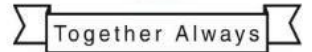




# Mike Voth Memorial

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
March 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 3 Editor □ Julie McBee Asst. Editor □ Dennis Wood**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 03/02/16 Chapter Meeting @ **Chippewa Vets Home**  
Come for a facility tour @ 6 p.m. and meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 03/19/16 State VVA Council Meeting @ Waupaca
- 03/29/16 Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony @ LE Phillips Senior Center from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- 04/02/16 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day @ Eagles Club
- 04/03/16 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day @ Ladysmith
- 04/15/16 Chapter 5's **Tax Relief Raffle** drawing
- 06/2-5/16 National VVA Council Meeting @ St. Cloud, MN
- 06/18/16 State VVA Council Meeting @ Highground
- 06/18/16 Welcome Home Picnic @ Carson Park
- 07/19-25 Persian Gulf Tribute @ Highground
- 09/10/16 Chapter 5's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser

## COMMITTEES

- Veterans Assistance: John Dorsey 715-835-5055
- Finance: Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Outdoor Recreation: Bill Anderson 715-530-3481
- Officer Nomination: Mike Korger 715-726-3918
- 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
- Veterans Affairs-Benefits: Rory Schutte 715-563-1583
- Women Veterans: Julie McBee 715-202-0181
- POW/MIA/Highground: Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Agent Orange/Incarcerated & Veterans Health Care:  
Peter Breed 715-827-0359
- 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
- Welcome Home Picnic: R. Pettis, B. Laguban, E. Laventure, P. Breed & D. Johnson

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

- President Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514
- VP Bob Laguban 651-285-8518
- Treasurer Joe Heil 715-839-7089
- Secretary Mike Korger 715-726-3918
- Chaplain Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Joe Graff 715-579-0912
- Ken Lestrud 715-235-9432
- Dan Ziegler 715-559-5158

*Note: Shirts and hats are still available,  
contact Joe Heil if interested.*

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



**God Bless All Veterans**

**CHAPTER MOTTO: "HONOR THE DEAD AND FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING"**



Fellow Veterans,

Meetings, meetings, MEETINGS!!!

☑ 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!



Lots of action and activities going on in our area and Chapter. At last month's meeting we formed another excellent, and much needed, committee. The Veteran's Assistance Committee is already helping area veterans. One of our members was in need of a multi-position, electrically controlled bed. Members connected with the right people to get one for him. Great work guys! Another member is terminally ill and we made arrangements for him and one of his family members to go on the Freedom Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We are also working with the same vet to receive a grant from the Terminal Veterans Dream Fund. They will donate \$2000 to a terminally ill vet to fulfill a wish of his choice.

Our Chapter has also been continually enrolling new members to our Chapter's rolls, including Associate Members. The Lifetime Membership offer of \$100 has been made permanent for any Vietnam Era Veteran. An enrollment form is included with this newsletter, as well as an Associate Membership application.

Thanks to the formation of the Eau Claire County United Veterans Council and other veterans groups efforts the news got out fast about State Bill LRB24/1 which would have eliminated many county VSO offices in an effort to combine them with other counties and have just maybe one office to serve four counties of veterans. The word got out and the bill was stopped in its tracks and did not pass. Thank you to all of our Chapter members and others who used the legislator's phone numbers and addresses in our newsletter to contact them. We need to be on alert because rumor is that they will probably try to slip it through again. At our next meeting at the Vets Home in Chipewewa Falls (look for directions in this newsletter) our newest raffle tickets will be distributed to you if you haven't already received them. There will be three cash prizes and a camping table and chair set.

Another meeting that took place was a combined Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce and Chapter #5 planning session on the great progress of our June 18<sup>th</sup> Vets Community picnic and Vietnam Veterans night at the Eau Claire Express Baseball game at Carson Park. The Chamber leaders have implemented a lot of good ideas and some of the events are already fully funded by generous sponsors. We'll have a short report at the Vets Home meeting so we have time to show the DVD "Finally a Voice, the Birth of the Vietnam Veterans of America." The movie starts at 8:00 and lasts for an hour. Free popcorn, snacks and beverages will be available. Twenty vets from the Home and some of their family members have been invited.

