



Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

July 2017 Newsletter

Meetings held 1st Wednesday of every month @ 7pm at

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



Together Always

Volume 3 Issue 7

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

07/05/17 Chapter Meeting @ 7232 @ 7pm

*** AVVA Members meet @ 7232 @ **6:30 pm**

07/12-16 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls

07/26-30 Dunn County Fair, Menomonie

07/26-30 Eau Claire County Fair, Eau Claire

08/02/17 Chapter Meeting @ 7232 @ 7 pm

*** AVVA Members meet @ 7232 @ **6:30 pm**

08/03-06 Buffalo County Fair, Mondovi

08/08-19 Clark County Fair, Neillsville

08/18-20 Big Rig Show @ NWSF, Chippewa Falls

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org

Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com

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: Vacant

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 & Co-Chair: Julie McBee

Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza

AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181

Historical: Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-690-7376

CHAPTER CONTACTS

President Mike Korger 715-726-3918

VP Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106

Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089

Secretary

Chaplain Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Joe Graff 715-579-0912

Ken Lestrud 715-235-9432

Ralph Ottum 715-223-6263

Rory Schutte 715-563-1583

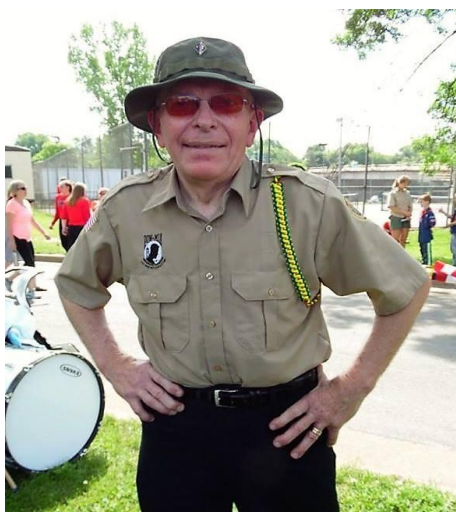
Ernie Werlein 715-926-4222

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,

Summer is in full swing, a lot is happening and a lot is coming up. Thank you to all who attended the VVA State Council meeting/picnic at the Highground on 6/17. Hopefully you got word we should attend the Eau Claire County Combined Vet's Council meeting on Tuesday, 6/27 to support having a special recognition for Hmong veterans to be included in the upcoming Eau Claire Veterans Tribute Trail.

Also, there are parades in Augusta on 7/2 and Mondovi on 7/4. Hopefully you read this in time to get to Mondovi before 1 p.m. to help with our VVA Color Guard.

Also, please help man our VVA booth at the upcoming fairs at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair in Chippewa Falls 7/12-7/16; Dunn County Fair in Menomonie 7/26-7/30; Eau Claire County Fair in Eau Claire 7/26-7/30; Buffalo County Fair in Mondovi 8/3-8/6, Clark County Fair in Neillsville 8/8-8/13 and the Big Rig Show at the NWSF in Chippewa Falls 8/18-8/20. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. We man our booth to be able to hopefully recognize and help all veterans, especially Vietnam veterans, and to sell our raffle tickets to raise funds to help veterans. So, please jump in there and help. Thank you!

My condolences go out to the family of Roger Schuh on his passing. Thank you to those who were able to attend his wake and funeral on behalf of our Chapter of which he was an active member and elected Secretary.

Pray for healing, recovery, and better health for our members on sick call including Dennis Werlein (cancer), Bill Connolly (cancer), Dave Zien (leg operation), Jim Blaha (knee replacement), Mac (various issues), Tom Neuenfeldt (pneumonia) and myself with a recent hernia operation and scheduled knee replacement in July. Please call me about others to put on sick call.

The Wisconsin VVA State Council is sponsoring a car show July 12-16 at Ho-Chunk Gaming in Baraboo for anyone interested. The funds are specifically for Agent Orange/dioxins awareness programs.

The Highground has numerous events coming up. Be sure to check out their website at www.thehighground.org or Facebook. Don't forget to check our own Chapter 5 website (listed on the front of this newsletter) or Facebook page.

Sell, SELL, **SELL**—if you don't have any raffle tickets to sell, get them at the next meeting or call Joe Heil to arrange picking them up.

