



## Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5

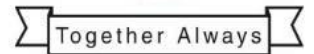
Vietnam Veterans of America

P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702

October 2017 Newsletter

Meetings held 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month @ 7pm

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



Volume 3 Issue 10

Editor – Julie McBee

### UPCOMING EVENTS

10//04/17 Chapter Meeting at Post 7232 @ 7pm

\*\*\* AVVA Members meet **6:30 pm**

\*\*\*\*\* **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING @ 6 PM**

10/07/17 Highground Fall Fest/Chili Cook-off

### 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 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 715-926-4222

**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: Vacant

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, D. Werlein & L. Wrycza

AVVA Chapter Representative: Julie McBee 715-202-0181

Historical: Dennis Werlein 715-577-8514

Color Guard: Rick Talford 715-647-2091

**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,

By the time you read this our annual fundraiser should have been successfully completed on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Joe Heil and Julie McBee appeared on Channel 13 News at Noon on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> to promote our annual fundraiser and our Pizza Ranch night on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully there were many viewers and they were influenced by Joe and Julie's charisma. A **BIG** Thank You goes out to everyone who helped with and contributed to the success of our annual fundraiser and raffle.

Thank you to those who were able to attend the State VVA Council meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Suicide Prevention Program the day before on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Who can make it to one of the upcoming events at the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls; blood drive on November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veteran's Ball on November 7<sup>th</sup>, VFW Christmas Party on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and our co-sponsored VVA/DAV Christmas Party on December 8<sup>th</sup>? The veterans who are residents there will appreciate seeing us there and being able to visit.

Some sad news to report; fellow Vietnam veteran Dennis Schramm, a Marine, has passed away. I am awaiting word on the funeral arrangements. I will pass the word on so we can attend. (Editor's note: there will be a memorial service for Dennis at the Highground on October 4<sup>th</sup> around 3 p.m.)

I hope to see all of you at our next regular VVA Chapter 5 meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Board of Directors will meet at 6:00 p.m. to decide on a Color Guard jacket and the AVVA meets at 6:30 p.m.)

Mike Korger, President  
VVA Chapter #5

## **VVA Meeting of 9/6/2017**

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Korger at 7 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant at Arms, Joe Graff and opening prayer was led by Chaplain, Dennis Werlein. Additional prayers were asked for Dennis Schramm, Bill Connelly, Dennis Werlein, Mike Korger, Jim Blaha, Dave Zien, and the Ed Laventure family.

Welcoming Veterans and Guests – Joe Heil presented Pete Breed with a certificate for Texas Roadhouse as a Thank You from the Chapter for his commitment and donation for last year's fundraiser. Pete and his wife donated the three Henry Rifles we used for our fundraisers raffle. Pete then spoke and thanked everyone for their hard work and added, "I was very pleased to see the two organizations (VVA/VFW) work so well together for a common cause." New VVA members Darold Wall and Mike Smith, along with new AVVA member Eric Johnson were introduced.

Guest Speaker Dan Gumbert spoke in regards to the "Convention of States" that he is the Veteran Coalition Director of Wisconsin for. This group of states and veterans are working on behalf of Article 5 of the Constitution in order to hold the federal government accountable to the citizens of this country. The group's goal is to get states assembled together in a common cause to ensure a Balanced Budget, Setting of Term Limits and holding some Jurisdiction of the Federal Government. There are currently twelve states already locked in, with nine more half-way through the process. Over 2.6 million have signed on with "NO" party affiliation. This is "NOT" a lobbyist group, but a group working to get "a little control of an out-of-control government in the United States." It was noted that we are "one Supreme Court Justice away from having our Second Amendment rights on the chopping block" so he stresses that it is very important for people to get involved. Mr. Gumbert reports that the group attends meetings at the State Capital in Madison every month to keep this program moving forward. He then read the group's petition before passing it around for members to sign if they wished. To learn more you can go to [www.ConventionofStates.com](http://www.ConventionofStates.com), or contact him at [daniel.gumbert@cosaction.com](mailto:daniel.gumbert@cosaction.com) or call him at 715-704-0161.

