

This letter announces my candidacy for Director of the Korean War Veterans Association for the term 2009-2012.

My purpose for running is to join with responsible board members in guiding KWVA toward growth and prosperity. In steering this organization through difficult times, our officers have pointed it in the right direction. Still, KWVA needs many more members, increased revenue, and disciplined spending. Our obligations to our recently granted federal charter, under Public Law 110-254, enacted on June 30, 2008, demand nothing less of us.

A review of the last four 990 tax returns shows KWVA has piled up \$152,630 in net losses from 2004 through 2007. To reverse this dangerous trend, KWVA must limit spending and increase revenue. The revenue side demands attention because membership dues accounted for 84% of our income in 2007. This unhealthy reliance on membership dues calls for KWVA to seek new sources of funding from the public. Since many members share my belief that this association should live within its means, my objective is to influence the decision makers to take actions that will stabilize our financial condition.

### **Military**

Like most veterans who served in Korea during the war, I didn't volunteer to go there and would have preferred any other place. For me to suggest the only real Korean War Veterans are those who went to Korea would be hypocritical. Sure, I earned a CIB as a machine gunner with Company H, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 25<sup>th</sup> Division plus the standard medals such as Korean Service, UN, and National Defense. But my trip to Korea came about because some bored Army clerk drew my name.

Currently, veterans who served outside Korea during the Korean War Era represent the largest pool of potential new KWVA members. Although our future may rest with veterans who served in Korea after the war, many of those working veterans won't have time to join until after they retire. Meanwhile, KWVA needs an influx of new members now and cannot afford to overlook a single group of qualified veterans.

### **Education and Employment**

After my release from active duty, I attended college on the GI Bill and graduated. Then, I bounced around until my introduction to computers, an IBM 1401 as I recall. To control a multimillion dollar computer and see it obey my commands as long as I instructed it in a language it understood intrigued me. Better yet, it didn't take two hour lunch breaks, or complain, or call in sick, or ask for a day off; it simply did what I told it.

So, I spent most of my working career as an "at-will" employee selling my computer skills to aggressive, productivity-based firms. These hard driving firms, such as Core Labs and EDS, powered the economic growth in this country. We at-will employees were free either to succeed or fail. With no company pensions, we built our own retirement plans. By necessity, we honed the art of spending less than we earned to secure our financial well-being.

### **KWVA Chapter Experience**

A couple of years after retirement, Ed Buckman contacted me about serving as the Secretary/Treasurer for a new KWVA chapter he was forming in Dallas. Although I knew nothing about veterans' organizations or being a Secretary/Treasurer, we still got Chapter 270 off the ground and in the black within a couple of months. Fortunately, the chapter attracted several generous members whose contributions propelled its growth. Meanwhile I took on the task of Newsletter Editor which gives me the opportunity to highlight the volunteer spirit and the significant contributions by our cadre of active members.

### **KWVA National Experience**

Nationally, I have worked on the Bylaws Committee for over three years and helped design the last two fund-raiser forms and tickets.

Also, I've attended three KWVA conventions at my expense. At these conventions, I note that National's directors often pull in two or three different directions. My goal is to help build coalitions to strengthen this association both organizationally and financially.

### **Goals**

To help this organization get its income and expenses in line; I will bring a background of 30 years self-reliance and fiscal discipline to the board, and the will and persistence to make it happen. The financial situation cries out for action because KWVA cannot continue bleeding red ink and long survive.

To stop the bleeding, KWVA must cut spending and increase revenue. To increase revenue, we should look to the Korean Community for donations. Also, encourage members to consider naming KWVA as a beneficiary to their estates. Then, conduct a serious membership drive with small, medium, and large chapters competing within their groups for the highest percentage gain in new members.

Of the eight 501 (c) 19 veterans' organizations reporting over \$10 million income last year, only one, Military Officers Association of America, received most of its income from membership dues. The others show most of their income as direct public support. Two of the eight used professional fund-raisers. From this information, we learn that KWVA need not depend solely on dues and contributions from its members for revenue. Most successful veterans' organizations seek and get donations from the public. I hope to help that become a reality.

KWVA's future rests, in large part, on whether it can bring spending and revenue in equilibrium. This candidate believes he can work with responsible board members to achieve both financial stability and growth.

### **Requirements**

To meet the requirements for elected office, I enclose a completed membership application form showing dates of service which I release for verification by the Nominating Committee. I plan to attend all called meetings and understand that two unexcused absences may be cause for removal. As a life member, my dues are paid up through my term. I have enclosed a recent photograph.

Signed

*Glen Thompson*

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