

Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5

Vietnam Veterans of America P. O. Box 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702 September 2017 Newsletter

Meetings held 1st Wednesday of every month @ 7pm VFW Post #7232, 2900 W. Folsom St., Eau Claire, WI



Volume 3 Issue 9

Editor – Julie McBee

UPCOMING EVENTS

09/06/17 <u>Chapter Meeting at Post 7232 @ 7pm</u> *** AVVA Members meet **6:30 pm** 09/21/17 All Vet Stand Down, Eau Claire Expo Center 09/22-23 VVA WI State Council, Waupaca

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: <u>www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org</u> E Chapter email: <u>www.mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com</u> Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/mikevothmemorialvva5</u>

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,

Summer is rapidly coming to an end. We have had a lot of activity, but we can't rest yet! We have to make a final push in September to get our raffle tickets sold before our drawing on October 1st at our annual Chicken BBQ Fundraiser to be held at the Eagles Club in Hallie this year. Please make an effort to be there to help or participate. It is on a Sunday this time, so can everybody make it?

Raffle Ticket sales went very good at the Buffalo County Fair in Mondovi. Let's keep it up! Where else can we set up? Who can set up a table outside of a grocery store or other place of business? Who can leave off some tickets at a place of business or a break room to be picked up before October 1st? Don't forget to buy some for yourself, contact Joe Heil for tickets.

A big thank you to Dan and Lisa Matoon and Prestige Auto for the special veterans program, free food and check presentations (including a generous amount for our VVA Chapter 5). Thank you to VVA member Bob McRoberts for being the Emcee of that program and his support of veterans and veteran's causes.

Ralph Ottum, Larry Wrycza and I met in Colby at Colby Designer Industries to look at coats and jackets. We picked a specific winter coat for you to look at and vote "yes" or "no" on at our next meeting. The owner is very accommodating and can do just about anything there, including repairs.

I am still restricted getting out and about while I'm recovering from my knee replacement. And now I have an upcoming hiatal and esophageal hernia surgery and recovery. I am hoping I can make most of our activities and meetings. Our next regular meeting is Wednesday, September 6th, at 7 pm (6:30 pm for AVVA) at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom St. on the west side of Eau Claire. I hope to see you all there.

Mike Korger, President VVA Chapter #5

VVA Meeting of 8/2/2017

Meeting was called to order by President Mike Korger at 7:10 pm. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant at Arms, Joe Graff and opening prayer was led by Chaplain, Dennis Werlein.

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 gave the Treasurer's Report who reported that the membership rebate has now been raised from \$19 to \$22 per member. Raffle ticket sales have been going well; the Dunn County Fair in Menomonie raised \$1,020. Expenditures this month were for the newsletter and banners. All bank account balances are correct. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Roderick Anderson, seconded by Rory Schutte and carried.

The beer glasses with the National VVA logo and "Wisconsin State Council" printed underneath was discussed. Joe had spoken with a representative at Posi-Pour and found out that we would be required to purchase 63 cases of glasses if we wished to have glasses printed with our Chapter logo on them. Discussion ensued and in a 10-8 vote members decided to go ahead and purchase two cases of glasses with the National logo; our selling price to be determined.

Discussion then centered on reimbursement for members working on fundraising events with Joe Heil telling members to present receipts for the Chapter to discuss and vote on payment. Larry Wrycza then presented a request for reimbursement for two trailer tires from last summer when his trailer was used for hauling sandbags needed for our event at Carson Park. He happened to have the receipts with him and after discussion a motion was made by Rory Schutte to reimburse Larry for \$135, seconded by Ed Laventure and carried.

Joe Heil then requested approval to purchase a \$50 gift card for a member of the Chapter that will be presented at the next meeting; motion to approve the gift card was made by Dave Zien, seconded by Mac McBee and carried.