Our next monthly Chapter 5 meeting will be on Wednesday, July 5th at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire. I hope to see you all there.

Mike Korger, President
VVA Chapter #5

VVA Meeting of 6/7/2017

Call to Order made by President Mike Korger followed by Pledge of Allegiance led by Joe Graff, Opening Prayer and Moment of Silence led by Dennis Werlein. Guest, Bill Cunningham, was introduced who came to our meeting to show members a hand-drawn sketch that was done in Vietnam during the war. He received the artwork as a gift and is donating it to the National Museum of the United States Army, Fort Belvoir, VA which is just outside of Washington, D.C.



Secretary's Report: A motion to accept the report as sent via mail and emailed was made by Ralph Ottum and seconded by Rory Schutte; motion carried. It is with great sadness to have to report that Roger Schuh, Secretary, passed away this morning at Mayo Healthcare System, here in Eau Claire; funeral arrangements are pending and membership will be notified.



Treasurer's Report: Joe Heil spoke of the funds in the Chapter bank accounts; expenses paid, monies received and all accounts balanced. Motion to accept the report was made by Mac McBee and seconded by Rory Schutte, motion carried.

President's Report: Mike Korger spoke on the needed help at the upcoming fairs. He also spoke of the VVA Wisconsin State Council meeting coming up on June 17th, five Chapter members plan on attending. Also, Bob McRoberts sent word that Prestige Auto will once again have an event honoring veterans. "Checks for Veterans" will be held on August 16, 2017 and the Chapter will once again be involved. Watch for further details.

Vice President's Report: Larry Wrycza was not in attendance – no report received.

National VVA Convention: August 8 – 12, 2017 in New Orleans, LA. A motion to pay the registrations costs for four members (1-VVA, 3-AVVA) to attend the meeting was made by Joe Graff and seconded by Ralph Ottum; motion carried. **ANY** other VVA members wishing to attend must let leadership know so we don't miss any deadlines for registering you for the convention. This year we have **three** voting delegates but only one member attending. If there are no other Chapter members attending to cast OUR votes, we will need to turn over our other two votes to the State Council. Please call Mike Korger or Joe Heil if you want additional information or log on to www.VVA.org to learn more. Also, all matters that are to be voted on, from leadership to referendums can be found there as well.

State VVA Meeting: June 17, 2017 starting at 9 am at Highground with a picnic to follow.

VA/Benefits: Pete Breed spoke to members about the tornado that went through Barron County recently. He asked the members, "What are WE doing to help the veterans that have been affected by this tornado?" He explained that eight Veterans have been approved through the VFW's Unmet Needs Program with a payment of \$750 each for their immediate needs. He added that there could be up to five more Veterans added to this list. WEAU, Channel 13 News reported the Northern Wisconsin Realtors Association has made a \$50,000 donation to help those affected by this storm. Mike DeRossa of Burger King, has donated and will continue to donate, "until the need no longer exists". A bank in Chetek received a phone call from a woman wishing to make an anonymous donation to help the veteran that was injured and currently hospitalized. "Again, I ask you, what are WE doing?" Pete asked. Joe Heil added that we have no money left in our veterans projects account as the available funds have already been dispersed. After discussion a motion was made by Joe Graff to approve a \$1,000 donation (from our general fund) to the Barron County VSO for the veterans affected (\$100 each) and was seconded by Rory Schutte, motion carried.

Minority Report: None received – with Roger's passing this Chairman's position is vacant. Please let Mike Korger know if you are interested.

Membership: Currently 146 members; 116 VVA members and 30 AVVA members.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Home: Rory Schutte spoke in regards to the finances of the Home; all is good.

Highground: Joe Graff spoke of the many changes happening. There is an upcoming event on June 24th with a fireworks display for all to enjoy that night. Hardee's will be on site and selling food with a percentage of the sales donated to the Highground. August 4th will be a bicycle ride and August 18th will be a motorcycle ride. Find more information at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing: No report – Still working on getting a jacket for members to see/feel for our Color Guard jackets before a decision is made.

