



Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5

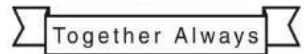
Vietnam Veterans of America

P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702

October 2018 Newsletter

Meetings held 1st Wednesday of every month @ 7pm

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



Volume 4 Issue 10

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/03/17 Chapter Meeting at Post 7232 @ 7pm

*** AVVA Members meet 6:30 pm

10/06/18 VFW Post 305 Veterans Chicken Dinner 11:00a-3:00p

10/07/18 ** **EC County Courthouse 7:00 pm Vets needed**

10/10/18 AVVA @ Pizza Ranch 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

10/17/18 CF VFW Post 1038 Chili Feed 6-7:30 pm

10/21/18 Cadott VFW Post 6005 Dance & Fundraiser 1-5pm

10/29/18 Veterans & Home Front Heroes Appreciation Week thru 11/03/18

11/02/18 **Elk Lodge 402 Vets Appreciation Lunch

11/07/18 Chapter Meeting @ 7 pm (AVVA @ 6:30 pm)

11/10/18 Marine Corps Birthday Ball @ Florian Gardens

11/11/18 EC Patriotic Council Veterans Day Program @

American Legion Post 53 @ 10am; Slum Feed @ 11:30

Chapter web site: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org

Chapter email: www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com

Facebook: 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 Zein 715-829-9436

Women Veterans: Julia 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

Scholarship: J. Graff, J. Heil, J. McBee, L. Wrycza

AVVA Chapter Representative: Julia McBee 715-202-0181

Historical: Julia 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 James 'Mac' McBee 715-202-0180

Chaplain & Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Joe Graff 715-579-0912

Ralph Ottum 715-223-6260

Rory Schutte 715-563-1583

Mike Smith 601-938-3746

Al Weix 715-832-4792

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,

Congratulations! We had a big September with our 6th Annual Raffle and Fundraiser, the commemorative stone laying for Dennis Werlein at the Highground, and the 30th Anniversary of the Highground. There was also the Vietnam Memorial dedication in Colfax on August 30th where we supplied the Color Guard and other members were present.

Our fundraiser was very successful with special thanks to the hard work done by a few of our members and especially the auctioneer and his family for their efforts and generosity donating so much in the auction items. Our raffle ticket sales wound up great because a few of our members had done such a super job of selling those and the last day effort in ticket sales including the generosity of the “dancer” was noteworthy.

It was great to have so many of us at the Highground for the commemorative stone laying for Dennis Werlein. Many of his family members were present, and we were able to help with the Color Guard and Rifle Squad for the entire stone laying ceremony. Thanks to Julie McBee for a great meal!

A number of us participated in the 30th Anniversary of the Highground parade (all riding, no marching) and again we were able to participate with the Color Guard. Joe Graff and Rick Talford put in a big effort at the Highground to prepare for and help with the anniversary. There was definitely a lot of Vietnam vets there. They temporarily ran out of hot dogs and had to get more, but there was plenty of chicken for supper. The live music (two groups) was really good and the fireworks was excellent.

There are a number of events coming up that we should attend or help with. Our AVVA has another Pizza Ranch night on October 10th. Dave Zein is spearheading another Veterans and Home Front Heroes Appreciation Week from October 29th through November 3rd details of which had be gotten from Dave or Tom Neuenfeldt. There is a VFW Post 7232 fundraiser to help defray medical costs for Zach Caterer coming up that we already have started to contribute to (no date set yet). Other events that came to my attention: VFW Post 305 is having a

Charcoal Chicken Dinner for veterans on October 6th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm; Chippewa Falls VFW Post 1038 is having a Chili Feed on October 17th from 6:00-7:30 pm; Cadott VFW Post 6005 is having a dance and fundraiser on October 21st from 1:00-5:00 pm; Elk Lodge 402 is having a Veterans Appreciation Dinner on November 2nd from 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm (**NOTE: RSVP to the Elk's Lodge by October 25th at 715-834-4022--very important!**) and then, of course, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball (OORAH!) will be held November 10th at the Florian Gardens (contact me for info about time and tickets) and lastly, the Eau Claire Patriotic Council's Veterans Day Program will be held at American Legion Post 53 on November 11th starting at 10 am which will include a Color Guard with wreath laying at the flag pole, rifle volley salute and Taps followed with a Slum Feed with bar beginning at 11:30 am and CVS Pharmacy will be on hand to administer FREE flu shots to veterans until 2:30 pm. Please check the above organizations should you have any questions about these upcoming events.

I hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA Chapter 5 meeting on Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. (AVVA meeting at 6:30) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire.