Joe Heil then brought up the bill he received from Dave Zien for the Legacy Sign the Chapter had voted for last August. The amount the Chapter approved was \$480 and the submitted bill was for \$670; the difference being in the costs incurred for supplies and mounting the sign into its frame and installation. After discussion, the originally approved amount of \$480 was agreed to for payment. Dave then informed the Chapter of the \$300 reward for any information lead-ing to the arrest of those responsible for vandalizing the Legacy Sign display on Water Street.

President's Report: Mike Korger spoke of his recent medical issues and thanked Joe Heil for running the previous meeting and thanked Mac McBee for accepting the Secretary's position. He spoke of the good turnout at the Dunn County Fair in Menomonie, of the upcoming Buffalo County Fair in Mondovi and the Clark County Fair in Neillsville. Anyone willing to help out should contact Dennis Werlein for Buffalo County and Ralph Ottum for Clark County. We will also have a presence at The Big Rig Show to be held this year at the NWSF in Chippewa Falls, anyone who can help out there should contact Rory Schutte. Mike then wished the McBee's and Talford's good luck for the upcoming National VVA Convention in New Orleans.

Vice President's Report: Larry Wrycza thanked members for attending and helping out at the recent fairs and encouraged participation for the upcoming fairs.

AVVA Report: Julia McBee spoke of the resolutions that will be addressed in New Orleans.

National VVA Convention: August 8 – 12, 2017 in New Orleans; McBee's and Talford's will be attending to represent our Chapter.

State VVA Meeting: Veteran Suicide Prevention Program will be Friday, September 22nd at the Ramada Inn, Waupaca from noon until 6:00 pm and is for all Police, Fire, EMT, First Responders, Clergy, educators, medical personnel, community leaders or families/caregivers that may benefit from this NO COST program. CEU's are available. For more information or to register on-line go to www.vvawi.org/about/program or contact Joe Eiting by phone at 920-205-1565 or email at jeiting67@gmail.com. The WI State Council meeting will take place on Saturday, September 23rd at the Ramada Inn, Waupaca; anyone wishing to attend please contact Joe Heil.

VA/Benefits: Pete Breed spoke on the Color Guard jackets and proposed a jacket he had brought along for consideration. The jacket is a well made, three-season jacket with a zip-out fleece liner and costs close to \$60. Additional costs would be incurred for our Chapter logo patch and its application to the back of the jacket.

Pete spoke of the newly formed Hayward Chapter with a membership of 27 who are considering renting a bus to come down and visit Highground. Perhaps with communication and coordination, stops could be made to pick-up others from the Eau Claire area with an interest in visiting Highground but not wishing to drive them self.

Pete made the suggestion that in selling our raffle tickets, should a Vietnam Veteran purchase two books of tickets (\$100) that they be given a lifetime membership to our Chapter. No action was taken on this idea.

Pete then spoke on the Veterans Choice Program that is about to run out and a \$3.2 Billion emergency funding bill was being considered. Roderick Anderson spoke of the DAV/American Legion alert to the vote; the voting took place in the morning and the email alert was sent out

in the afternoon *after* the voting was completed, "They ran out of money yesterday, and the fact is the effectiveness is only about 40-45%."

Klein Hall is at risk of closing next year due to funding issues, along with Union Grove and King. We need to renew efforts to assist homeless veterans and reach out to legislators to get them on board with funding.

Dave Zien then brought up the push for Wisconsin legislators to pass a graduated real estate tax reimbursement; currently if you are rated 100% service connected disabled your property tax is reimbursed, Dave would like to see a graduated scale that would correspond with your disability rating (i.e. 70% rating – 70% reimbursement, etc.)

Membership: 147 as of June.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Home: Rory Schutte spoke of the August 19th Family Picnic to the Minnesota Zoo, the Veterans Ball in November, and the Red Cross Blood Drive on September 11th.

