



# Mike Voth Memorial

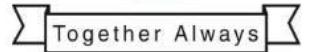
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

October 2016 Newsletter

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 10 Editor – Julie McBee Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/01/16 The Highground Fall Fest @ Neillsville
- 10/05/16 Chapter Meeting @ 7 pm @ Post 7232
- 10/08/16 The Highground's "Other Half" Half Marathon & 5K
- 10/08/16 Vets Fighting 4 Vets 22 mi Ruck/Walk @ Menomonie
- 10/22/16 UWEC Vets Club Fundraiser
- 11/02/16 Chapter Meeting @ 7 pm @ Post 7232
- 11/09/16 Sunrise Club Veterans Day Program  
@ Post 305 @ 6:30 am
- 11/11/16 Regis High School Veterans Day Program @ 10 am  
\*\* Color Guard arrive & line-up by 9:30 am

## 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

## 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 714-926-4225

## **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**

Greetings,

Thank you to all the planners and workers of our annual chicken barbeque fundraiser that was held at American Legion Post 53 on Water Street in Eau Claire on September 10. Unfortunately, this fundraiser did not fare as well as our prior ones. A committee meeting was already held to discuss a different location and different date for next year, what to do with the food leftover this year, and why more of our members did not come to help or at least participate in our major fundraiser for the year.

The rifle raffle was quite successful and we're hoping to donate a large portion of our share of it towards the purchase of the van for Eau Claire County to take veterans to their medical appointments at the VA in the Twin Cities. A big thank you goes out to Peter Breed and his wife for donating the three Henry rifles for the raffle. Possible prizes for next year's raffle were discussed at the committee meeting, and it was decided that having a VVA booth at county fairs was successful. But, more help will be needed to relieve those who spent so much time manning those booths.

Our last Chapter meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> was well attended and we had multiple guests. Our nursing scholarship winner was there with her parents to thank us, and guest speaker Sally Johnson and her son. Sally spoke about her husband, a Vietnam veteran who struggled with Agent Orange problems and PTSD, and the "VVMF In Memory" program that is tied in with the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Hope to see you all at our next VVA meeting on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street on the west side of Eau Claire. Our next activity to plan is a Christmas party at the Veteran's Home in Chippewa Falls. See you at our next meeting.

Mike Korger, President  
VVA Chapter 5

## **VVA Meeting of 9/7/2016**

Meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer by Chaplain Dennis Werlein. Membership was introduced to new member, Larry Luzinski.

Guest speaker Sara Wickman and her family were introduced. Sara graduated from Memorial High School and is the recipient of the Chapter's Nursing Scholarship. She is enrolled at CVTC. She thanked the Chapter for the scholarship and all the veterans for their service, adding that she has WWII and Korean War veteran family members. She works at the Rock Falls Raceway and likes to sky-dive, play the piano and hunt.

Guest speaker Sally Johnson, and her son Eric, were introduced by Bob McRoberts. Sally is the widow of a Vietnam veteran and spoke of the VVMF In Memory program that honors veterans who have died as a result of their service in Vietnam. Sally spoke of her family's trip to Washington, D.C. for the event that was held to honor her husband and 311 other Vietnam veterans. Her husband passed away five years ago having suffered from PTSD. Sally, with the help of a local physician, successfully applied to the VA citing his Agent Orange exposure as the source of his PTSD. Sally also is the donor of the quilts the Chapter had for our Welcome Home event in Carson Park in June and our Fundraiser in September. She also brought along the quilt she had made to honor her husband. More info about VVMF can be found online at [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org).

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the Secretary's Report as mailed and e-mailed was made by Ralph and seconded by Larry and was carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as made by Joe Heil was made by Larry and seconded by Ralph and was carried.

President's Report: Mike Korger then thanked all the members for the hard work done this summer with all the events our Chapter was involved with. He also shared a "Thank You" card from the Talford family acknowledging the donation received for their granddaughter, which has been placed into an account for her use at graduation or for college. A sincere "Thank You" was also expressed for the support the Chapter has shown to the family and the respect paid at their son's passing.

