



# Mike Voth Memorial

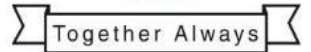
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

June 2017 Newsletter

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

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



Volume 3 Issue 6

Editor □ Julie McBee

Asst. Editor □ Dennis Wood

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 06/7 Chapter Meeting @ 7232 @ 7pm  
06/8-11 Cinder City Days, Altoona  
06/10 Stanley Truck & Tractor Pull  
06/16-18 Stanley Rodeo  
06/17 State VVA Council Meeting/Picnic @ Highground  
06/24 Trinity Equestrian's Horsepower for Veterans  
07/5 Chapter Meeting @ 7232 @ 7 pm  
07/13-17 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls  
07/26-30 Dunn County Fair, Menomonie  
07/26/30 Eau Claire County Fair, Eau Claire

Chapter e-mail: [Mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:Mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com)

Chapter web site: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org)

## 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  
AVVA Delegate: Julie McBee 715-202-0181

## 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 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,

The month of May got busy with Armed Forces Appreciation Week and the Living Heritage Legacy Tour, including the Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> filming of the movie, "Deadman's Hand", which wound up by the American Legion cabin in Augusta, and the "Veterans March on America" which wound up starting at the Eagles Club in Hallie and proceeded to the Lake Hallie Peace Memorial Park for which we provided the Color Guard. A number of our VVA and AVVA members participated in these events. Hopefully some of us were able to participate in other activities such as the Huey fly-in at the Highground on May 13<sup>th</sup> or their motorcycle Honor Ride on May 24<sup>th</sup>, or help at the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home on May 26<sup>th</sup> for a Memorial Day weekend program, or at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery in Spooner for their program on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Locally, there again was a Sunday service honoring veterans at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Dennis Werlein and I were the only VVA members there. Last year we supplied a Color Guard.

On Memorial Day the bad weather held off until later, although we were sprinkled on briefly during the program at the band shell at Owen Park. In the parade our Chapter was near the front after the Girl Scouts and in front of the Memorial High School Band. We had our Chapter banner in front being carried by two young Boy Scouts followed by our Color Guard and then Larry's pickup truck pulling a small trailer with the John Deere riding lawn mower for our raffle on it. We could have used one more flag bearer, and some of our VVA members did march with other units.

Summer has now started, so we need all of our Chapter members to step up and help our selling our raffle tickets at the various area fairs and community events. Look at the list and please let Larry Wrycza know where and when you can help. Thank You.

There is a State VVA meeting/picnic at the Highground on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Who else could make it to this? Contact [michael.demske@yahoo.com](mailto:michael.demske@yahoo.com) or 920-684-1624 if going for head count for food; meat and buns will be provided, a dish to pass is appreciated and Highground is alcohol-free.

On Sunday night, May 28<sup>th</sup>, I came across a preview of an upcoming film by Ken Burns and Kim Nowak called "The Vietnam War" airing on PBS. It is a documentary series covering all perspectives of the war and it premieres on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. I thought some of you might be interested in that.

Our next monthly Chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire. I hope to see all of you there.

Mike Korger, President  
VVA Chapter #5

## **VVA Meeting of 5/3/2017**

Call to Order made by President Mike Korger followed by Pledge of Allegiance led by Joe Graff, Opening Prayer and Moment of Silence for POW/MIA and deceased members Peter Johnson and Anton Scharenbrock led by Dennis Werlein, as were prayers for members Bill Connelly, George Adrian, Tom Neunfeldt, Roger Schuh, Dennis Werlein and Dave Zien. There were no guests, new members or guest speakers present.

**Secretary's Report:** Roger Schuh was not present; motion made by Joe Heil to accept minutes as sent out via email and post was seconded by Rory Schutte and motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe Heil reported on the expenses for April, the membership rebates received from National for the past year and the balances in the Chapter's checking and savings accounts. Brief information was shared on payment for the Dunn County Fair booth, contact with Buffalo County has not yet been made (Dennis Werlein will attempt) and also with the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Joe Graff, was seconded by Ralph Ottum and motion carried.

**President's Report:** Mike Korger spoke of the concern for assistance with county fair booths. "We will need help getting through the fairs." The approval by Eau Claire County was completed for the Veteran Tribute this past month. The Hmong event will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> in Caddott with stone laying later that day at Highground. We will need the Color Guard on May 27<sup>th</sup> in Spooner at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery and again on May 29<sup>th</sup> for the Eau Claire Memorial Day Parade. Line-up is at 8 am with the parade starting at 9 am. Chapter 5 will be seventh in line. The VVA Magazine article by Chapter 1100's President Norris Long was mentioned in which Mr. Long speaks of the twenty-one gun salute and the fact that during funerals it is called "Three Volleys for the fallen Veteran."