At the meeting of the Eau Claire County United Veterans Council, it was reported that great progress has been made on the Eau Claire Vets Memorial Tribute (short report at the meeting). I can't forget about that group's education committee as there will be a presentation coming up at Regis High School in March. Seven committee members, mostly from our Chapter, will present, along with a member of Appleton VVA Chapter #351 who has graciously volunteered to help us, our first classroom event. A presentation at the UW Eau Claire nursing class will also occur later.

My apologies for having such a long President's report, but I wanted to try to keep you up-to-date on all the great events going on so our business portion of the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be short to allow time for the fun of watching the movie.

I'll save some popcorn for ya!

Dennis Werlein, President  
Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5

Directions to Chippewa Vets Home:  
From Eau Claire take 53 N, merge onto WI 29 (Exit 95A) to WI 178 (Exit 79) which becomes Seymour Cray Sr. Blvd, continue on to East Park Ave and turn Right. Entrance to Vets Home will be on the right.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **VVA Meeting of 2/3/2016**

President Dennis Werlein called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Larry Wrycza led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Dan Ziegler gave the opening prayer and asked to remember in our prayers, Roger Schuh, who is in poor health. President Dennis added to pray for Mac and for John Moore, VSO Tim Moore's dad. Dennis also acknowledged new member, Ron Larson, being present.

A motion passed to accept the Secretary's Report by Mike Korger as emailed and mailed out.

There was no Treasurer's Report as Joe Heil was absent as anticipated.

Dennis then gave us his President's Report. Last Monday there was an excellent meeting held on the "Welcome Home Picnic" and included 7-8 representatives from the Chamber of Commerce. An invitation was sent to Senator Ron Johnson to attend and invitations will be sent to all presidents of veterans groups and auxiliaries. The flyover by the Wisconsin Air National Guard needed federal approval and it is already too late to get that. All area military recruiters have been invited to attend. The Vietnam traveling wall from Texas will be coming on 6/16 and there will be a motorcycle escort for it. There is a circus in Carson Park on 6/14-6/15, so we can't set-up until 6/16. We will NEED volunteers for guard duty 24/7 from set-up on the Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> until take down Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

A motion passed to have Treasurer Joe Heil open a special bank account entitled Veterans Community Project for the "Welcome Home Picnic" deposits and expenditures.

President Dennis stated that when businesses are solicited for donations and sponsorships for the picnic, that it is the Vietnam Vet that must do the asking, and then the representative from the Chamber of Commerce who is with us will supply the details. Dennis also said the Vietnam memorabilia display that will be set up in the museum in Carson Park has a rental fee of \$500.00. Dennis also listed the different levels of sponsorship that will be available.

A motion passed to put \$2000.00 from our Chapter 5 account into the Veterans Community Project account.

President Dennis continued his President's Report with a report on the January United Veteran's Council meeting. Dan Ziegler was designated as the Chairman of the proposed Eau Claire County Veterans Memorial. That project will be a huge undertaking and will take 4-5 years to complete. Rory Schutte gave an update on getting a van to transport veterans to Tomah and the Twin Cities. Rory again stressed that more volunteer drivers must be signed up for this to become a reality. 5-6 drivers are needed and so far there are only two. Dan Ziegler pointed out that there was a late push on legislation to eliminate county VSO's and offices in the State of Wisconsin and allow Regionalization Consortiums in Wisconsin to deliver benefits to veterans and their dependents. Dan commended John Olson, who is the President of the United Vets Council, for leading the effort to turn down that proposal. Dave Zien then mentioned that the proposal was supposed to free up funds so more could go to the veterans, but we have to be vigilant on the language used in these proposals. Dennis then said that a special flag disposal box has been set up at the county VSO office. He also reported that he attended a meeting with the Appleton VVA concerning their success over the last 15 years with their Vietnam education presentation in the schools. Appleton will loan us one of their displays that they use and they will send a person to help us with a presentation. Our first classroom presentation will be in mid-March and there are 7 members on that committee.

A Scholarship Report was given by Larry Wrycza. Larry said two winners will be picked from the local applicants from Memorial, North, Regis, Immanuel or Altoona High Schools. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.8-3.8. Special forms and an essay must be completed and someone in the family must have been a Vietnam era background. Larry said the nursing scholarship has already been taken care of.

National VVA Meeting Report: There will be a region 6 VVA meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud, MN.