Fundraising: Julie McBee spoke on the needs for a good fundraiser. Members need to be active in selling the raffle tickets, there are flyers available tonight if you'd like to take some; also looking into an opportunity at Pizza Ranch, more details on this to follow. Rick Talford spoke briefly on the Broiler Festival in Eleva attended by him and Kristina, Joe Graff and Dennis Werlein. Once again, Sell, SELL, **SELL!** We need to make another \$2,600 to get to our break-even point.

NEW BUSINESS

Dennis Werlein spoke of the need to "inspire people to participate" and asked if the Chapter would create a Historical Committee to collect all of the rich history of what the Chapter has

been doing over the years. He offered to be the Chairperson of this committee; Pete Breed, Julie McBee and Bob McLoomis offered to assist him. Dennis also asked if we could have a "Letter to the Editor" section for the newsletter. So, all those with history of our Chapter get in touch with Dennis and those of you who would like to submit a letter to the editor, get in touch with Julie or send to www.weirleader1@yahoo.com. **Newsletter deadline is JULY 22nd!**

Kerm Morgan forward to Joe Heil this information from the State DAV meeting that was recently attended. 1) 50 out of 52 resolutions were passed, all positive for veterans. 2) All VSO's need to work together. DAV has a great legislative team. 3) State is looking at property tax reimbursement based on disability percentage. 4) New DAV boss Zimmerman totally supports CVSO's. 5) "Please have Pat buy my Democrat comrades a drink."

Website/E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com .

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Joe Heil reported that the Veterans Tribute is now taking donations and sponsorships for different needs of the tribute. They are looking at raising \$1.8 million for additional needs.

Joe Graff spoke about an interaction our Chapter members had with a veteran they met at the Eleva Broiler Festival. A three-tour vet from Iraq/Afghanistan came up to our Chapter's booth after having interacted with Kristina elsewhere on the fairgrounds. He was walking his service dog at the fair when he and Kristina started talking. This young man was dealing with PTSD in some very profound ways and didn't have much in the way of any family support. After talking with our group (Joe, Rick and Kristina) he appeared to be a little more at ease. Joe took a pin from his hat and Kristina pinned it on his chest. They spoke with him for close to an hour before he went on his way. Kristina later ran into him and this time he looked her in the eyes, took his hand and patted the pin that was on his chest, as if to say, "Thank You" and he gave her a hug. On Sunday, he returned to the fair and Joe gave him a book on PTSD. He spoke with them and this time he was smiling. They ran into him again before the weekend was over and his affect was greatly different than when they had first met him. Editor's Note: NEVER underestimate the good that you can do in someone's life with a simple smile, a handshake or a word of kindness. Thank you Joe, Rick and Kristina for your positive interactions with this young man and for living out the founding principle of the VVA to "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another" and our own Chapter Motto, "Honor the DEAD and fight like Hell for the LIVING!"

The 50/50 was won by Dave Mayenchein in the amount of \$10. Attendance drawing was won by Veronica Perry, who was not present, next month's drawing will be for \$70. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm and there were 20 members in attendance. **Notice:** We will need a FULL Color Guard for the July 4th parade in Mondovi, line-up at 12:30 by the Fire Station on south Eau Claire Street with parade step-off at 1 pm; please contact Rick Talford (715) 690-7376 pertaining to any questions about our Chapter's Color Guard.



This is the quilt that our AVVA member, Sally Johnson, has made and will be the **"Quilt of Valor"** prize in our special drawing for any combat veteran at our upcoming October 1st fundraiser. Just one more reason to Sell, SELL, **SELL** those raffle tickets!

Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5
Vietnam Veterans of America
5th Annual Chicken Feed Fundraiser

Sunday, October 1, 2017
at The Eagles Club,
2588 Hallie Rd, Chippewa Falls
Starting at 12 noon 'till gone

Raffle Drawing at 8 PM
(winners need not be present to win)

Grand Prize – John Deere X350
1st Prize – 49" LG Smart LED TV
2nd Prize – Henry H009 30-30 Rifle
3rd Prize – 32" LG LED TV
4th Prize – Henry 004 .22 Rifle
5th Prize – Military theme quilt
6th Prize – Deer Print
7th Prize - \$200
8th Prize - \$100

