

Call for the Meeting: KWVA Website and *The Graybeards*, Mar-Apr 2009 and May-Jun 2009, Letter from the President, Mar 13, 2009.

Place of Announced Meeting::

Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Crystal City, VA, 1800 Jefferson Davis Drive Highway, Arlington, VA 22202

Call to Order:

- President Mac Swain called the meeting to order at 0902 hours.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation were led by President Mac Swain.
- Administrative Announcements, Adoption of Agenda and Rules of Decorum & Debate were presented by President Mac Swain.
- Director McHugh made a motion that the Rules of Decorum & Debate be adopted, seconded by Director Lawhon. The motion carried without objection.
- Director Thompson made a motion that the agenda be adopted with any necessary additions, seconded by Director Brodeur. The motion carried without objection.

Roll Call and Introductions:

Secretary Cohee called the roll.

William Mac Swain, President-Here

James Ferris, 1st Vice President-Here

Robert Banker, 2nd Vice President-Here

Frank Cohee, Secretary-Here

J Tilford Jones, Treasurer-Here

Leo Agnew, Director-Absent

Charlotte Ayers, Director-Absent

Jeff Brodeur, Director-Here

Luther Dappen, Director-Here

Lee Dauster, Director-Absent

Marvin Dunn, Director-Absent

Thomas Edwards, Director-Absent

George Lawhon, Director-Here

Tom McHugh, Director-Here

Luther Rice, Director-Absent

Glen Thompson, Director-Here

Ezra Williams, Director-Here

Directors Charlotte Ayers, Lee Dauster, Marvin Dunn, and Luther Rice were absent but were excused by a majority vote of the Board. Directors Leo Agnew and Tom Edwards submitted their resignations, primarily for health reasons. Their resignations were accepted by the Board.

- Declaration of a Quorum was affirmed by Secretary Cohee.
- President Mac Swain asked for a motion to approve Richard E Brown Sr., the fifth highest vote receiver in the recent election, to serve out Director Leo Agnew's vacated two-year remaining term Director's position. Director Lawhon made a motion that Mr. Brown be appointed. Director Brodeur seconded and the motion was approved unanimously by the Board.
- President Mac Swain asked for a motion to approve James

Fountain, the sixth highest vote receiver in the recent election, to serve out Director Tom Edwards' vacated one-year remaining term Director's position. Director Lawhon made a motion that Mr. Fountain be appointed. Director McHugh seconded. The motion carried with no objection.

- President Mac Swain introduced Billy J. Scott as our Judge Advocate. Virginia Department Commander James Jones and Missouri Department Commander Frank (Ezra) Williams were in attendance, as were Chapter Commanders Warren Weidhahn, Chapter 100, Charles Reed, Chapter 33, and Steve Szekley, Chapter 112. Steve is also the Chairman of the Ethics and Grievance Committee. Also present and recognized was one of our founders, Joe McCallion, from Massachusetts, Chapter 300, along with Jake Feaster, Assistant Secretary and Supervisor of Membership Management, Jim Doppelhammer, our webmaster, and Vickie Garza, the court reporter.

Approval/Ratification for Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- Secretary Cohee referenced minutes of previous Board of Directors Meeting, Norfolk, VA, 10-24-2008, printed in *The Graybeards*, November-December 2008 edition. A motion was made by Director Brodeur that the minutes be approved. Director Brown seconded. The motion was carried with no objections.
- Minutes of previous Board of Directors Business without a Meeting, 01-05-2009, printed in *The Graybeards*, March - April 2009 edition. Director Thompson made a motion that the minutes be approved, seconded by Director Brodeur and approved by the Board without objection.
- Minutes of previous Board of Directors Business without a Meeting, 02-27-2009, printed in *The Graybeards*, May-June 2009 edition. Director McHugh made a motion that the minutes be approved, seconded by Director Brodeur and approved by the Board without objection.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Jones commented that all members of the Board of Directors should have received a final financial statement from our CPA and also the audit report for 2008. He asked if there were any questions. There were no questions, so he provided a little insight into the highlights of 2009 so far.

- As of June 30th, there was \$15,528 in the checking account and \$80,105 in the savings account.
- In March of this year the investments at AG Edwards were valued at \$259,922 and on June 30th they were valued at \$284,898.
- Through June of this year membership dues amounted to \$119,982. At the end of June 2008, they amounted to \$179,609, a difference of \$60,000. This deficit in membership renewals is hurting the KWVA.

Director Thompson made a motion to accept the report of the Treasurer, seconded by Director Brodeur. The motion was carried without objection.