State Council meeting Report: Jim Blaha is not present to report on the results from our request for an Agent Orange presentation for our annual Vietnam Veterans Day. The next meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup> in Waupaca.

Larry Wrycza asked us to pray for Roger Schuh how is terminally ill. He is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at Mayo Luther. A sheet of paper was passed around for us to sign to send along with a get well card for Roger.

Rory Schutte did not have a VA Benefits and Claims Report.

Membership Report: There are officially 104 current members, and there should be about 125 once National catches up with the backlog of new applications.

Veterans Home Report: The gazebo project has been delayed because of the possible building addition being considered for the Home.

Highground Report by Joe Graff: The bowling tournament that was held on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. in Marshfield as a fundraiser for the Working Dog Tribute was a success. Joe has packs of business cards we can give out as reminders of our annual Eau Claire County Vietnam Veterans Day which will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Eagles Club in Chippewa Falls (2588 Hallie Road). Joe said that we are also invited to be at the LE Phillips Senior Center on March 29<sup>th</sup> for a Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony. (1616 Bellinger, Eau Claire from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) The Senior Center also invites us to place items



# Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.



## Application for Membership

Mail Applications to: Monument Bank | AVVA Lock Box  
8602 Colesville Rd | Silver Spring, MD 20910

State/Chapter: Wisconsin/Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 VVA At-Large?

Check here if you are a Veteran:  Are you a Vietnam Era Veteran?

New Member:  Renewal:  Membership #, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M  F

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

**Yearly Membership Dues:** (Choose 1 year member or 3 year member)

1 year: \$20.00       3 Year: \$50.00 (saves \$10)

**Life Membership Options:** (Check all that apply)

**NOTE: Paying less than \$250.00 requires proof of age**

Paid in Full       Payment Plan: (requires \$50 down, and \$25 per month until paid in full.)

**Life Member Dues Schedule:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Age 49 years and under	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 61 to 65 years	\$175
<input type="checkbox"/> Age 50 to 55 years	\$225	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 66 to 71 years	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Age 56 to 60 years	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 72 years & above	\$100

**DO NOT SEND CASH**

**Payment Method**

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Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Monument Bank, AVVA Lock Box | 8602 Colesville Road | Silver Spring, MD 20910**





# One Time Special Offer

Extended Special Enrollment for Veterans

## Life Membership Application

New: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Life Membership Dues **\$100.00**

Life Membership Payment: Check \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ Amex \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility:** Membership is to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purpose) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975. **You MUST submit a copy of your DD214 with this application.**

**Send To:** Joe Heil at 1231 Rowe, Eau Claire WI 54703-1569 and he will make copies of your application, DD214 and proof of payment for our Chapter records and forward onto National, just in case something gets "lost" the Chapter will have backup documentation.

from Vietnam in a display case there for that month. They also sponsor a coffee social every Wednesday afternoon that veterans are invited to attend to interact with each other. Joe finished by stating there are still 34 MIA from Wisconsin. **NOTE:** We will need 7 guys for color guard duty for **three** Vietnam Veterans Day events; 1) LE Phillips Senior Center on 3/29, 2) Eagles Club on 4/2 and 3) VFW Post 2490, 605 Summit Ave., Ladysmith on 4/3.

Clothing Report: We are still researching for a VVA Chapter 5 jacket that a braid could be worn on and hopefully cost only around \$50.00.

New Business: VSO Tim Moore's dad, John, is a new member of our Chapter and is in need of an electric adjustable bed. Larry Wrycza said he will check what the Gilmanton American Legion has on hand for equipment. Dan Ziegler mentioned that there are wheelchairs and walkers in the shed out back here where we meet at VFW Post 7232. Dennis said we need a Veteran's Assistance Committee to do projects for veterans such as building a ramp or making other alterations to accommodate their disability. John Dorsey and Larry Wrycza volunteered for the committee. There will be a planning committee meeting for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day on 2/11 at Legion Post 77 in Chippewa Falls.

Fundraising Report: Larry Wrycza has new raffle tickets for us to sell. We are calling it a Tax Relief Raffle and they're mostly cash prizes. Winners will be drawn on 4/15/16. Be sure to come to our next Chapter meeting on 3/2 at the Chippewa Veterans Home to get your raffle tickets to sell or contact Larry to make arrangements to get them.