**Special "Quilt of Valor" Drawing
for any combat Veteran ONLY!**



First Annual VVA Wisconsin State Council Car Show

At **Ho-Chunk Gaming Wisconsin Dells July 14-16, 2017.** If you are planning to stay over, contact the Ho-Chunk Reservations Dept. at 1-800-746-2486 to book your room. The VVA room block starts 7/13 and ends 7/17 and you must mention Booking ID #7232 to get the group rate of \$129 + taxes per night. Reservation **cut-off date 6/13/17!** See attached flyers for more details or contact James

E. Mullarkey, Secretary VVA WSC at Secretary@vvawi.org; T: 414-529-4099; C: 414-640-6616

RV sites with full hookups available as well at the group rate of \$44 + taxes per night.



Hello All,

I would like to bring a little information and a request forward to all of the Chapter #5 members. This is all meant with the upmost respect to all members going forward. I am not a veteran myself, but come from a line of military family for the last four generations. We recently had a loss of a member, Roger Schuh, and upon getting ready for his [funeral] service I had the task of getting members of Chapter #5 together for a Color Guard. I am hopeful that this may lead to a little more participation going forward for all of you veterans as your day comes, that you will want us attending your services. The men and women that are in

this Chapter, all become like family pretty quickly, whether military or not, we spend lots of time together. When that day comes, we all wish for our family to be there for us, and this is a time that I ask for full Chapter participation. I know we all have busy lives, but the final day we have to Honor our departed family is a day that will never be replayed for us. Inspiring others to follow our lead is always a great thing to do, and I ask for all of you to try to be part of a very important act of what our Chapter does. The Color Guard duties are important for our Chapter and those that leave us behind. As some of you may have noticed, I am the one that wears a tie in Color Guard attire. That is my way of showing my full respect for each of you. As an AVVA member, I feel the responsibility to always be respectful to those that provided a service I did not. Thank you and God Bless, Rick A. Talford, Chapter #5 AVVA Member



Attention VVA and AVVA alike, this new section of the newsletter will pertain to our Chapter's AVVA activities. Well, I have to confess I've made a muddle of things since first being asked if I would volunteer as the Chapter AVVA representative and then elected as such at last year's election and for that I offer my sincerest apologies. Going forward, we will standardize our meetings one-half hour earlier than the regular Chapter meeting at VFW Post 7232 by meeting at 6:30. We cannot make-up for lost volunteer hours prior to 2017, but I will have forms for all of you to fill out to keep track of all your volunteer hours for 2017 so that they may be turned in to National. I will also have guidelines present at all meetings for those of you who do not have computer access. Biggest news to share is that we will be attending the AVVA National Convention in New Orleans in August and will be bringing back information on how we can keep our Vietnam Veterans' legacy going once they have departed us and on all of the AVVA programs available. I look forward to reporting on all of this and more, Julia McBee



18th National Convention, **August 8-12, 2017 - New Orleans**

I urge all of you to go on-line at www.VVA.org to see full documentation of the proposed resolutions that will be presented and voted on, as well as candidates for leadership positions, this August. Outlined below are the resolutions and candidates for office that our VVA delegates will be voting on.

National Officers

President – John Rowan
Vice President – Marsha Four
Secretary – Bill Meeks
Treasurer – Wayne Reynolds

Board of Directors, Regional

Herman “Skip” Hochreich – Region 1
Ted Wilkinson – Region 2
Charlie Hobbs – Region 3
Sara McVicker – Region 3
Spence Davis – Region 4
Thomas R. Burke – Region 5
Mike Demske – Region 6
Robert Grabinski – Region 6
Dennis J. Andras – Region 7
Allen Manuel – Region 7
Francisco Ivarra – Region 8
Ron Morgan – Region 8
Dick Southern – Region 9

Board of Directors, At-Large

Dottie Barickman
Jake Barsottini
Richard A. Carman
Gene Crego
Richard DeLong
Gumersindo Gomez
Ken Holybee
Dennis Howland
Joseph A. Jennings III
Joe Kristek
John Margowski
Charlie Montgomery
Bill Norton
Felix (Pete) Peterson
Dave Simmons
Dan Stenvold
Kerwin B. Stone
Craig Tonjes

