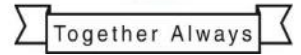




**Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5**  
**Vietnam Veterans of America**  
P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702  
**March 2018 Newsletter**



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

**Volume 4 Issue 3**

**Editor – Julie McBee**

03/07/13 Fundraising Committee Meeting @ 5 pm  
Chapter Meeting @ 7 pm @ Post 7232  
AVVA Meeting @ 6:30 pm @ Post 7232  
03/17/18 VVA Wisconsin State Council Meeting, Waupaca  
03/24/18 Vietnam Veterans Day @ Eagles Club, Lake Hallie  
03/25/18 Vietnam Veterans Day @ Ladysmith VMA  
**\*\*NOTE: CHAPTER COLOR GUARD NEEDED AT BOTH**  
4/12-14/18 BRANSON.COM Honors Purple Heart Recipients  
In Branson, MO (veterans.branson.com)

**Chapter web site:** [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org)  
**Chapter email:** [www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5](http://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 Zien 715-829-9436  
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, L. Wrycza  
AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181  
Historical: Julie McBee 715-202-0181  
Vets in the Classroom: Rory Schutte 715-563-1583  
Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-647-2091

### **CHAPTER CONTACTS**

President Mike Korger 715-726-3918  
Vice President Larry Wrycza 715-402-0106  
Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089  
Secretary James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-0180  
Chaplain

### **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**

**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 test!**

Greetings:

Hopefully there is not too much of winter left. I would rather be too warm than too cold myself.

Thank you to all our members who were able to make it to the wake and funeral for our immediate past president, Dennis Werlein. Thank you to those who took turns as a casket guard at the wake and those who were part of the color guard at the cemetery. It was also great to see five of the Laotian Hmong veterans from Wausau who came to the wake.

At our last VVA meeting another collection was taken by passing the hat so that we now have enough money to purchase a legacy stone for Dennis at the Highground. The ceremony for laying that stone will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Write that date down so you will be there. Also, at the last VVA meeting we had a guest speaker, Dana Schimmel, who gave an informative presentation on Klein Hall (for homeless veterans housing and assistance) which is across the road from the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls. Several of our members actually went to Klein Hall on February 21<sup>st</sup> for a Board of Directors meeting and to participate in the evening meal that our Chapter sponsored.

Upcoming is a VVA State Council meeting at Waupaca on March 17<sup>th</sup> that several of our members will be attending.

The big upcoming event is the annual Vietnam Veterans Day which will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Eagles Club by Chippewa Falls. We will need help with our VVA Color Guard and hopefully a lot of our members will be able to participate in that day's activities. Some of our Chapter 5 members have been attending the planning committee meetings for Vietnam Veterans Day and most details are now set or are being verified. One item that is not verified is whether there is or is not going to be a Vietnam Veterans Day on March 25<sup>th</sup> at Ladysmith; we may not need to supply a color guard to be there.

I am going to put the planning for the bus trip to the “Wall” in Washington, D.C. on hold for now. It will be too expensive unless we can come up with some sponsors to help fund it. Maybe a “GoFundMe” page?

I hope to see all of you at our next regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA meeting at 6:30 p.m.) on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger  
President, VVA Chapter 5

## **VVA Meeting of 2/7/18**

Call to order was made by President Mike Korger with the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer led by Sgt at Arms Joe Graff with a special moment of silence for Dennis Werlein.