Under New Business: Dave Zien congratulated the Governor and the State Legislature for passing and signing AB 98/SB 89 concerning the Wisconsin Veterans Tribute-Citizen Soldiers Monument at Cadott. Dave said we should voice support for AB 467 which would designate the Mid-East Conflict Highway (Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Global War on Terror). We had previously passed a motion to support this. Dave strongly recommends that we and others write down our memoirs of our Vietnam stories and our lives since then and our vision for the future. VVA member Rolland Schearer is planning to write a book on this. Dave said we should commend and invite to our 6/18/16 Vietnam Veterans Day at Carson Park; Gary Wetzal, a Medal of Honor recipient from Wisconsin and nominated for the Motorcycle Hall of Fame for his long involvement with Rolling Thunder, Sammy Davis, another Medal of Honor recipient, and Dennis Sullivan, a Chippewa Falls native and retired general who flew numerous SR 71 recon picture flights over Vietnam, Laos, China and Cambodia. Dave said we should encourage veterans and their loved ones to consider upgrading their awards through the BCOMR (Board of Corrections of Military Records), such as upgrading a Bronze Star to a Silver Star. A motion passed to support all of Dave's proposals.

Dan Ziegler proposed giving a \$50 gift certificate to Debbie, a worker at Post 7232, for all she has done to help our VVA Chapter. The motion carried.

Pictures were passed around of appreciation plaques being presented to Prestige Auto and Northern Safari Army/Navy Surplus. Litchfield Auto is left to do yet. Plaques have also been presented to Willie's Military Surplus and the Brommer Family.

Under Good of the Order: President Dennis verified that Bill Anderson was chairman of our new Outdoor Recreation Committee and other members were Larry Wrycza, Dan Ziegler and Joe Graff. David Mayenschein and Rolland Schearer also volunteered to be on that committee.



Presentation of Appreciation Plaque to Prestige Auto Corp.  
Dennis Werlein, Dan & Lisa Mattoon, owners of Prestige Auto, and Joe Heil



Presentation of Appreciation Plaque to Northern Safari Army/Navy Surplus  
Dennis Werlein, Kelly Flanagan, Mgr., and Joe Heil

# Vietnam Veterans Day

## April 2, 2016

Eagle Club 2588 Bus. Hwy. 53, Lake Hallie, WI

### 6th Annual Event

#### Agenda

- 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. VVA Agent Orange Forum
- 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. Documenting Vietnam War KIA Gravesites
- 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch On Your Own. Display Viewing Time
- 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony and Guest Speakers

#### Featuring

Keynote Speaker  
LTC Kerm Morgan, US Army (Retired)



# 2016



Please Contact  
Leroy Jansky, Chairman (715) 723-0408  
Ljansky@charter.net or  
Joe Heil, Treasurer (715) 839-7089



President Dennis also picked a Nomination Committee for new officers: Joe Heil, Mike Korger and Ed Michels.

John Dorsey passed around some copies of a Time magazine cover from November 29, 1963 of President Lyndon Johnson and an article inside of a big meeting of top U.S. officials on how the U.S. should be able to withdraw all 16,500 troops in Vietnam by 1965.

The monthly attendance drawing winner was Dennis Woodford, who was not present so the March meeting prize amount will be \$40.00. A 50/50 raffle drawing was not held at this meeting.

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Larry Wrycza led us in the final salute and Chaplain Dan Ziegler gave the closing prayer. 21 members were present.

Joe Graff added that anyone who wants to learn about Operation Ranch Hand and Agent Orange in Vietnam should visit the Highground Learning Center during the months of March and April.



March Chapter Meeting at the Chippewa Vets Home  
2175 East Park Ave, Chippewa Falls, WI

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Come tour the facility at 6 p.m. and then stay for the meeting at 7 p.m. We will be showing the movie "Finally a Voice, the Birth of the Vietnam Veterans of America"

*No ticker-tape parades greeted the men and women who returned from war.*

*No handshakes, no thank-yous.*

*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**

*At 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**

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Ph: 301-585-4000

VVA.org

VVA Chapter #5  
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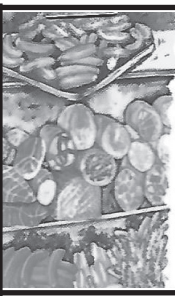
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