



Mike Voth Memorial

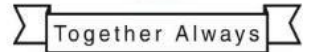
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #5

Eau Claire, WI 54702

September 2016 Newsletter

Meetings held 1st Wednesday of every month @ 7pm at

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



Volume 2 Issue 9 Editor – Julie McBee Asst. Editor – Dennis Wood

UPCOMING EVENTS

09/07/16 Chapter Meeting @ 7 p.m.

09/10/16 4th Annual Fundraiser @ Post 53

Starts at noon, see flyer inside for more info
there will be chicken/brats/hot dogs w/trimmings along
with our Rifle Raffle, door prizes, spin-the-wheel, bake
sale and silent auction items (dependent on donations received)

09/17/16 State Council Meeting in Waupaca

09/24/16 Post 127 "Honor the Fallen" in Ladysmith

10/22/16 UWEC Vets Club Fundraiser

***Come hear our special guest speaker,
Sally Johnson at our September 7th Meeting***

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,

Wow! Summer is drawing to a close. A lot has happened this summer including our “Welcome Home” picnic at Carson Park, the Persian Gulf Tribute at the Highground, the Memorial Day parade in Eau Claire and other parades at local community celebrations, setting up a VVA booth at county fairs in Chippewa Falls, Menomonie, Mondovi, and Neillsville, and the annual special veterans recognition event at Prestige Auto where our Chapter received a big check from them. A huge thank you goes out to our members who invested so much of their time, talent and travel to successfully accomplish all those activities.

We have one big activity left, our annual Chicken BBQ Fundraiser and Rifle Raffle on Saturday, September 10th at American Legion Post 53 on Water Street. Each one of us should plan on helping and/or participating in this event to make it a success. Please sell those rifle raffle tickets and get donations or donated items for door prizes and spinning wheel prizes. Time is running short. Thank you to the BBQ Committee for their efforts: Larry, Julie, Joe Graff, Joe Heil and Dennis Werlein.

Hope to see you all at our next VVA meeting on Wednesday, September 7th, at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 7232 on Folsom Street in Eau Claire. At this meeting we will have a special guest speaker, Sally Johnson, who is the widow of a Vietnam Veteran who died because of Agent Orange. She will be speaking about “VVMF In Memory”, which is a more recent annual event held at The Wall in memory of Vietnam Veterans who have died from Agent Orange and other related causes. She is an excellent speaker. Hope to see you there.

Mike Korger, President
VVA Chapter 5

VVA Meeting of 8/3/2016

Meeting was Called to Order by Sgt. At Arms Joe Graff at 7 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Mike Korger and then an Opening Prayer led by Chaplain Dennis Werlein followed with a Moment of Silence and an added Moment of Silence for Sgt. Timothy J. Talford and his parents, AVVA Members Rick and Kristina Talford on his recent, untimely death. President Mike Korger then introduced our newest member, Richard Ellingson of Eau Claire.

Bob McRoberts then had the floor to speak of an upcoming Veteran event at Prestige Auto to be held on August 17th, all veterans are invited to attend. Bob emphasized to come early, 3:30 P.M. to have early access for Green Bay Packer Center Frank Winters, who will be available for autographs and photo-ops with veterans before the general public from 4-5:00 P.M. The Customer Appreciation event will be from 4-7:00 p.m. with food service at 6 P.M. with various veterans booths and give-a-ways. Last year there were 57 veterans who attended. We are encouraged to wear our veteran gear as Dan Mattoon appreciates all veterans; while he himself did not serve our Country in uniform, his father did and he values all veterans and their service.

Chapter 5 will have a table at this event and will have our tee shirts & CD's for sale along with promotion of our September 10th Chicken BBQ and Rifle Raffle. Raffle tickets will be available for sale. It would be a nice way to thank the Mattoon's for their recognition of veterans by having a good turnout for their event.

Bob then spoke about VVMF "In Memory" program recognizing Vietnam Veterans who died from their time in service and exposure to, and effects of, Agent Orange. Sally Johnson is the widow of a Vietnam Veteran whose death from PTSD was related to the side-effects of his Agent Orange exposure. She has spoken at various veteran events, specifically last March at the Eau Claire Senior Center's Vietnam Recognition Day and Bob asked if we would like to have her come and speak about VVMF; membership agreed to have her attend our September 7th meeting. (Editor's Note: for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund go online at vvmf.org for more information.)

Secretary's Report: Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept last month's Secretary's report as e-mailed and mailed out.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Heil is out of town, there is now report this month. (Editor's Note: Joe told me to mention that bills have been paid and our accounts look good.)

