



Jeff Brodeur, Recruiting Committee Chairman

KWVA Membership **Recruiting Report**

By Jeff Brodeur

On April 21, the KWVA reached the KWVA recruiting quota of 105 new members per month—with 9 days to go in April. We finished the month of April with 148 total new members.

We set a conservative quota of 100 new members a month after the 2005 KWVA National Convention in Bossier City LA. We raised it to 105 in January 2006. This minimum figure would put us at around the same number of new members, which we set at just under 1,304 as the goal for total new members in 2005.

I was not sure how the new decals, posters, and flyer program would work out. As I said at 2005 KWVA National Convention, I was hoping for a ripple effect. We have started to see that ripple. We have made our quota 7 months in a row—since about the time the task force started brainstorming.

We have 560 total new members for the year as of April 30, 2006. We estimate that at that rate we will add 1,680 new members, a big increase over the 1,304 total for 2005. Of those 560 new members added from Jan- April 30, 50 have become KWVA Life members. We have now experienced triple digit figures of new members for seven consecutive months. That had not happened since September 2001—five years ago.

The word is starting to spread about the KWVA. I have seen a renewed interest in Korea and the KWVA by the members and the public. The public is starting to realize that we still have troops in Korea, and that many have died preserving freedom since the Armistice was signed.

Many chapters have ordered posters and decals which they have put up in various veterans posts and VA hospitals throughout the country. Many have placed ads in local newspapers, and appeared on cable TV or radio. Each time we get a decal, patch, hat, flyer, poster, or attend a ceremony or event, it gets the KWVA's existence out there.

We have received thousands of renewals. Many members were confused on the renewal process. Others who have not renewed live on fixed incomes and were cutting costs. Some of our members have passed on; others have become ill and had to enter assisted living and nursing facilities. Not a member I spoke with who was not renewing did so because they were dissatisfied with the way the KWVA was being run. I called many of those members personally, while others assisted me in calling them.

We have members stationed in Korea now joining the KWVA. We have post war veterans joining the KWVA. We have Korea War veterans joining the KWVA who have never heard of the KWVA.

We have a big pool of Korea veterans from which to recruit. Many of these younger post war veterans had never

known that they could join the KWVA until President Lou Dechert and Director Jim Ferris created the KWVA Recruiting Committee in mid-2005.

I am hoping we finish out the year of 2006 with 2000 new members. We can do this if the chapters go all out and make a serious effort, as did the Maine chapters, Texas chapters #215, #270, and #298, KVA Chapter #299, Finger Lakes, Chapter #67 in New York, Indiana Chapter #30, Florida Chapter#188, CENLA Chapter #180, Hawaii chapters, and the Departments of Florida, New York, New Jersey, South Carolina, Virginia, and Texas. These departments and chapters are going all out to get the word to all Korea veterans that they are welcome to join the KWVA.

Two thousand new members for the year 2006 is a realistic goal if every member recruits one new member. Let's pick up the pace!!!!

Mrs. Norris Receives New Past President Pin

Chairmen and National Directors James Ferris and Jeff Brodeur pinned a new KWVA Past President Pin on Mrs. Clara Norris at the KWVA NY Convention on May 11, 2006.

Mrs Norris was in attendance with her son John Norris and her grandchildren. Mrs Norris was given the new pin from the KWVA Recruiting Committee on behalf of her husband, KWVA founder William Norris.

Mrs Norris will be at the Gathering in Washington DC, where she will be honored on July 27 by the KWVA on behalf of her husband KWVA Founder Bill Norris. (There is an article about Bill Norris in this issue of *The Graybeards* starting on page 32.

Commander Ray Waldron and the Adirondack Chapter #60 hosted the KWVA NY Convention, which included well over 100 members and wives in attendance. It was a great convention for everyone in attendance.



James Ferris and Jeff Brodeur pin new KWVA Past President Pin on Mrs. Clara Norris