Guest speaker tonight is Dana Schimmel, Case Manager with the Wisconsin Housing & Recovery Program at Klein Hall in Chippewa Falls. She gave a presentation about their program that transitions veterans from homelessness financial stability and living on their own. Some veterans may get through the program in 10-12 months, but it is a two-year program that helps veterans with housing, obtaining their VA benefits, employment, driver’s licenses, and in some cases, mental health or addiction recovery. There is a computer lab, fitness room and library available to them; they can also participate at the YMCA in Chippewa Falls without cost so long as they are enrolled in the program. There is transportation assistance for getting to medical appointments or jobs, sometimes driven by “graduates” of the program. There are five “pods” with a common area furnished with new furniture donated by Ashley Furniture, TV/DVD and a kitchenette with a microwave. This is a 30-bed facility for the program (two to a room), and there are an additional ten beds that can be rented by graduates of the program for a capacity of 40 residents; on average there are 30-36 veterans. There is also an enclosed courtyard where residents can plant flowers or have container gardens, gas grills for outdoor cooking or just hanging out and having a smoke (the facility is smoke free.) Meals are served three times daily and packed lunches are provided for those employed. Food is donated by various individuals and businesses, in addition to the WDVA. Enrollees are also able to attend computer classes at CVTC in Chippewa Falls for free for classes in computer literacy and resume services. Klein Hall has the largest capacity in the State of Wisconsin and referrals to the program come from the VA, CVSO’s, St. Cloud Treatment Center and/or medical referrals. The only other homeless facilities are at King and Union Grove and don’t have near the capacity as Klein Hall. The VA wants to see a 65% goal completion with graduates having a job and housing. Klein Hall has a very positive graduation rate and has maintained the VA average of 65% since last year. There is some redecorating going on and each of the “pods” will be designated either VFW/DAV/VVA/ Purple Heart or Legion with the corresponding Chapters/Posts that contribute to Klein Hall recognized. There will be a ceremony planned once this redecorating is completed so donors can tour and see where and how their contributions are utilized. There is always a need for fitted twin sheets, and No.10 canned veggies are always welcomed too.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made by Joe Graff, seconded by Larry Wrycza, to accept the Secretary's report for December and January as mailed and e-mailed; motion carried. A clarification was made by Julia McBee regarding the proceeds from Pizza Ranch fundraisers; the January event is to seed the AVVA account and then all future Pizza Ranch events will be split between the VVA/AVVA accounts.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe Heil not present; there will be a full report in March.

**President's Report:** Mike Korger spoke of the Christmas Party at the Veterans Home, the January 24<sup>th</sup> Pizza Ranch fundraiser, the January 28<sup>th</sup> Rose Bowl in Marshfield and the upcoming Vietnam Veterans Day events in Lake Hallie on March 24<sup>th</sup> and possibly Ladysmith on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Color Guards will be needed, please call Rick Talford if you are able to assist. There is no new information to share on the possible bus trip to the "Wall" in Washington, D.C.

**Vice President's Report:** Larry Wrycza was present tonight and suggested possibly changing the name of the Chapter to Voth-Werlein Memorial Chapter to honor Dennis for being a Charter Member and for all he did on behalf of veterans, "The Legion and other groups do it all the time." Julia McBee cautioned that there is a whole lot involved to do this, not just changing letterhead, but legally and on a federal/state level and reminded members that it was about a six month process the last time after Mike Voth's death; adding that perhaps the Chapter's scholarships could be renamed in Dennis' honor. Dave Zien added that it isn't such a good idea to have "memorial" in a name so further discussion on any name change to the Chapter was deferred to another time.

**AVVA Report:** Julia McBee reported that between the tips and the 10% of the night's profits, our Pizza Ranch fundraiser took in \$425 and thanked everyone who came out to either support us or help bus tables. We were pleasantly surprised to have WEAU Channel 13 News on hand to interview us for their 5 and 6 pm newscasts. Thank you to Ralph and Peg Ottum's daughter for alerting WEAU's News Tip Line of our event that night. We can have these fundraising nights every three months, so we're looking at a date in late April for another event. Julia has filed her Letter of Intent for Chapter Representative with President Korger and copied State Representative Pat Furno; there have been no other nominees for this position. Election of AVVA Representative will take place with our Chapter's VVA election in April. Rick Talford has filed his Letter of Intent to run for State Representative. This position will be elected at the June VVA State Council meeting at The Highground.

**National VVA Convention:** Next National Convention will be in Spokane, WA in 2019.

**State VVA Meeting:** There will be a District 6 meeting held in Iowa, date not yet set. The next State Council meeting will be March 17, 2018 in Waupaca.

**Membership:** 139

**VA/Benefits:** Pete Breed not present. Julia McBee has a listing of discounts available to veterans and we will get this posted on our Facebook and website pages as well as in this newsletter. Dave Zien spoke on the need for additional 72 bed facilities modeled after the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls, with another 72-bed facility built there as well as LaCrosse and Madison. The resolutions regarding the Rock Elm Meteorite site and the 1% mining proceeds earmarked for the Veterans Trust Fund are going forward.