**Vice President's Report:** Larry Wrycza spoke of the Down's syndrome event on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds (NWSF) and the need for volunteers to help out. Craig Evans will be the contact person for the event. He also discussed the Pizza Ranch across from the Menards on the West Side having a fundraiser event that the Chapter could get involved with. Members can come in on a selected date, bus tables from 4 pm to 8:30 pm and get 10% of the sales and all tips as an ability to raise funds for the Chapter. More info to follow once a date has been scheduled; a sign-up list went around with ten of sixteen members signing on to help out with this fundraising event.

**National VVA Convention:** To be held this year in New Orleans, LA on August 8-12, 2017. Joe Heil spoke on this event and the members of Chapter 5 that will be attending. Doug Farmer will not be able to attend; currently Mac and Julia McBee will be attending the VVA meetings with Rick and Kristina Talford attending the AVVA meetings. The registration cost for VVA members is \$125 and for AVVA members is \$50. Chapter 5 has three (3) delegates who can attend and vote on issues. Mac is one, any other VVA members out there who can come? If Mac will be the only VVA delegate, Joe Heil needs to let State know so that our Chapter's voting delegates can be reassigned, SO...if you're interested in attending and making Chapter 5's votes reflect OUR voices, let Joe Heil be aware of your interest. There will be more information about the National Convention available at the next State Council meeting scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> at Highground. Joe Heil will not be available to attend this meeting; Joe Graff may be able to attend for the Chapter. Anyone interested in attending?

**State VVA Meeting:** June 17, 2017 starting at 10 am at Highground with meeting scheduled at noon and a picnic to follow. July 14-16, 2017 will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual VVA Wisconsin State Council Car Show at Ho-Chunk Gaming in the Wisconsin Dells, there is a flyer later in this newsletter.

**VA/Benefits:** Pete Breed not in attendance; Rory Schutte provided a brief report on the online report of President Trump signing an Executive Order in regards to the VA and clients right to see any doctor in the future. There was discussion among members as to a known client that is getting help from a chiropractor of his choice with the VA paying for it currently. Also, it is being discussed that acupuncture and message therapy are being approved.

**Minority Report:** Roger Schuh not in attendance; information was provided that Roger has been moved back to Mondovi to the American Lutheran Home for care. Visitors welcomed!

**Membership:** Currently 146 members listed with four more applicants being processed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Rory Schutte SPOKE ABOUT THE Veterans Home and the finances are doing fine. They are currently working on putting together an Event Committee with seven members. Donations have been received for the bingo account and the Honor Flight. The next meeting is set for May 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Memorial Day event held at 1 pm on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

More discussion was held with regard to the placement of a Vietnam Veterans Flag at the Highground and the possibility of a flag donation being made once a year at the cost of \$800. The flag needs to be replaced every six to eight weeks and is 10'x 15' in size. Joe Graff added on upcoming events at Highground: May 13<sup>th</sup> will have a Huey fly-in from 10 am to 4 pm. On May 14<sup>th</sup> there is a Hmong event in Cadott starting at 9 am and then moving to the Highground for a stone laying at 1 pm. On May 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a motorcycle Honor Ride; cost is \$25 for riders and \$15 for passengers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Scholarships: Recipients of this year's scholarship awards are Megan Hansen from Memorial High School who will be attending Iowa State University majoring in Psychology and Political Science, and Dawson Eilts from North High School who will be attending North Dakota State University majoring in Dietetics. Our nursing scholarship announcement will be made by CVTC.

Fundraising: Larry Wrycza spoke again about the needed help for the upcoming fairs. A sign-up sheet was sent around for members to see what dates are planned at where at; anyone who can help out should give Larry a call (715-402-0106) or Julia McBee (715-202-0181). We will continue to bring the sign-up sheets to all meetings for future dates to sign up as well. More dates could be coming from Ralph Ottum for areas near him. There was information shared that if a second John Deere is needed for fairs, it will be brought by John Deere and they will insure the tractor so this will not be an issue for the Chapter to worry about. A second brochure was made and looked at by the members with pictures of the raffle prizes on it and this was chosen by membership to use to help with raffle sales. John Deere is also providing two banners for the Chapter to assist with our October 1<sup>st</sup> Fundraising Event.