**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 e-mailed, motion seconded by Ralph Ottum and carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joe Heil spoke of the Chapter's finances; raffle sales have been going well and the Chapter received a donation from Prestige Auto last month as part of their veteran recognition program; we were one of eight recipients. Checkbook and bank accounts all balance and are in good order. Motion was made by Joe Graff to accept the Treasurer's Report as provided, seconded by Rory Schutte and carried.

**President's Report:** Mike Korger spoke of the needs the Chapter has going forward in this last month before our annual fundraiser on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie. He asked

members to get posters out to local businesses, sell raffle tickets, request donations and to, “please, just do all you can to support our veterans’ programs.” If anyone need more raffle tickets, please contact Joe Heil.

**Vice President’s Report:** Larry Wrycza was not present, no report provided.

**AVVA Report:** Rick Talford spoke in Julie’s absence and gave highlights from the AVVA National Convention. He has posted his full report on the Chapter’s Facebook page and can be read there at [www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5](http://www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5). Most of the proposals had to do with term limits; the proposed term limit was for ten consecutive terms (20 years) but was changed to five consecutive terms (10 years); Wisconsin State Representative, Pat Furno, had wanted no term limits and removal of the proposal all together. Also voted on were Regional Director’s and Deputy Regional Director’s offices; Fran Davis (MO) remains our Region 6 Director and our new Deputy Director is Diane Nicholson (KS).

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

**State VVA Meeting:** Veteran Suicide Prevention Program will be Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Ramada Inn, Waupaca from noon until 6:00 p.m. State Council meeting will be Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Ramada Inn starting at 10:00 a.m.

**VA/Benefits:** Pete Breed spoke in regards to the state property tax for veterans. Veterans, who are property owners in the State of Wisconsin, are eligible for a prorated property tax reimbursement—if you have a 70% disability, then you receive a 70% reimbursement; if you have a 100% disability, then you get 100% of your property taxes reimbursed. If you have questions, contact your CVSO for the appropriate forms to accompany your filed tax return. Pete then spoke of the Replacement of Lost Declarations, a one-time, no cost replacement along with an updated DD214 by using Form 180 and using the wording “all ribbons and medals entitled to” on the request. Also, based on available services, veterans can get 70% or more of the costs for nursing home needs paid through the VA. A service connected disability or total disability based on un-employability is required for nursing home benefits.

**Membership:** 147 as of June.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Veterans Home:** Rory Schutte spoke of the Red Cross Blood Drive on September 11<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5 p.m.; the Veterans Ball on November 7<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and clean-up afterwards.

**Highground:** Joe Graff gave the Highground Report on upcoming events. The Fall Fest/Chili Feed will be on October 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 a.m., cost is \$5 to sample up to fifteen different chili options and vote for on your favorite. Find more information at [www.thehighground.org](http://www.thehighground.org). He

also passed around a flyer for a program that offers free shoes to veterans with diabetes through Hesse Foot and Ankle Clinic. David Hesse can be contacted at 866-749-3668 for more information.

**Logo/Clothing:** More discussion ensued on the jackets for the Color Guard with Ralph Ottum stating that the jackets available from Colby Designer Industries would need to be purchased with a minimum order of 20 to ensure the quoted price of \$77.00, with an additional cost of \$3 for sizes 2X and up. Another jacket option was brought in and passed around and can be viewed at [www.allseasonuniforms.com](http://www.allseasonuniforms.com) (UP9125). **NOTE: Board of Directors** will meet on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> prior to the regular Chapter meeting at 6:00 p.m. to decide on a jacket.

**Fundraising:** Discussion over the needs for our upcoming fundraiser. A TV interview has been scheduled with WEAU-13 on September 18<sup>th</sup> with Judy Clark; Joe Heil and Julie McBee will be representing the Chapter. The Chapter will also be at Pizza Ranch on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00 p.m., a sheet was sent around for members to sign-up for shifts.

**Eau Claire Veterans Council:** More information about the Tribute Trail can be found at [www.ecveteransfoundation.com](http://www.ecveteransfoundation.com). Search for a secretary is on-going, anyone interested or knows someone who might be interested, please contact Joe Heil for more information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Communications:** A Thank You note will be going out to Prestige Auto thanking them for their generous donation to our Chapter this past August as part of their veteran recognition program. Chapter 5 was one of eight recipients to receive a donation from this program.

Newsletter deadline will be September 22, 2017.