**Minority Report:** Dave Zien spoke of the 1861 Indian Battle of Prairie Farm which the government would like to make into a National Park, BUT, this would require the Lac Courte Oreilles Nation to give the land to the government. The Tribal Council will be meeting to discuss this possibility.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Veterans Home:** Rory Schutte spoke of the 5 year anniversary event held recently. Speakers at the event were Dave Zien, Dan Zimmerman and Dave Brisco. There is also a need for more volunteers, especially on Saturdays; if interested please contact Mary Selz, Director of Activities at 715-720-6647 or MarySelz@dva.wi.gov.

**Highground:** There will be a Porch Greeter Luncheon on March 13<sup>th</sup> and a Vietnam Reunion & Education afternoon on April 21<sup>st</sup> along with a Legacy Stone Ceremony that day. Joe Graff spoke on the need for volunteers for the upcoming Spring Work Week April 25-28<sup>th</sup>. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Meditation/Legacy Stone Ceremonies will be held September 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be a fitting day to lay Dennis Werlein's Legacy Stone so please plan on attending. More information on Dennis' stone will be forthcoming. Learn more at [www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org).

**Logo/Clothing:** The jackets have been narrowed down to one which is more of a bomber style with a removable liner, cuffed wrists, and a hood which folds into the collar, and a jacket which is more of a team style jacket with ribbed wrists and neck; both have shoulder epaulets for Color Guard braiding. Membership needs to decide which jacket style they would prefer and to get a better idea of this, Mike Korger sent around a slip of paper for those to mark their interest. A Board of Directors meeting to (hopefully) finalize this decision.

**Eau Claire Veterans Council:** More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at [www.ecveteransfoundation.com](http://www.ecveteransfoundation.com).

**Fundraising:** A Committee meeting will need to meet soon to get working on our fundraising. Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> here at VFW Post 7232.

**Communications:** Mike Korger read some correspondence received from the family of Dennis Werlein and I will share the family's words to the Chapter. Remember our Chapter's Website/E-Mail: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org) / [mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com) and don't forget you can find National info at [www.VVA.org](http://www.VVA.org) and State info at [www.VVAWI.org](http://www.VVAWI.org).



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*I would like to thank all the members past and present of the Mike Voth Memorial VVA Chapter 5 for all they have done with and for Dennis and all veterans, but there are so many I would never get through the list.*

*Meetings, parades, marches, protests, celebrations, picnics, tributes and many other activities had kept him busy for decades. He always carried membership applications with him and gave them to every potential member he met.*

*His dedication to helping all veterans was based on his experience as a veteran, but also on the experiences of his son, dad, uncles, cousins, my mom and dad, brother and many friends who were also veterans.*

*You gave him the best send off he could ever have imagined. Your visits and phone calls always made him happy even when he couldn't respond much anymore. He was always listening and knew you were there.*

*The Vets in the Classroom and the scholarship programs were especially important to him. Please use our donation in those areas. Our whole family will be forever grateful to you. Please keep up the good work you all do. Maybe someday not only will veterans be honored, but maybe we will run out of wars that produce veterans.*

*All our love and respect, Frieda (mom), Mary (wife), Jake, Ben, Teresa, Lori, Jenny, Emily, Sam and Karen (children)*

*To all who stood guard over my Dad, Thank You*

*To all who saluted my father, Thank You*

*To all in attendance at his final ceremony, Thank You*

*The VVA members helped make my Dad's final ceremony as honorable as it could be, I understand and appreciate.*

*Ben Werlein, Dennis' son and a fellow veteran*

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Elections:** Will be next month on April 4th; all Officers, Board of Directors and AVVA Representative will be voted for at this time. Announcements will be made at the March meeting for those who would like to step down from their positions and available positions announced so they can be voted on in April. If anyone is interested, please let Mike Korger know.