Vice President's Report: Larry then spoke of the booth work done at various County Fairs for the Rifle Raffle and thanked everyone for their hard work and time given. He then spoke of an incident with an Associate Member of the Chapter being threatened with physical harm while wearing our Chapter shirt in the performance of Color Guard duties. This threat came from an American Legion member from Elmwood Post 207. This was discussed and found to be unacceptable. A letter may be put together to send to the Post in response to the threats made to Associate Members. (Secretary's Note: We now have "Associate Member" patches available to clearly indicate our Associate Member status while wearing Chapter Color Guard shirts. See Joe Heil if you'd like one.)

Minority Report: None

Old Business: Rory gave a report on the Vets home; a member has stepped down from the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and other members are taking up the slack to help going forward, a Vice Chairman is being sought. Financial report was given and expansion plans discussed.

Dennis Werlein asked for a financial report from our Welcome Home event; Joe Heil reported that there was just over \$30,000 received with over \$29,000 in expenses. There are a few expenses yet to be taken care of and sales of the T-shirts, CD's and patches continue to help defray the total cost of the event. The major sponsors will receive certificates for their involvement and plaques will be provided to the Chamber of Commerce partners who helped us.

State & National Council Report: Agenda and minutes of these recent meetings will be provided to President Korger for review.

VA Benefits Report: Pete Breed spoke on behalf of the need to continue to appeal the process if denied. "Do not re-apply" he states, you must continue to appeal the case to keep the initial start of the filing date. He did add that, "you need to show new information in the appeal." He then provided a big "Thank You" for all the hard work on the Rifle Raffle sales.

Dave Zein told the members present that they needed to stay on the VA with their claims as 40% receive their benefits after the second attempt. "Vets should not just give up" he added. He then reported that Gary Wetzell is healing after his motorcycle accident, stating he had road rash and "smashed" hips. It was then brought up that another member, Dick Quick, was being treated at the VA for a heart condition.

Membership Report: As of July 31, 2016 we have 141 members.

Highground Report: Joe Graff discussed several items; there are still 26 Wisconsin servicemen listed as MIA in Vietnam; Diversity Days will be September 27-28 from 9-2:30 pm; October 1<sup>st</sup> is the annual Car & Motorcycle Show with a Chili Cook-off starting at 10 am; June Berg's "My War: Wartime Photographs by Vietnam Veterans" is now on display at the Learning Center; and the Veterans Day Celebration will be November 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm with a raffle drawing following the ceremony.

Logo-Clothing Report: Joe Heil stated he would be ordering more shirts and hats. Contact him if you would like to purchase any items.

New Business: Larry spoke of the Fundraiser, noting that we have two cases of chicken donated and four cases ordered for our September 20, 2016 Chicken Feed. We have also received donations of cheese curds and brats for our event. There will be areas of help needed to make this event a success.

Good of the Order: Rory spoke of the DAV van being ordered and about the “Hairica” event to be held at the Best Western on November 12, 2016. This is a benefit function done by veteran wives to help raise money to support DAV Chapter 21. Contact Rory for more information.

The Cochrane-Buffalo City VFW Post 10406 has requested assistance from our Chapter for their upcoming 50th Vietnam Commemorative event. Interested? Contact Dennis Werlein.

Dennis then spoke with regards to last month’s comments made by Ron Perry about “boots on the ground” vets and era vets. The “MOS” of a soldier is not under a soldier’s control, nor where they are sent, and the fact that many veterans never stepped foot on foreign soil should not mean they are ineligible to be part of the VVA as *all* veterans were a part of one team, regardless of their individual MOS or duty station. It was a joint effort by all, and all veterans should be equal in the eyes of each other and the VVA. If anyone wants to be more restrictive on VVA membership, then they should campaign to become a delegate to the National Convention and advocate for change in the bylaws instead of talking negatively about our VVA organization at our Chapter meetings. Furthermore, we can all feel proud as veterans serving in our generation that we had stopped communism from spreading across the world because of our joint service together. That is one accomplishment that no one or any other veteran service organization can take away from us. (Secretary’s Note: Before the creation of the VVA, a lot of era veterans were not accepted in other veteran organizations. Remember our VVA founding principle, “**Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.**”) Dennis concluded by saying, “**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE.**” A short conversation then ensued on the President’s ability to stop any discussions that go against the Good of the Order with a simple hammering of the gavel. This was unanimously agreed upon as the right way to handle any such future issues. Joe Heil added, “Associate members need to have the ability to vote.” This is something that needs more attention at the National level in the future.