President's Report: Mike Korger reported receiving Thank You correspondence from the Chamber of Commerce with a picture of all the volunteers with their signatures saying Thank You for a great event at Carson Park in June. Then Mike shared a Thank You note from the family of Glen Hampton for our Chapter's attendance at his recent funeral. Mike then shared the Thank You from members Rick and Kristina Talford for support received during their time of loss from the recent death of their son, Sgt. Timothy J. Talford. A proof for the Eau Claire Leader Thank You ad, along with a proof of the Thank You plaque for the Eau Claire Chamber of

Commerce volunteers who helped us with our Welcome Home event at Carson Park, was passed around for comment/approval.

Vice President's Report: Larry Wrycza then thanked all those Chapter members who helped out at our Chapter's booth at the Northern Wisconsin Fair in Chippewa Falls-\$1,800 was raised at this event. Larry also spoke about our booth at the Dunn County Fair in Menomonie which raised another \$1,100 (minus \$150 for booth fee) and the upcoming Buffalo County Fair in Mondovi, which starts tomorrow and help is needed, especially on Friday. Upcoming will be the Clarke County Fair in Neillsville next weekend (Th-F-Sa-Su) interested volunteers should contact Ralph Ottum or Larry. There is a \$75 booth cost for Buffalo County but no cost for the Clarke County booth. Pete Breed spoke up and mentioned that as this Rifle Raffle is co-sponsored by the VFW and Chapter 5, that we should utilize VFW membership for help manning the booths at these various fair events. There are 31 VFW Posts in District 9 and he urged us to contact these Posts for their assistance. Larry finished by speaking about the 10th Annual Honor the Fallen event at Post 127 in Ladysmith (Rusk County) on September 24th with breakfast and registration from 8-11:00 A.M., dinner and raffles from 4-6:30 P.M., music after 8:00 P.M. Event will be held at the Veterans Memorial Association in Ladysmith. (Meeting was briefly interrupted while membership motioned, seconded and approved that Dennis "has an ugly mug!" and Editor was admonished to be sure this was put in the meeting's minutes.) Elmwood's UFO Days parade was attended on Sunday with Rick Talford carrying the Colors in honor of his son, Timothy.

National and State VVA Council Report: Deferred as Joe Heil was not present; he will be unable to attend the upcoming meeting on 9/17 and if anyone is interested in attending, please contact him for further information.

VA Veteran Report: Pete Breed had no report regarding VA benefits, he did ask if there were any concerns of Chapter members, and as there wasn't he then spoke about the Rifle Raffle, which is doing quite well. He has sold nearly \$2,000 in tickets to date and encouraged members to get out there and sell those tickets!

Minority Report: Roger Schuh not present so no report was given. Roger's condition is better now that he is home from a recent hospitalization.

Membership Report: 138 as of June; Larry Wrycza mentioned that three new members signed up at the Dunn County Fair – 1 Life member, 1 VVA member and 1 AVVA member.

Veteran's Home Report: Rory Schutte reported that the home has a combined total of \$32,000 in their general fund. Pete Breed commented on whether we needed to continue supporting the Home. Discussion then turned to assisting a veteran at the home who will be going on a Freedom Flight in September. The Home will be paying the veteran's \$250 fee and it was asked if our Chapter would pay the \$250 fee for his guardian. Denis Werlein motioned, Pat Mattson seconded and membership approved funding the \$250 guardian fee. Membership commented

on whether the Chapter should consider future Freedom Flight sponsorships with discussion on this topic tabled until after our September 10th fundraiser.

Highground Report: Joe Graff spoke of the Bicycle Rally this coming Sunday and of the Persian Gulf Tribute and Boot Print Dedication, which was well attended. Chapter 5 members Joe Graff, Rick and Kristina Talford provided security detail for this event. Ron Perry spoke of Rolling Thunder 4 giving the Missing Man Ceremony during the Persian Gulf Tribute and that they hope to make this a monthly event. Joe then brought up that Rick and Kristina's son, Timothy, who was recently killed in a motor vehicle accident, was an Afghanistan veteran having served in the Army. Timothy assisted our Chapter by providing night-time security at the Wall and he was joining our Chapter as an Associate member. His wife is expecting a baby girl in November. As a show of support for Rick and Kristina and respect for Timothy, Joe took up a free will donation and funds were collected and given to Rick and Kristina for Timothy's daughter. (Editor's Note: I personally would like to thank all who responded so generously. Thank You!)

New Business: Larry Wrycza spoke about our upcoming BBQ Chicken Fundraiser, flyers were presented and members were encouraged to request donations and post flyers. Time is short! Membership agreed to have Joe Graff obtain 20 hams, as in the past, for a raffle items. Raffle ticket drum and spinning wheel are needed.