Old Business:

- President Mac Swain commented that while the current CPA has done a great job for the KWVA, the CPA costs are getting higher and higher with him in Louisiana and the Treasurer in

Texas. He and Treasurer Jones see the necessity to have somebody closer. There have been discussions with a CPA that is right in Dallas with the Treasurer. Accordingly, the President requested confirmation from the Board to give him the okay to change the CPA if he so desires. Director Brown made a motion to allow the President to change the CPA if desired, seconded by First Vice President Ferris. The motion was carried without objection.

- The President also reported that he has sent in a report to Congress, along with the audit from the auditor, who is also located in Louisiana. The KWVA will probably stay with that particular auditor because we need somebody who is different. However, should the CPA be changed, the auditor may also be changed at a later date. This would preclude having to ship the financial records back and forth between the CPA and the Treasurer and the Auditor.

The report was required by the Federal Charter and was sent to the lady who is in charge of Immigrations and Home Security in the Judicial Committee. It was sent by return receipt, which has not yet been returned. The report contained a lot of information from National VAVS Director J.D. Randolph, who essentially reported that the KWVA had 499 volunteers last year who worked in the VA hospitals for 47,976 hours and saved the VA approximately \$943,640. It makes a lot better report saying that the KWVA, as an organization, is doing good work for the Veterans Administration.

- The auditor will probably be replaced along with the CPA. But, President Mac Swain did not think this was something that he could not do on his own. Nevertheless, he asked if anybody would make a motion to authorize him to change the auditor also. Director Lawhon made a motion for the President to enforce his authority per the KWVA bylaws to protect and defend the KWVA, seconded by Director McHugh, and passed with no objections.

- President Mac Swain discussed the status of the Department of Arizona in detail. He went to their Department meeting and talked to them personally about complying with the KWVA bylaws. After that meeting they gave him their assurance that they were going to change their bylaws and fall in line with the KWVA. Subsequently they had a meeting and informed Secretary Cohee that they were not going to comply with the KWVA Bylaws. They later sent a letter to the President stating that they were not going to adhere to the KWVA's Bylaws. Director Lawhon made a motion to approve and send a letter written by President Mac Swain to all KWVA members in Arizona on why the existing Department was having its Charter pulled, seconded by Director Brodeur and passed with no objections.

Reunion Committee Report:

- Second Vice President Banker reported that this is a reminder that October 24, 2009 will start the KWVA's three-day annual membership meeting at the Westin Hotel in Irving, TX. Arrangements for a banquet speaker are still in the works. We are waiting on House of Representative Sam Johnson to decide if he can attend.

New Business:

- Secretary Cohee presented a request from the Department of New Jersey to withdraw the Charter from Chapter 130 for numerous reasons. Director Lawhon made a motion in response to the Department of New Jersey that the Association withdraw the Charter of Chapter 130 and notification be sent to all known members of that Chapter, seconded by Director Fountain and passed with no objections.

- Secretary Cohee presented a request to form a Department of Massachusetts. Five Chapters were listed on the petition: 36, 37, 187, 294 and 300. Three of the Chapters, 36, 187 and 294, are not accredited Chapters. The Secretary recommended that the request be denied. Director Lawhon made a motion that the request to form a Department of Massachusetts be denied, seconded by Director McHugh and passed with no objections.

- President Mac Swain reported that he has received from the Lone Star Chapter their Charter and information that they no longer want to belong to the KWVA. Basically, their withdrawal was a unanimous decision of the Chapter's Board of Directors and over 90% of the membership voted that they should withdraw from the KWVA and concentrate on local activities. Director McHugh made a motion that the request to withdraw be accepted, seconded by Director Brown and passed with no objections.

- The next item on the agenda was a report on additional insurance that was to be presented by Director Dauster. Since he was unable to attend the meeting, his report was postponed until the annual membership meeting in October 2009.

- First Vice President Ferris made a motion that in the best interests of the KWVA that the mileage allowance for travel be reduced from 50 cents per mile to 40 cents per mile beginning the first of August, 2009, seconded by Director Brown and passed without objection.

- Secretary Cohee presented a request from Past President Coon to be reinstated as an active member of the KWVA. Nine of the 21 Ohio Chapters sent letters requesting that he be reinstated to full membership. Director Lawhon made a motion that Past President Coon not be reinstated, seconded by First Vice President Ferris. The vote was nine to one to not reinstate.

Bylaws / Standard Procedures Manual Committee:

- Director Lawhon, Chairman of the Bylaws/Standard Procedure Manual Committee, reviewed the revised bylaws in detail, essentially word by word. He commented that the Bylaws Committee consisting of himself, Directors Ayers, Dauster, Rice and Thompson and Assistant Secretary Feaster, gave unanimous consent to what he would present. The changes as approved by the Board of Directors are set forth on pages 12-21 of the July-August 2009 edition of *The Graybeards*.

