners for displaying to help sales at the Picnic. 4K Tickets should be printed and ready next week. Burger King Owner, Mike DeRossa has donated 3K ice cream coupons for the picnic. The flyers are going to get re-done with a few changes and should be ready soon. (Rick is working on)

Minority Report- Roger Schuh provided information about his trip with the Honor Flight. Leaving LaCrosse airport, he said there was near 1K people sending them off waving flags as well a

band was playing with Color Guard present. Landing in Washington, they had a similar grouping with the band playing "On Wisconsin". The buses had a police escort through Washington, and upon return to WI, they had a band once again, and while on the plane, they had "Mail Call" They received letters from home to all the Veterans on the plane. Returning to WI, there were closer to 2K people present. Roger added, "My hand was sore from all the shaking and receiving Thanks for our service". He then spoke of the Vietnam Wall and stated he was asked to provide a tribal flag and wreath. The costs would be near \$200. He was going to submit this to the Tribal Council and was told not to, as his niece decided to pay the costs.

Another member spoke of the Vet's Roll event. This was 10 buses that went to Washington for 4 days. There were near 100 motorcycles and they had an escort by the Illinois State Patrol. The ages of those who attended were from 73 to 100 years old.

Membership at the end of April was 129.

Vets Home Report- Dennis Werlein spoke for this. There is \$30K available in funding. He spoke of the Picnic upcoming to the group, and Dave Zien spoke of an addition that will be the first of its kind in WI. The next meeting is set for June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

High Ground Report- Joe Graff spoke, saying the State of WI is now down to 26 soldiers on the MIA/POW list for Vietnam.

Logo/Clothing- Joe Heil again spoke. He stated he would be ordering more VVA shirts, and there are VVA pins available now. The picnic shirts are getting ready for ordering also. 1K will be order at \$6.00 each. They will have sponsors logos and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. They will be khaki color with black writing. There will also be 100 shirts made up for volunteers. These will be orange. A patch is being looked at for purchase with a deadline of 6-2-16 for the approval. This will be a 3" patch with a cost of \$.63 each. 1K was approved to be ordered. Discussion on what is on the patch was then spoken over. Motion by Dennis and seconded by Joe Graff.

New Business- Joe Heil provided information on the "GoFundMe" page on Facebook created by Julia. He told everyone to check it out. Currently there is \$210.00 in the funds.

VVA #5 goals and outreach- none discussed

Fund Raising- this was skipped to next month

Chapter Elections- NONE

Committee- Vets Day June 18<sup>th</sup> – not discussed

Chapter Newsletter – June 24<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the next newsletter.

Communications- Dennis Werlein spoke. A "Thank You" Card was received from the recipient of the scholarship funds at Regis. (John Merkle) Joe Heil spoke of an invitation to a fundraiser in MN. Chapter 639 in St. Paul will be holding one on Oct. 15, 2016 at the Bugs Place in South St. Paul.

Dennis requested payback for some costs he has. A total of \$146.13 was discussed and a motion was made by Joe G. and seconded by Pete B. for payback of these costs.

Good of the order-

Vets Council Report- The van is coming along, with drivers still being needed.

Joe Graff spoke of a “Thank You” received to the Chapter from a young lady that received a \$300 scholarship in Augusta. He attended her graduation party and she wanted a Thank You to be stated to the group. She received a certificate from Chapter 5.

Joe Heil then spoke of a young lady at the meeting that he wanted to become the Chapter Photographer, as she has done a great job recently in posting event photos. He stated he wanted this to be done officially by the Chapter. President Mike Korger then “appointed” Kristina Talford as the Chapter 5 photographer. Vice President Wrycza then spoke and said that Kris should be a member of the VVA, and requested that everyone chip in and pays for her yearly dues. Every member of the Chapter gave \$1.00 each to pay for her membership. Kris was then given the paperwork to complete and she became the newest member of Chapter 5. Joe Heil then added that Mike Rowen- National President would not be able to attend the Vietnam Wall Event, but it would be great to have Kristina get photos that could be submitted for the National Magazine.

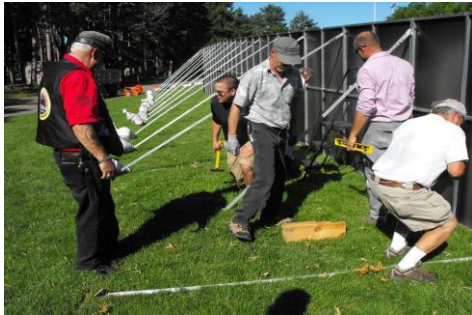
I (Rick A. Talford) then provided the group with information on the Facebook page I created for the “Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 5 – Eau Claire”. Everyone can visit and join the page to keep up with events and photos being taken. The recent events are already posted.

The meeting then adjourned at 8:47 pm with 21 members being present. The next meeting will be July 6, 2016 at 7PM at Post 7232. Drawing for meeting attendance- Adrian Nickence was the winner, but not in attendance. The 50/50 was won by Dennis Werlein.

***No ticker-tape parades greeted the men and women who returned from war.  
No handshakes, no thank-you's.  
So they turned to each other and formed  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
But even as they forged the bonds that would help them survive the peace  
They made a vow NEVER AGAIN will one generation of veterans abandon another  
Even while they tended to their own  
They've also reached out to the veterans of more recent conflicts  
Welcoming them home and shaking hands  
Airports and parades, yes,  
But also offering comfort in darker hours.  
And fighting for them in the halls of State Legislatures,  
The corridors of Congress and the maze of the VA.***

**Vietnam Veterans of America**  
8719 Colesville Rd, Suite 100, Silver Springs, MD 20910  
Ph: 301-585-4000  
VVA.org





Chapter Motto: " Honor the DEAD and Fight like Hell for the LIVING"

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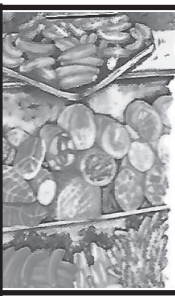
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