Pat Mattson spoke of the creation of our Chapter's website. We can get our own domain name –Mike Voth Memorial Chapter 5- with either a .com or .org designation. Total cost would be about \$9-10 per month (\$540 for 5 years) and has a professional design. A free version is also available that is ad supported. Pat suggested that members check out other Chapter websites, VVA32.org was suggested (Chapter 31 in Ellsworth also has a site) and it was decided to wait until after our fundraising events are completed for further discussion and vote.

Joe Graff requested payment for himself and the Talford's parking costs for the Northern Wisconsin Fair, amount of \$15 each, which was motioned, seconded and approved for reimbursement by the membership.

Chapter Newsletter due date will be August 25th, 2016.

Good of the Order: Ron Perry took the floor to voice his view that "boots on the ground" in Vietnam was needed to be considered a Vietnam Veteran and have the right to vote in the VVA and spoke of an Era veteran wearing "in country" patches, pins, etc., as "stolen valor" and continued to voice dissent of allowing anyone outside of a Vietnam Veteran being in the VVA or of any type of a name change to the VVA organization. He went on to add that Associate members should "not" have a vote on issues in the VVA; they are a separate organization and should stay that way. He then spoke of the VVA Legacy program and Legacy members having a right to vote on VVA issues. Agent Orange wives and children have the right to be Legacy members, not Era veterans. He stated that he earned the right to be called a Vietnam Veteran and the way that the VVA is heading, "we are selling them (boots on the ground vets) out", that he had paid a higher membership fee than the current life member special of \$100 and that the VVA is be-

coming “liberal” further adding that opening membership to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans would make the VVA “not the VVA anymore.” He add the VVA would not be a “dead man’s organization” if membership was opened up for Legacy members to be full members as they would keep the VVA going instead of dying out. He added that the VVA Board of Directors needed to be talked to about how veterans really felt about these issues (expanding membership criteria and VVA name change) as discussed in St. Cloud recently. Rod Anderson then spoke of the DAR not allowing Civil War veterans membership since they had not fought during the Revolution as the start of the American Legion and VFW. Adding then that the American Legion and the VFW wouldn’t let Vietnam Veterans in so then the VVA was started. Pete Breed then spoke of his time in Vietnam, and those he served with in Quam who never had boots on the ground but loaded and unloaded planes with Agent Orange thereby exposing them also to AO, “ they were just as involved and have the right to be a VVA member.” Ron Perry reiterated “no boots on the ground, you don’t belong in this group.” Various comments were made about service, boots on the ground vs. era vets and that if we (VVA) is to be a “pure” Vietnam Veteran organization, “then we aren’t going to be around for very long.”

Membership drawing: Dave Johnson was not present so next month’s drawing will be \$50. There was no 50/50 drawing held. Rick and Kristina Talford presented a new rifle case to hold one of the Chapter’s Color Guard rifles as a donation to the Chapter along with a sincere Thank You to the Chapter for all the support received during the recent weeks since the loss of their son, Timothy, an Army Sgt. and Afghanistan Veteran. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Dennis Werlein and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M. There were 25 members present.





MIKE VOTH MEMORIAL CHAPTER #5
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
4TH ANNUAL CHICKEN FEED
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2016
@ AMERICAN LEGION POST 53
624 W. WATER STREET, EAU CLAIRE
STARTS at 12:00 NOON



COME JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
CHICKEN, HOT DOG OR BRAT MEAL

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with water, lemonade or iced tea to drink – other beverages available for purchase from the bar)
\$9.00 DONATION – CHILDREN 5 & UNDER FREE

RIFLE & QUILT RAFFLE along with CASH PRIZES, SILENT AUCTIONS,
DOOR PRIZES & BAKE SALE
MUSIC BY “COUNTRY CLASSIC”



Rifle Raffle*
TICKETS 1 FOR \$10, 3 for \$25, 6 for \$50
Proceeds go to 9th District VFW Unmet Needs Program
and
Mike Voth Memorial Chapter #5 Veteran’s Programs
Drawing to be held at 10 PM, Need not be present to win



1st Prize: Henry H006 Big Boy Lever Action Rifle 44 MAG, RH, 20 inch, Blued, Wood Stock, 10+1 Round, Single Set Trigger



2nd Prize: Henry H009 Lever Action Rifle 30-30 WIN, RH, 20 inch, Blued, Wood Stock, 5+1 Round, Single Set Trigger



3rd Prize: Henry H001T Frontier Lever Action Rifle 11 LR, Ambi, 20 inch, Blued, Wood Stock, 15+1 Round, Single Set Trigger



4th and 5th Prizes: \$200 CASH each

6th Prize: Queen Sized Handmade Patriotic Style Quilt



513 2ND St., Chetek WI 54728
Phone: 715-924-4181

*MUST BE ABLE TO LEGALLY OWN A FIREARM ACCORDING TO WISCONSIN STATE LAW

VVA Chapter #5
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