Highground: Joe Graff gave the Highground Report on upcoming events. The Fall Fest/Chili Feed will be on October 7th. Find more information at <u>www.thehighground.org</u>

Logo/Clothing: Ralph Ottum spoke of jackets available from Colby Designer Industries; he brought along a jacket and sample material for the membership to look at. The windbreaker (\$46) and a heavier jacket (\$51) were discussed. With application of the Chapter logo patch the cost would be close to \$70. A meeting was scheduled for August 15th with Chapter officers to visit with the company and report back to the membership at our next meeting. Dennis Werlein voiced the thought that we should also make contact with the company that currently does our Chapter clothing as she already has our logo to silk screen on to clothing items. Joe Heil is to email Susan and ask her about the cost of patches for jackets or silk screening the backs of jackets.

Fundraising: Larry Wrycza spoke of the fairs doing well; it is important that at least two members are present at the booth to keep everything running smoothly. Posters and letters are ready for the fundraising event and are available tonight; contact Julie if you need more. A meeting is scheduled for August 14th at the Eagles Club to meet with Carl to discuss details for our October 1st Chicken Feed Dinner. We will discuss a possible date for a September Pizza Ranch event at the next meeting.

Eau Claire Veterans Council: Joe Heil states that the next meeting will be on August 29th at 5:30 pm at the Eau Claire Courthouse; the foundation needs a secretary. A \$20,000 donation has been received and Joe would like the membership to think about what commitment Chapter 5 could make to the trail and the foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

Communications: A Thank You note was received from a veteran from the Chetek area thanking us for the donation he received through our donation to the Rusk County CVSO to assist veterans affected by the tornado that went through that area. It should be noted that the American Legion Post 53 also donated \$2,000 to assist with this relief effort.

Newsletter deadline will be August 25, 2017. Website/E-Mail: <u>www.mikevothmemorialvva5.org</u> / <u>mikevothmemorialvva5@gmail.com</u> Don't forget you can find National info at <u>www.VVA.org</u> and State info at <u>www.VVAWI.org</u>

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Prestige Auto event on August 16th honoring Veterans. This year our Chapter is among the recipients of Prestige's awards, a good turn-out is appreciated. We will also have a table set-up to sell merchandise and raffle tickets.

Dave Zien mentioned an event at the Leine Lodge tomorrow; new flags will be posted on the Legacy Sign display at the Dairy Queen on Menomonie St. on August 14th at 10 am, 10:45 at the Burger King at I94 and 29, and at 11:30 at the Burger King in Lake Hallie.

Ralph Ottum spoke of mailing out a Chapter tee shirt to Washington State that really touched someone and he read the Thank You note he received.

Dave Zien introduced Dean Adsit, a new AVVA member, who spoke of the motorcycle "RIZEN" that is being used to raise funds for veterans. Learn more about this unique creation that tells the story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ at <u>www.AutomotiveTattoos.com</u> or by contacting Dean at <u>deanadsit@hotmail.com</u> for a tour schedule. It is hoped that this unique, custom built Harley Davidson Street Glide bike can be displayed at our October 1st fundraiser at the Eagles Club. There will be a documentary aired on August 7th on Channel 18 showcasing this bike which is on tour in the Chippewa Valley area from August 7th through the 29th.

Dave would also like the Chapter to send out letters thanking Joann and Mo Robertson at the Menomonie St. Dairy Queen for allowing our Legacy Sign display; thanking Dan Matoon of Prestige Auto for their donations to veterans' organizations (our in particular); nominating Kerm Morgan for UW Stout Outstanding Alumni; and thanking Dean Adsit for "RIZEN" and his efforts in raising funds for veterans. Dave will work with Julie on this for the September meeting.

There were 24 members in attendance; the attendance drawing was not awarded as the winner was at the bar, not the meeting, so next month the drawing will be for \$90; the 50/50 was won and donated back to the Chapter. The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. The next meeting will be at VFW Post 7232 on September 6^{th} at 6:30 pm for the AVVA meeting and 7 pm for the VVA.