**Newsletter:** Membership was informed of possible changes to the printing of our Chapter newsletter. Current printer is in Lake Holcombe and they have reduced their hours to only three days a week and previous arrangements were for Cindy's husband (who worked in Eau Claire) to bring the newsletters down with him, we'd pick them up, address and mail them. We were informed that Joe retired and would no longer be coming down to Eau Claire so options are to keep Cindy and have her label, stamp and mail the newsletters after printing them—cost would be an additional \$17 for processing plus postage (negligible since we'd have to pay postage anyway) -OR- investigate having the UPS Store that we do business with here in Eau Claire print the newsletters where we could pick them up and process them. Motion made by Joe Graff, seconded by Ralph Ottum, to remain with the current printer and pay the increase fee; motion carried. And speaking of the newsletter, due to Julia's son's wedding March 24<sup>th</sup>, newsletter material NEEDS to be in **by Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>!** Sorry, but we're leaving on the 18<sup>th</sup> to drive to Cherry Point North Carolina so please, please, please have stuff to me early. Thanks!

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Joe Graff passed a hat for donations to purchase a Legacy Stone for Dennis Werlein at Highground to honor him for all he has done for the Chapter and veterans. The Wednesday group that meets at the Senior Center had already raised \$165 towards this stone. A motion was made by Al Weix and seconded by Mike Smith, to have the Chapter cover the difference between collected funds and cost of the Legacy Stone; motion carried. When monies were counted, a total of \$455, of the \$475 cost, was collected. Thank you to all who gave!

Ralph Ottum shared an invitation from the Colby Library for the Chapter to attend its new library's opening event on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm. The Ottum's and the Chapter have donated to this new library.

Doug Farmer spoke of visiting the Mondovi Family Restaurant while attending Dennis' funeral services. An anonymous customer recognized his Color Guard shirt and paid for their meal. Doug also noted a Certificate of Appreciation on display with Dennis' signature on it for past donations to our fundraising efforts. They are also a sponsor of the Chapter's newsletter.

Dave Zien spoke of the upcoming Wheels of Liberty meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm at the 29 Pines Truck Stop. Rick Talford added to Dave Zien's comments on a Legacy Sign in honor of Dennis Werlein; he is looking into getting permission to place a Legacy Sign on Hwy 10, which is Vietnam Veterans Highway, possibly at a wayside between Mondovi and Durand.

Rory Schutte spoke of his speaking with special needs children at Longfellow School as part of the Vets in the Classroom program that Dennis Werlein ardently advocated for and his success with these students. He will continue visiting at Longfellow and if anyone has any articles from Vietnam that could be useful (helmets, photos, etc.) and would consider sharing with him it will be very much appreciated.

Rory also shared that this years Big Rig Truck Show, scheduled for August and again will be at the fairgrounds in Chippewa Falls, is looking for veterans to be part of a large Color Guard unit for the opening ceremony. Please consider helping Chapter 5 be represented for this event.

Dave Zien shared that the Dairy Queen on Menomonie Street, where we already have a Wheels of Liberty Living Legacy Sign, is open to also having a Hmong Living Legacy Sign. More discussion with Dairy Queen will take place and Dave will share with us. Remember, May 14<sup>th</sup> is Hmong Veteran Appreciation Day, maybe something could be in place by then????

Attendance and 50/50 drawing will be held next month when Joe Heil will be present.

Closing Prayer was offered by Joe Graff and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm; there were 22 members in attendance, 14 VVA and 8 AVVA. The next meeting will be held at Post 7232 on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Emergency Board of Directors Meeting was immediately held after the meeting adjourned as an item had been omitted from the Agenda: a donation was made to the recent United Cerebral Palsy Star Fest fundraiser in the name of the Chapter, motion was made to approve the \$100 donation to UCP by Ralph Ottum, seconded by Rory Schutte and carried.

**ADDENDUM:** There was a Board of Directors meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> where a jacket decision was made to go with the bomber style jacket from Gall's and have Sue (our logo/clothing gal) do the embroidery of patches so that the jackets resemble the Color Guard shirts currently used. Cost of the jackets will be \$52 for sizes S-3XL and \$60 for sizes 4XL-7XL. There are four patches that Sue will apply, the US flag, the big Chapter patch on the back, the smaller logo on the left breast, and the POW on the right breast. Cost of embroidery will roughly be \$50 but may be less.