The 50/50 was won by Rick Talford; the winnings were donated back to the Chapter. The meeting was then adjourned after a closing prayer. There were 24 in attendance.

#### **2016 FUNDRAISER RIFLE RAFFLE WINNERS**

Kory Randall, Menomonie – Henry 44 Mag Big Boy

Brian Wikan, Chippewa Falls, - Henry 30-30 WIN

Frances Anderuzskiewicz, Thorp – Henry 22 LR

Renee Porter, Eau Claire - \$200 Cash

Shannon Krall, Eau Claire - \$200 Cash

Leonard Moritz, Eau Galle – Patriotic Quilt

Dean Trowbridge, Eau Claire – Asher Exteriors \$200 gift certificate

Mark Toboly, Thorp – Asher Exteriors \$200 gift certificate

Joe Becker, Eleva – Bauer Built \$100 gift certificate

Mike Bakken, Eau Claire – Hallie Automotive \$50 gift certificate

Julie Simon, Fall Creek – Affordable Tires \$50 gift certificate

Lynn Sandstrom, Wabasha, MN – Lasker Jewelers \$50 gift certificate

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## **AND THE SURVEY SAYS . . .**

In view of our recent fundraiser's rather dismal turnout, we'd like to hear from the membership about how you feel about our fundraiser in general; do you want to see them continue? Didn't come out to support our fundraiser, why not? If you did, what would you like to see changed. Would you like to see a change in the venue, the food, the music/entertainment, etc.? What would you like to see offered as raffle items? What would bring you out to support your VVA Chapter's efforts to raise funds to further our assistance to veterans in the Chippewa Valley area? We are in need of help with these answers and are turning to you, the membership, to offer insight as to how we can best serve you and the veterans we wish to help. Please take a few moments and tell us how you feel so we can better plan our efforts going forward. Suggestions can be emailed to Joe Heil @ [jlheil13@att.net](mailto:jlheil13@att.net) or Julie McBee @ [weirleader1@yahoo.com](mailto:weirleader1@yahoo.com).

We are thinking of a change in the day/date for 2017 to a *Sunday*. We are also looking at having our event at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie. Their recent block party raised \$16,000! By having our fundraiser on a Sunday at the beginning of October and in a different location we are hoping for a better turnout, not only from the community, but from our own membership. Also, by having the October 1<sup>st</sup> date we aren't having our event near their fundraising block party that could lead to "burn-out" by the community. Also, by utilizing the Eagles Club we will have higher visibility along US 53 and a different community source to draw on for event attendees. Not to mention all those shoppers who may be out and about at Wal-Mart, Shopko, Goodwill, Harley Davidson, Zacho's, etc.! We'd also like to know how you'd like to see the proceeds of our fundraiser spent.


This year, as a result of the good response from the rifle raffle, our Chapter will be able to donate a sizeable amount to the DAV's purchase of a van for the purpose of transporting veterans from the Chippewa Valley area to their medical appointments in Minneapolis. We also would like to be more of a presence in the community; how would you like to see that happen?

We have leftover food that we need to decide what to do with. At present it is portioned and frozen and is available for members to purchase. Another option is to see if we can utilize the food for our Christmas Party at the Veteran's Home in December. Or, how about providing a meal for the homeless veterans in Chippewa? We have a lot of cases of water left, how about donating it to The Highground for their October 8<sup>th</sup> marathon event or to the Vets Fighting 4 Vets Ruck/Walk in Menomonie, also on October 8<sup>th</sup> or to both events!

Your attendance at our upcoming October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting is essential to helping us plan what to do with what we have, our Christmas party at the Vets home, and if you'd like to see a Chapter Christmas party this year – how about the Pizza Ranch? If you can't make the meeting, contact us to let us know what you're thinking. Your input is important, you are important!

COLI BURKE & AMANDA JONAS PRESENT

# HAIRICA



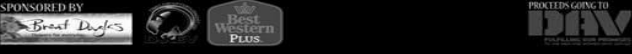
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