The National Convention proved to be a time of learning, meeting and connecting with others and more learning. Some highlighted information was that there had been 52 Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings held during the past year with 18 new Service Officers working in multiple states. There have been 12 new Incorporated States as well as 16 Incorporated Chapters established. The Vista Program has been very successful with over 43,000 volunteer hours since 2014. There are new educational brochures that have been created for PTSD and addressing legislative needs. The Project Friendship, which was hoped to collect \$12,000, in the end collected \$15,000 for the Volunteers of America Greater New Orleans. The Regional Director race for Region 6 was between current Director Fran Davis (MO), and State Rep. Pat Furno (WI); prior to the election Pat withdrew her name and Fran was elected as Region 6 Director with Diane Nicholson (KS) elected as our Deputy Director. There is a full write-up that will be shared with AVVA members at our next meeting on September 6th at 6:30 pm.

Julíe



Hello fellow Chapter members—This month I have a few words on feeling fulfilled in life, a feeling that you have accomplished something worthwhile. There's the saying, "Life is a series of interruptions interrupted by a few moments of accomplishment". That saying is so true I thought I'd offer a few ideas on how to feel better and accomplish a big goal. I suggest you try not to reach a goal in one big step, but approach it in having a series of easier targets; moving targets done one short distance at a time is easier to do. Then, once you've hit that target, move the target or goal to another easy goal. You keep moving these easier targets till you reach your ultimate target or goal. For example, let's say you want to really do something to help Chapter 5 reach businesses to donate a silent auction item for our Chicken Feed Fundraiser. Move your next target or goal to putting up three posters to advertise our fundraiser. Next, volunteer to help out at the event (serving food, cleaning tables, collecting tickets, etc.). Doing these two or three small, easy steps results in you feeling better about yourself because you helped make the Chapter Chicken Feed Fundraiser a BIG SUCCESS, thus helping the whole community with the money we raise for needy causes.

Something to think about from Dennis, Chapter Chaplain

P.S. Keep me in your prayers along with Mike Korger (upcoming surgery), Jim Blaha (recent surgery), Dennis Schromm (hospitalized), Bill Connolly and anyone else in need of prayers for healing, strength and comfort.

VVA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2017 – NEW ORLEANS, LA VVA GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

By Regions (We are Region 6)

According to Credentialing Chairman, Richard Lindbeck, as of the noon on Thursday, August 10, 2017 there were a total of 816 delegates seated;

Region 1	ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT	39
Region 2	NY, PA, NJ, DE	94
Region 3	WV, VA, NC, SC, KY, TN, MD, DC	168
Region 4	GA, FL, AL, MS, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands	100
Region 5	MI, OH, IN, IL	138
Region 6	MN, IA, MO, KS, NE, SD, ND, WI	60
Region 7	AR, LA, TX, OK	99
Region 8	MT, WY, ID, OR, WA, AK	21
Region 9	CO, NM, AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT, Guam, Philippines	97

TOTAL DELEGATES:

816

Office/Candidate	e R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	Totals
President – John Rowan	33	86	122	89	125	50	51	20	84	660
Vice President – Marsha Four	36	81	122	88	123	52	50	20	83	655
Secretary – Bill Meeks	34	84	125	87	121	52	51	19	84	657
Treasurer – Wayne Reynolds	36	81	123	86	119	50	51	20	81	647
TOTALS	139	332	492	350	438	294	293	79	332	2619

VVA National Board of Directors – Regional

	-
Skip Hechreich	33
Ted Wilkinson	78
Charlie Hobbs	60
Sara McVicker	98
Carol Schetrompf	32
Spence Davis	58
Tom Burke	120
Mike Demske	24
Bob Grabinski	33
Dennis Andras	46
Allen Manuel	50
Francisco Ivarra	18
Ron Morgan	3
Dick Southern	<u>85</u>
	Ted Wilkinson Charlie Hobbs Sara McVicker Carol Schetrompf Spence Davis Tom Burke Mike Demske Bob Grabinski Dennis Andras Allen Manuel Francisco Ivarra Ron Morgan