Therefore, due to lack of space, those changes will not be repeated here but are hereby incorporated by reference to that article for review by the membership before being ratified at the October 26 Annual Association Membership Meeting.

The revised Standard Procedure Manual is still under review and will be presented to the Board for approval in October 2009. There is no requirement for this document to be approved by the General Membership.

Membership Committee Report

Director Brodeur, Membership Committee Chairman, reported that as of this date we have 440 new members. This time last year we had 527. Overall membership is now at 16,468. At this time last year we had 16,883. So far this year we have had 354 members pass away. Last year it was 705.

Ethics and Grievance (E & G) Committee Report

• The open meeting was closed and the Board was in executive session from 1515 to 1601 hours. All investigations of the E & G Committee are confidential. The information obtained is shared only with the Members of the Committee and the Judge Advocate.

Database Orientation

• Jake Feaster, Assistant Secretary and Supervisor of Membership Management, gave a brief orientation on how to make the best use of the KWVA's data base. He wanted to ensure that all of the officers and directors, especially the new ones, were totally familiar with the KWVA information database and password websites. Some were not. There were numerous questions and time was of the essence, so much of his presentation had to be postponed. It will be on the Board of Directors Meeting Agenda for the October 2009 meeting.

Installation of New Directors

• President Mac Swain gave the oath of office to Directors Brown, Dappen, Fountain, Thompson and Williams, and declared them to be installed to the KWVA Board of Directors for their term of office.

Motion to adjourn the General Board meeting with prayer and Salute to the Flag

• Director McHugh made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Director Banker. President Mac Swain led us in prayer and the Salute to the Flag. The meeting was adjourned at 1621 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Cohee, National Secretary

Were there POW in Korea before the war began?

One of our members was on a recent 14-day cruise to Alaska during which he met a gentleman who identified himself as a former Navy Corpsman who had been assigned to a detachment of Marines prior to the onset of the Korean War. The gentleman revealed that he and the Marines were captured and held as prisoners in Korea until the armistice was signed in 1953. Can that be true?

Do any of our readers have knowledge of U.S. Marines--or any other American service members--being captured by the North Koreans prior to the beginning of the "official" hostilities and held as prisoners until the truce was signed? If there were, why was the event "hushed up?" And how was it kept secret?

Please let us know your thoughts on this situation via "Feedback Editor," *The Graybeards*, 152 Sky View Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

A Lovely Concert

By Ben Allen

Korea, the winter of '50 and '51: the 24th Infantry Division was on the front on the western side of North Korea. The Chinese, who had joined the North Korean troops, were creating havoc with the Marines at the Chosen Reservoir on the east coast. The 27 British Brigade had joined us; one of their units was protecting our right flank. This unit was the famed Black Watch Scottish Regiment. They were indeed welcomed by us, as they had arrived with a great combat history.

We had repulsed the last Chinese attack and were waiting for the next one, which we were sure would come. The Chinese had demonstrated a need to blow bugles and trumpets preceding any attack. We supposed it was an effort to bolster their courage. But, our courage was not bolstered by these noises. They kept us on edge and awake.

It started with a tremendous blast of sound at about 3 a.m. We all bolted up straight upon hearing what had to be the sound of death on the march.

The first night after the Scots joined us we were all awake, nervous, and jumpy. Several of our troops had fired their weapons in response to any noise they heard. The weather was getting colder, and we were

wearing everything we had in the attempt to keep from freezing. We were all deep in our foxholes in the futile attempt to catch a little sleep and some much needed rest. Then, the noise began.

It started with a tremendous blast of sound at about 3 a.m. We all bolted up straight upon hearing what had to be the sound of death on the march. It was a sound that is very hard to describe. The skirling started low and went very high on the scale. Each time the noise resumed it raised the hackles on the backs of our necks and invited cold, uncontrollable shivers down each of our backs.

The wailing continued. Soon, more of these unknown ghostly entities joined in, until they became a chorus of loud noises which we were sure preceded the arrival of Death himself. We were certain that what we were hearing were the Banshees from Hell signaling the next Chinese attack.

Suddenly, at about 4 a.m., the noise ceased. The only thing we could hear was our collective teeth chattering. In a couple hours it started to get light in the east, and we began to believe that we might survive the night.

Later, while I was trying to digest a whole can of "C" rations for breakfast, the Scottish liaison officer came by to coordinate defenses. He stopped to pass the time of day with my platoon and commented in his hard Scottish brogue, "How 'ja like the concert?"

I was in a really bad frame of mind as I answered, "What damn concert?"

With a big smile, he explained, "Well, the lads played their pipes last night. Didn't ye hear it?"

The young Captain never knew just how close he was to death. This had been my never-to-be-forgotten introduction to the Scottish bagpipes.

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