Memorial Day Parade: Line-up will start at 8 am with the parade beginning at 9 am. Discussion over what units will be in the parade, in addition to the Color Guard. Larry will make contact with Ed Michaels for possible use of the 16' trailer he has to be pulled behind Larry's pick-up. The mower will be placed on the front of the trailer with the banners and any riders in the rear. There will be more to be determined as we get closer to the date of the parade. A banner with the Mike Voth Chapter information and the advertisement of a Lifetime Membership for \$100 is being looked into by Joe Graff, size of this banner as yet undetermined.

Website/E-Mail: Updates are being done now with information on our October 1, 2017 fundraiser. Check it out! **Newsletter deadline is May 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dennis Wood spoke and wanted to thank Chapter 5 for their attendance at the Ladysmith Vietnam Veterans Day Event. "This group is a blessing" he added. He asked about any possible videotaping being done and it was explained that a live stream was done by Kristina Talford

during the event and was then posted on Facebook in the Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 site. He spoke of a raffle they are holding that has a grand prize of \$5,000 and that there are only 200 tickets being sold for this raffle. He then spoke of an event being held on May 13th. Honor the Fallen Ride is holding their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Event. May 12<sup>th</sup> will be an event held at the VMA in Ladysmith with a party and music; "Women of Courage" will have a breakfast on May 13<sup>th</sup> with lots of raffle items and door prizes followed with the ride (with a bus following the riders) from 11 am with a scheduled return of 3 pm. There will be a Lions Club supper and this will be held at the Deer Trail Lodge in Grant Town. He then added a disturbing Facebook post in regards to an open carry incident. The ability to open carry in Wisconsin is a right, and there are people that are against this right. He added that he defended this right online, and wanted to know if the individual being spoken about was in the Chapter. The individual mentioned is a Chapter member and also a Safety Instructor for the Wisconsin Conceal Carry program. Further discussion of the incident and open carry rights was held after the conclusion of the Chapter meeting.

On April 26, 2017, the Eau Claire County Board met and unanimously approved moving forward with the Eau Claire Veterans Tribute. Many members of the Chapter were present and spoke to the County Board on behalf of the park. The following week, the Parks and Water Committee met and approved moving forwards with plans, sending it forward to the City Council on May 9, 2017 at 7 pm. A Foundation has been created and is ready to start accepting donations towards this tribute park. Joe Heil has been selected as the Chairman of the Council and also as a Member of the Board. Dennis Werlein then asked for a Hmong Appreciation Sign to be a part of the park with Dennis making a motion to start a petition request for this, seconded by Joe Graff. Motion passed with one opposed stating that this tribute park is being created for all of the Eau Claire County veterans who have served their country.

Dennis Werlein then spoke of needing volunteers to help out with the speaking engagements for the Veterans in the Classroom program. A sign-up list was passed around with a handful of members signing up to help Dennis with this program. Should anyone be interested, give him a call at 715-577-8414.

Veterans March on America was discussed by Joe Graff; the event will start at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie on May 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at noon and proceed to the Lake Hallie Peace Park.

Ralph Ottum thanked the Chapter for their donation of \$250 last month to the Colby Library Project and explained about the Bronze Leaf that will be placed at the library with the Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5 information on it for the donation. He explained some of the project details and showed a book on the project. He also noted that a table in the name of his family and Chapter 5 was being purchased for use at the library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm; next meeting will be at Post 7232 on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.



philipmartin.info

Kaye Olson's father recently passed away and she has an electric wheelchair for sale. This chair is for a larger individual and was purchased from Mayo's Medical Store in Eau Claire. Any interested person should contact Kaye at 715-563-1990 or at her email, [olsonjk98@gmail.com](mailto:olsonjk98@gmail.com) for more info.

### Trinity Equestrian Center's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Horsepower for Veterans

Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

9 am - 11 am Register, free continental breakfast  
11:30 am (staggered) Wheels Up! Ride to Highground  
3 pm Return to Trinity Equestrian Center, Eau Claire  
Cost: \$25 per person, \$35 per couple  
(includes cost of BBQ Chicken Meal back at Trinity)  
\$10 for meal (non-riding public)



**VVA WSC Annual Picnic** to be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at the Highground in Neillsville, WI. WSC will provide all the meat(s) & buns for the grill. Those attending the picnic are asked to bring a dish to pass but most importantly, event planners need to know the number attending as this allows them to get the necessary food. Keep in mind that the Highground is an alcohol-free zone. Please contact Mike Demske at [michael.demske@yahoo.com](mailto:michael.demske@yahoo.com) or 920-684-1624 if you plan on attending.

### 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](mailto: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.

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

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**Call Joe Heil at 715-559-2945**

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