Website/E-Mail: [www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org](http://www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org) / [mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com](mailto:mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com)

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)

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dave Zien informed members that there are two veterans present tonight that had lost touch with one another after flying out of the LZ together many year ago, and reconnected with one another at tonight's meeting. Bob Bonesteel stated, "I remembered the time as Operation Duey Canyon" and that they were on the last helicopters out of that area.

Pete Breed had a suggestion that the cost of the Color Guard jackets be taken care of by the Chapter as the members are providing a service that is very much needed. The time, mileage and service they provide should be acknowledged and that paying for the jackets is his idea. The Board of Directors will meet to take this under consideration.

Rory Schutte spoke of a being asked to give a presentation on Suicide Prevention while requesting a donation from a local company. He felt that this may be a good thing that the Chapter could provide for local businesses in the Eau Claire area. This will be discussed also at the Board of Directors meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dave Zien brought up some events that are taking place in the Eau Claire/Lake Hallie area where members could be out selling raffle tickets for our upcoming fundraiser. There will also be another Legacy Sign being placed at the Burger King just off I-94 near Exit 59 on Friday morning at 10 a.m. Another weeklong Hometown Heroes Tour will also be starting on October 29, 2017 and follow the same schedule as the spring tour. There is also a special premiere of "Rebel on a Highway" scheduled for September 16, 2017 in Brookfield, WI.

The VFW Christmas Party will be held at the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls on December 1, 2017 starting at 2 p.m., all are invited. Our co-sponsored VVA/DAV Christmas Party will be the following week on December 8, 2017.

The attendance drawing was won by Rory Schutte in the amount of \$90. The 50/50 was won by new member Darold Wall in the amount of \$11, which he donated back to the Chapter.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. here at VFW Post 7232, AVVA meeting that night at 6:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer was given and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



This month our focus will be on the final push to prepare for our October 1<sup>st</sup> fundraiser. All hands-on-deck will be appreciated for greeting guests, selling dinner tickets, helping with food service, selling the Bake Sale items, circulating and giving other members a break so that no one is taxed beyond their endurance. Thank you in advance for anyone who contributes to the Bake Sale items and for getting donations for the Silent Auction and selling Raffle Tickets. So much of what we are able to do for the veterans in our Chippewa Valley area rely on the funds raised from our Annual Chicken Feed Dinner. Thank you also in advance for those who will be present at the Pizza Ranch and for bussing tables to earn tips. Your help is invaluable for our Chapter's success in all our endeavors. I have more that I will share with you at our next meeting, hopefully you won't be too exhausted on the 4<sup>th</sup> from our activities on the 1<sup>st</sup> to attend. Please be sure to come out and enjoy the day at the Eagles Club starting at noon, bring your family, tell your friends—we will have yummy food, great entertainment and a fun time.

*Julie*



Yes, the Lord God in Heaven definitely answers prayers, most likely because our actions fit into His divine plan for us. When our Chapter prays to start our meetings, we pray the phrase, “continue Thy favor upon our order and help us to practice the spirit of true comradeship, both in councils and with the world at large” and also when we end our meetings, “and bring us together again in the true comradeship and peace.” If you were at our last meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>, you could have seen and felt this evidence for yourself. With almost 30 members there, the comradeship (I don’t think that is a good enough word to describe it-it was more like a companionship of close friends sharing with each other our lives) was evident. This self-evidence that our Chapter, and all the rest of the VVA Chapters across our great country, experience as reported in the National VVA Veteran magazine’s *Chapter Notes* section. Yes, we should be thankful our prayers are answered and that the Lord God has granted his grace unto us to sustain and guide us. Attend our meetings so you can share in this grace and feel and see our prayers get answered.

So, keep praying – Your Chaplain, Dennis

P.S. (P.rayer S.ection) Keep me in your prayers along with Mike Korger (recent surgery), Jim Blaha (recent surgery), Dave Zien (continued recovery), Bill Connolly (illness) and for the faithful departed soul of fellow Vietnam Veteran, Dennis Schramm, who passed away this past week, for his family and for anyone else who needs our prayers



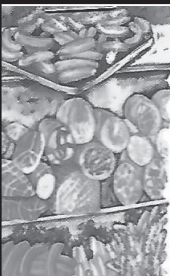
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