Mike Korger, President
VVA Chapter #5

VVA Meeting of 9/5/2018

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Korger at 7 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant at Arms, Joe Graff as was the Opening Prayer and Moment of Silence for those fallen and missing. Welcome guests Jay Tobin, USN Corpsman and Jay Morris, '68-'69 25th Infantry.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Joe Heil to accept the Secretary's Report for the minutes of last month's meeting as mailed and emailed, seconded by Ralph Ottum; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Heil gave an accounting of the last two months receipts and expenditures; all accounts balance with bank records and we are looking good going into our upcoming fundraiser. Some thoughts that he would like everyone to think about for the future: increasing our support for Trinity's Veteran's Wellness Program; increasing all scholarships to \$1000 each (two high school, nursing and Dennis Werlein Veterans scholarships); increasing our support to the Eau Claire Veterans Foundation for the Memorial Park. Motion made by Ralph Ottum to accept the Treasurer's Report as given, seconded by Mike Smith; motion carried.

President's Report: Mike Korger reminded everyone of our upcoming 6th Annual Fall Harvest Fundraiser this Saturday, September 8th hoping that everyone will come out to help and participate in this event. He thanked Dan and Lisa Mattoon for the check for \$1500 given to the Chapter at their August Customer and Veterans Appreciation event. Reminders about Dennis Werlein's Legacy Stone laying at Highground on September 15th and Highground's 30th Anniversary Celebration event the following Saturday, September 22nd. Mike also shared information on VetsRoll.org, Freedom Flights, and the Eau Claire Tribute Trail Foundation.

Vice President's Report: Larry Wrycza absent, no report.

AVVA Report: The AVVA was able to give the Lighthouse Social Service Center a check for \$13,000 as part of the AVVA's Project Friendship Award this year during the July Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, CA. We have an upcoming Pizza Ranch night set for October 10th from 4 pm – 8 pm, please come out to support our event. Remember, we receive 10% of the restaurant's proceeds for the night so the more you can encourage family and friends to come out and eat, the more we can raise. This event will be raising funds for a Veteran's Day Dinner at Klein Hall and a Christmas surprise for area veterans. Stay tuned for more details!

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

State VVA Meeting: Saturday, September 29th in Waupaca. No news on the Region 6 meeting in Ames, IA the end of August, will get details at the upcoming State Council meeting and share at next meeting and in the newsletter.

VA/Benefits: Pete Breed spoke of the Vietnam Memorial dedication recently held in Colfax and then he spoke of the needs of a veteran family whose son was injured in August while working at a summer camp. Zach Caterer is the son of Jim Caterer, past Commander of VFW Post 7232 and a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan who suffered neck injuries while being a camp counselor in North Dakota. He is currently at Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul, paralyzed and on a ventilator. The family has extensive medical bills and the family has had a decrease in income as both mother and father have adjusted their work hours so that one of them can be at the hospital all the time. There will be extensive rehab and ongoing medical needs, not to mention housing modifications to continue caring for Zach when he is finally discharged. The VFW Unmet Needs program has already cut them a check for \$750 so that the family's immediate needs can be met. After discussion, Joe Heil made a motion to donate \$1000 to the family, seconded by Mike Smith; motion carried. There will be a future joint fundraising opportunity for the family by Post 7232 and our Chapter; more information will be available once details determined.

Minority Report: Dave Zein attended a Ho Chunk Nation Pow Wow over Labor Day in Black River Falls. He reported that there is to be a name change to Red Wing Bridge, which was dedicated as such back in 1960 during the Eisenhower administration, to Veterans' Bridge. The State's third National Veteran Cemetery will be opening and is in the town of Cassian, near Rhinelander, in Oneida County. The Veteran's Outreach & Recovery Program (VORP) has been expanded to all 72 counties in the State of Wisconsin and there has been an additional Veteran Housing & Recovery Program (VHRP) for up to 18 veterans in Green Bay and expansion of the facility at King. (Editor's note: I hope I got this all right, Dave talked very fast; if incorrect, the blame is all mine and I apologize. Dave also mentioned something about the Ho Chunk and Lac Courte Oreilles and November 1st, but I was not able to clarify with him before the newsletter went to the printer. Please check with Dave if you have further questions about upcoming events, especially on his Veterans and Home Front Heroes Appreciation Week 10/29-11/3).

Membership: 126 (without AVVA membership total; report not received in time for meeting).

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Home: Rory Schutte states that all is well at the Veterans Home and didn't have much to report on at this time. (Can't complain about peace and quiet!).

Highground: Joe Graff gave the Highground Report on upcoming events. Dennis Werlein's Legacy Stone laying will be September 15th with a luncheon served at the Education Center afterwards. Highground's 30th Anniversary Welcome Home Celebration will be Saturday, September 22nd starting in the morning, parade at noon and fireworks in the evening. Find more information at www.thehighground.org.