Additionally, the Scholarships were discussed and the two high school scholarships will remain unchanged, applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. The CVTC Nursing scholarship will remain unchanged with the Chapter picking up the additional \$35 in administrative fees imposed by the school so that the recipient will receive the full \$750. We will add a \$500 scholarship that will be the Denis Werlein Veteran Scholarship designated for any veteran, including National Guard and Reservists who are Honorably discharged and can provide a DD214 and have a GPA of 2.8-3.5. They also will have to write an essay identifying their field of study and why it was chosen and how they will further their career with their education; application deadline will be August 1<sup>st</sup>. In the case of an Active Duty National Guard or Reservist, they will need a letter from their



commanding officer detailing the unit they were attached to and when in lieu of a DD214. Scholarship paperwork will be put together and made available at the next Chapter meeting.

We ran out of time to continue discussion of the fundraising events, Larry Wrycza arrived late but we were able to decide on meeting at 5 pm on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> prior to the regular Chapter meeting at 7 pm. Ralph has obtained some pricing for some Henry rifles, Rick is also looking into rifle pricing for us and will have that for us on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Holiday Vacations has been approached and application made for a donation (hopefully a cruise!!) but their committee doesn't meet until the first or second week of March, so maybe, we'll have an answer by the 7<sup>th</sup> for a Grand Prize from them. Requests also applied for are for the Packers, Brewers and Bucks—no word yet. Kenny Piel has a wooden wishing fountain that he sells for \$450 but will let us have for \$250. We also have leftovers from last year; a \$400 Marine backpack from Northern Safari Army/Navy, and a signed guitar from Country Jam. Additionally, cash prizes and a quilt should round out our raffle prizes rather nicely. We will be keeping the food simpler this year—grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and brats with chips, beans, coleslaw and cookie. As we are having it at Post 7232, maybe we can get some beer distributor to print posters for us as they have in the past. Perhaps we can get VVA 331 to bring in their helicopter again. Will have more details once the committee has met on the 7<sup>th</sup> and report to the membership during the Chapter meeting.

## **Northwest Central Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Day Program**



On Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> there will be an opportunity for you to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Vietnam Veterans Day program in Lake Hallie, Wisconsin. The event will feature an opening ceremony, relevant speakers to address issues important to Vietnam veterans and to other veterans as well. All veterans and the general public are welcome to attend. Veteran Service Officers will be present to answer questions and provide information. Veteran Service Organizations will also be there so attendees can learn more about the benefits of membership. We hope to have some Vietnam Era memorabilia on display too.

The main event is being held on Saturday, March 24, 2018, and begins at 10 a.m. The Eagles Club in Lake Hallie (between Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls) is hosting the program and it is located at 2588 Bus. Hwy. 53, Lake Hallie, WI. The program is supported by various local veteran service organizations including local VFW Posts and Auxiliaries as well as local businesses. Contact Leroy Jansky at [Ljansky@charter.net](mailto:Ljansky@charter.net) if you have questions.

# Vietnam Veterans Day

## March 24, 2018



**Eagles Club**  
**2588 Bus. Hwy. 53, Lake Hallie, WI**  
**8th Annual Event**

### **Program Agenda**

- 10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony and Welcome**
- 10:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker: Col. Daniel Doughty, USAF (Ret.), Vietnam Veteran and POW**
- 11:15a.m. Community Activities**  
**The value of Veteran Service Organizations**
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch on Your Own - \$4.95 Soup and Sandwich Special at the Eagles Club**
- 1:00 p.m. Eau Claire and Chippewa County Veteran Service Officers – Q&A**
- 1:45 p.m. Veteran Services in the Chippewa Valley**  
**WDVA Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls**  
**Veterans Housing and Recovery Program**  
**Chippewa Valley VA Clinic – Chippewa Falls**
- 2:30 p.m. Closing Comments and Door Prize Drawing**  
**Must Be Present To Win**

# 2018



For More Information Please Contact  
Leroy Jansky, Program Chairman  
(715) 829-6571 or [Ljansky@charter.net](mailto:Ljansky@charter.net)  
Joe Heil, Treasurer (715) 839-7089

Contact us if you would like to set up a display of Vietnam Era memorabilia.



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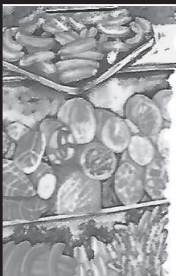



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