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

E-3	Veterans in business
#-18	A comprehensive employment resource development program
E-19	A meaningful job at a living wage
WV-2	Medical treatment of women veterans by DVA
WV-3	Support for women veterans
WV-5	Women veterans research
WV-6	Women veterans and veteran benefits
WV-7	Women veteran program managers
WV-8	Military sexual trauma (MST)
WV-10	Travel for VHA treatment

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

01 Article 1 National Provisions Section 7, Paragraph C

Article 2 State Provisions Section 9

01 Article 2 State Provisions Section 6, Paragraph A

02 Article 2 State Provisions Section 3 Paragraph B

03 Article 3 Chapter Provisions Section 5, Paragraph K

04 Appendix II

05 Appendix II

NR 1 Article 1 National Provisions Section 3, Paragraph A

NR 2 Article 1 National Provisions Section 3, Paragraph A

NR 3 Article 1 National Provisions Section 7, Paragraph A, Subparagraph 1a

NR 4 Article 2 State Provisions Section 5, New Paragraph C

NR 5 Article 4 General Provisions Section (permanent funding for VSO program)

NR 6 Proposed Change: 2035 near last man standing, organize into Family and Friends of VVA, Inc.

Also meeting in New Orleans, LA will be the AVVA National Convention. I again urge you to log onto www.AVVA.org to see the full resolution proposals and candidate bios for those running for office. They are briefly outlined below.

National Officers

President – Sharon Hobbs

Vice President – Elayne Mackey

Secretary – Nina Schloffel

Treasurer – Kathy Andras

Deputy Regional Directors

Bobbie Morris – Region 2

Hope Summers – Region 3

Susan Henthorn – Region 4

Don Jones – Region 5

Diane Nicholson – Region 6

Suzie Meeks – Region 7

Regional Directors

Joanne Blum – Region 1

Nancy Rekowski – Region 2

Kaye Gardner – Region 3

Jeri Wallis – Region 4

Cecilia Essenmacher – Region 5

Fran Davis – Region 6

Pat Furno – Region 6

Terri Rangel – Region 7

John Birch – Region 8

Casey Farrell – Region 9

Request for Change By-laws

Article IV Section 4.02	Regional Director
Article IV Section 4.03	Deputy Regional Director
Article V Section 5.03	Term of Office
Article VII Section 7.02	Incorporated State Associations
Article VII Section 7.03	At-Large Members
Article VII Section 7.04	Delegate of Record
Article VIII Section 8.04	Delegate of Record

Please review all the proposals and candidate bios and bring your comments to the July and August Chapter meetings so that there could be consensus in how our Chapter votes on these issues at National. If you are unable to attend the Chapter meetings, please call or email us with your comments so that ALL of our membership has their voice heard. Contact Mike Korger, Joe Heil, Mac or Julie McBee to voice your opinion or ask a question. Once again, we have two open delegate spots for Chapter members to attend National and vote how we, in our Chapter, would like to vote (remember-we have three delegates this year and only one going).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

We were approached at our June meeting with a request for our Chapter to be the service organization sponsor to run a Brat Stand on behalf of a cancer victim's family. They will set-up and run the stand, they are only asking that we, as a service organization, sponsor the stand for the necessary paperwork. This is a great opportunity for us to give back to our community!

The gentleman who attended even went so far as to announce during our discussions of our donation to the Barron County veterans displaced by the tornado damage, to allow us to keep "whatever percentage you think appropriate" from the Brat Stand Sales to add to our donation to the veterans our Chapter is seeking to help.

The details are being worked out, but what an opportunity to help someone in our community. I would like to propose that as long as we are able to set-up a table and sell our Fall Harvest Raffle tickets and promote our Annual Fundraiser, that we keep our raffle ticket proceeds and this family keep the Brat Stand proceeds to help with her treatment and medical expenses.

More will be shared at our July Chapter Meeting, till then think of how cancer impacts all our lives. I daresay we all know of someone, or have been impacted directly ourselves, with cancer and be willing to help out to make this successful for everyone concerned. Thank you, Julie

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

Postage

Here

You can help Vietnam Veterans of America by asking friends to sponsor this monthly newsletter.

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this publication and newsletter which is shared with all members and sponsors.

Call Joe Heil at 715-559-2945

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