

Mike Voth Memorial  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 5 – Eau Claire, WI  
May 7, 2025

AVVA  
6pm

Attendance – Peg O., Sally and Eric J., Micki R., Rick T. and guest Roy C.

Discussions;

- 1- Budget – finances are in good standings
- 2- Fundraiser – we will plan on a fundraiser at A&W in June if possible
- 3- Membership – after reporting the passing of (2) members, we will stand at 27 Life Members

VVA  
6:30pm

Attendance – 11 (2 AVVA) (1 Guest)

Agenda – no changes or additions

Call to Order – Mike Korger

Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Joe Graff

Opening Prayer – Joe Graff

Moment of Silence – none

Deceased members – none

Welcome Veterans and Guests – Jeffrey

Reports

Secretary – Dan Ziegler

A motion to approve the minutes as emailed was made by Rory S. and seconded by Jake G. The motion carried without objection

Treasurer – Mike Smith

Expenses and income were reported for the month, with everything being left in good standing. Smith was “Thanked” for his report.

President – Mike Korger

- 1- Military Funerals attended
- 2- Veterans Day at the Capital attended. This is an annual event held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, in which veterans are invited to speak with legislators on current topics, selected by the capital. This year was the UW-Madison MIA search and recovery program, as well as the state property tax credit for the families of veterans with 70% disability ratings or higher. Currently, neither Bill has made it anywhere with our legislation. Approximately 400 Veterans attended the event.
- 3- High School 2 Heroes was attended
- 4- Highground grand opening was not attended

Vice-President – Rod Pettis

Pettis spoke of the 40<sup>th</sup> year that he will be involved with placement of flags at local cemeteries for Chapter 5. Everyone is welcome to come along and assist if they are available.

AVVA – Rick A. Talford

- 1- Patriot Park Signs – (2) of the (3) signs at the Park were repaired by Talford, with the third one being severely damaged.
- 2- A fundraiser at A&W is hoped to be held in June.

### Meetings

National Convention – August 2025 in New Orleans, LA

Region 6 – no update on any scheduled event, but there may be one in June

State Council – Sept. 2025

VA/Benefits/Claims – need a chairperson

Minority Report – Dave Zien – (Absent)

Membership – VVA after (3) deaths reported, it will be 122 – AVVA after (2) death reported, it will be 27

### Old Business

Veterans Home – Rory Schutte

- 1- No masks are being required at this time
- 2- A Casino Day was held at the Home, hosted by VFW Post 305
- 3- June 27<sup>th</sup> will be a Gold Outing event

Highground – Joe Graff

- 1- May 7 – 10<sup>th</sup> – Spring Clean Week
- 2- May 10<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer appreciation lunch
- 3- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Legacy Stone Ceremony and Bake Sale
- 4- May 26<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Ride and Memorial Day Ceremony

VVA Logo and Clothing – Rick A. Talford

There are plenty of T-Shirts, Hoodies, and gloves available. Color Guard Shirts, Hats and Jackets are also available in limited sizes.

- 1- Kellen Fundraiser – a \$300.00 donation was presented to Killen's Grandfather by Rick Talford.
- 2- High School 2 Heroes was well attended, with a \$750.00 donation from Chapter 5
- 3- Stamps – (2) extra rolls of stamps were sold to members at the price of \$50.00/roll
- 4- Vietnam Veterans Day – The event went very well, with the committee shutting down after the event. Chapter 5 will receive a check to continue to committees work next year.

### New Business

- 1- Membership review – documentation of deceased members has not been completed yet, but should be soon.

- 2- Scholarship winners have been selected, with Miriam Sandberg (Mondovi) being the top recipient of our \$1,500.00. The \$1,000.00 winners were Amelia Feltes (E.C. North) and Aubrey Korger (Augusta). Members will attend the ceremonies and present the certificates to these recipients.
- 3- Hmong Veterans Day – May 14<sup>th</sup> – A new flag (VVA) will be hung at the event. Rory S. will be a speaker in Cadott. The day will continue to the Highground in Neillsville, with a lunch served.
- 4- Elect Mike Smith as the Chapter Treasurer – item tabled to follow procedure
- 5- Elect assistant Jake G. as assistant treasurer – this is an appointed position. (Tabled)\
- 6- BOD position open – Jake G. accepted the position
- 7- Finance and election reports need to be completed and filed. Delegate forms need completion, or a release form needs to be completed to turn the votes over to the state.

VVA Goals, Outreach – none

Fundraiser – none will be held in 2025

Chapter elections – April 2026 (Special Election in June at 7pm)

Committees – no report

Communications – a “Thank You” card was received from the VVDF Committee. The WI State Patrol has sent a request for a donation for the bikes they purchase each year for the Northern WI State Fair. A motion to donate \$200.00 was made by Joe G. and seconded by Jake G. The motion was approved without objection. The AVVA will vote to add \$100.00 at next month’s meeting.

#### Good of the Order

Mike Korger – Korger reported he missed the Patriotic Council Meeting, but was given information on the parade. Line-up will be at 8:30am, with the parade beginning at 9:30am. Chapter 5 will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Veteran unit in the parade. There will be no Memorial Day service at St. Matthews this year, that requires Color Guard activity.

Joe Graff – Graff requested that Mike Smith/Mike Korger make contact with the WI State Council, in order to get recognition of a vote taken (2) years ago, to make AVVA member Rick A. Talford an “Honorary” Vietnam Veteran. Having the State and National recognize the Chapters vote and request, is what is being sought.

Rory Schutte – Schutte spoke of the Air Show coming to Eau Claire, with a Veterans Night on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Korger – Korger spoke of the motorcycle Iroc Badger Run on June 23-26<sup>th</sup>. This is a fundraiser for the Highground.

Rick Talford – Reminder of the Altoona Tribute Trail program on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

Closing prayer – Joe Graff

Adjourn at 8:10pm

Next meeting will be held on June 4, 2025 at VFW Post 305.