TOTALS

738

VVA NATIONAL BOARD of DIRECTORS – AT LARGE

CANDIDATE	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	TOTALS
Dottie Barickman	16	46	111	68	74	51	72	13	57	508
Felix "Pete" Peterson	10	68	91	76	85	32	77	13	52	504
Dan Stenvold	16	71	88	61	103	38	52	11	51	491
Sandie Wilson	7	33	103	63	110	16	64	16	52	464
Kerwin Stone	4	48	106	44	58	16	86	12	41	415
John Margoswski	10	42	52	42	88	45	52	11	36	378
Gumersindo Gomez	33	27	63	47	85	19	35	9	51	369
Charlie Montgomery	19	24	112	46	55	10	33	7	39	345
Richard DeLong	7	27	44	71	70	11	59	9	44	342
Dave Simmons	8	50	84	41	51	6	46	14	38	338
Eugene (Gene) Crego	7	58	64	30	38	10	35	14	64	320
Richard Carman	3	50	55	40	42	10	63	7	25	295
Jake Barsottini	13	43	53	51	46	11	33	8	36	294
Ken Holybee	5	50	44	11	43	9	37	12	70	281
Joe Jennings	9	66	37	17	90	14	14	10	22	279
Joe Kristek	5	64	51	30	64	8	22	5	18	267
Bill Norton	3	13	83	42	22	11	50	7	18	249
Craig Tonjes	4	19	25	14	62	12	36	6	28	206
Pattie Dumin	17	19	39	62	26	3	13	3	28	194
Dennis Howland	0	11	18	35	17	6	25	12	41	165



ENJOY A CHICKEN/BRAT/HOT DOG MEAL

FOR \$9.00 KIDS 5 AND UNDER FREE



Stop on in for Food & Fun Drawing at 8pm / Music at 6pm

Music by: Tribute artist Jerry Allan "The Highwayman"



VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

- Friday, September 22, 2017
- Ramada Waupaca
- Noon to 6:00 P.M.
 110 Grand Seasons Drive Waupaca, WI 54981

Save the Date... Save a Veteran's Life

Veteran Suicide Prevention Program (Noon to 5:00 P.M.) to Include:

- **★** Discovering what makes a *Veteran Suicide Attempt* different.
- **★** Exploring *Potential Triggers* associate with a *Veteran Suicide Attempt* different.
- **★** Learning Unique Signs Veterans often display prior to a Suicide Attempt.
- ★ Discussing the STEPS you can take to Prevent Veteran Suicide.

Followed by a roundtable discussion & A Guided "Time to Share" Segment

PROGRAM PRESENTERS

- **Dr. Tom Berger** Executive Director Veterans Health Council, member of the Education Advisory Committee for National Center for PTSD, member of the Executive Committee of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, and former Chair of Vietnam Veterans of America PTSD and Substance Abuse Committee.
- **Dr. Thomas Hall** Professor of Psychology, Therapist, Chair of the Addiction Counselor Training program at the Kansas City Kansas Community College, Consultant to the Council of Governors, U.S. Departments of Justice and Education, and Chair of Vietnam Veterans of America PTSD and Substance Abuse Committee.

Who should attend?

This program is designed for all Veterans and their family members, caregivers, EMTs, first responders, firefighters, law enforcement officers, medical professionals, healthcare providers, therapists, educators, religious and community leaders, and others.

How to enroll?

- 1. Register at <u>NO COST</u> online at: www.vvawi.org/about/program
- 2. Contact Joe to register at <u>NO COST</u> at: 920-205-1565 or email jeiting67@gmail.com CEU information provided at registration.



Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America Wisconsin State Council 2017© Introduction to QPR - A Suicide Prevention Approach Offered from 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

QPR stands for <u>Question</u>, <u>Persuade</u>, and <u>Refer</u> - three (3) simple steps to help save a life from suicide. Learning QPR will prepare you to:

- Recognize the warning signs of suicide
- Know how to offer hope
- Know how to get help and save a life

VVA Chapter #5 P.O. 832 Eau Claire, WI 54702

Postage

Here

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this publication and newsletter which is shared with all members and sponsors.

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