Logo/Clothing: Long sleeve shirts are in and are \$45; hoodies are also in and will be available at our fundraiser on the 8th. Color Guard jackets are being worked on and will be available soon. Final price to be determined after the embroidery work is done. Pete Breed commented that only the Honor Guard should be entitled to discounted cost as they are representing the Chapter (don't forget we have that dedicated fund to offset cost of Honor Guard jackets).

Fundraising: To date we have received the following income from the various fairs, etc. in raffle ticket sales: \$1826 NWSF; \$3242 Buffalo County; \$2736 Dunn County; \$1200 Clark County; \$1530 Stockman's; \$845 Eleva Broiler Fest; \$665 Big Rig Show; \$170 Prestige Auto; \$1250 Gordy's Market. This doesn't include personal raffle ticket sales so get out there and sell! Remember, the more we sell, the more we have funds to do things for the veterans in our community.

Eau Claire Veterans Council: There should be an email announcing the ground breaking for the Tribute Trail for the Spring 2019. There will be County Board Meetings that Veterans are encouraged to attend (**Editor's Note: Be sure to come to the Eau Claire Courthouse on October 7th at 7:00 and be sure to wear something to identify yourself as a veteran—there will be input needed as they will be voting on funding for the Tribute Trail and your presence is very important!**) Contact Joe Heil or Dan Ziegler for more information about the October 7th meeting. More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at www.ecveteransfoundation.com.

Communications: Rick Talford shared a Thank You note he received from the Colfax American Legion Post 131 thanking Chapter 5 for its Color Guard and participation at their recent Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication held on August 30th. Sally Johnson also told members present about the school children who were walking past her house while returning to school and stopped to thank the veterans who had gathered there for their service and for attending the day's event. Newsletter deadline will be **September 21st**. Don't forget to check out our Website/E-Mail: www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org / mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com Don't forget you can find National info at www.VVA.org and State info at www.VVAWI.org

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Heil reports that DAV Chapter 121 is hosting a meal for all volunteer drivers of the Eau Claire County Veteran Van in October and asked if the Chapter was willing to support this event. Joe Graff made a motion to contribute \$100 for this dinner, seconded by multiple individuals; motion carried. Joe asked if the amount needed to cover the dinner was more would he have permission to write out the check to cover shared costs and received approval for this.

Rick Talford brought up the Mondovi Youth Center who cares for the Veterans Memorial in Mondovi and asked if the Chapter would be willing to donate to them as our Chapter has been very successful with our fundraising booth during the Buffalo County Fair. Joe Graff made a motion to donate \$300 to the Mondovi Youth Center, seconded by Mike Smith; motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ralph Ottum talked about the Highground's Annual Bowling event in January 2019; last year Chapter members were bowling all over the place as our team was split up on several different lanes and he wanted to see a show of hands for how many would be interested in forming a team so that we could get things in motion to assure we'd have a dedicated bowling lane. There were enough individuals expressing an interest for forming a team, he will make the necessary contact with Highground. **(Editor's Note: At the time this newsletter is being prepared for printing we have one dedicated lane and if we would like to have another team formed, please contact Ralph to be included in the Highground's Annual Bowling Fundraiser at Rose Bowl in Marshfield on January 27, 2019).**

Rory Schutte mentioned that the National Guard 128 will be deploying soon and that they will be having a Holiday Party on December 1, 2018 and was wondering if the Chapter would like to do something for those deploying or the families left behind. He will obtain more information for us and share at the October Chapter meeting.

There will be \$50 in the October attendance drawing; the 50/50 was won by Peg Ottum. There were 30 members in attendance tonight. After a closing prayer and salute was given by Joe Graff the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 3rd at 7:00 pm with the AVVA meeting at 6:30 pm.

And the 2018 Fall Harvest Raffle winners are:

Grand Prize: Donald Uerling, Colby

2nd Place: Dave Hagness, Osseo

4th Place: John Saunders, Stanley

6th Place: Bob Schlink, Strum

Quilt of Valor: Bernie Lund, Eau Claire

Veteran Ambush Print: Kevin Higgin, Eau Claire

1st Place: Ralph Anderson, Osseo

3rd Place: Brandon Glaus, Elk Mound

5th Place: Rick Dinkman, Eau Claire

7th Place: Ken Smith, Willard

Veteran Recon Print: Joe Heil, Eau Claire

Congratulations one and all!



Prestige Auto Veterans & Customer Appreciation Group Photo August 16, 2018



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication Group Photo August 30, 2018



Fall Harvest Fundraiser September 8, 2018



Dennis Werlein Legacy Stone Laying @ Highground



VVA Chapter #5
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