

KWVA Bylaws Committee Project For 2009/2010**Revision of the KWVA Standard Procedure Manual and Bylaws**

Because there is at present a measurable, current increase in KWVA membership, this article contains information previously given to the membership. This will allow the new members who weren't eligible to receive *The Graybeards* to catch up on the details surrounding the issue of the payment of annual dues.

While some might say they could have downloaded all the past issues from the KWVA website <http://www.kwva.org/>, less than 15% of those who are KWVA members have personal access to the internet. It is reasonable to infer that non-members, past and present, are in the same situation. Most public libraries have internet access, which should work for anyone with a library card.

ISSUES:

Including this one, there have been nine articles containing progress of the 2009 Bylaws/SPM Project since it was authorized by the KWVA Board of Directors at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia. The first article was in the Nov-Dec. 2009 edition of *The Graybeards*.

During the 2009 October 25th meeting of the Board of Directors, they were given a presentation of the current revisions to the Standard Procedure Manual (SPM). The revisions were—and still are—a work in progress, and the Board was asked to give us a 'conditional' approval of the work to date.

What was presented was the SPM Table of Contents, most of Sections 1 & 2, and some procedures from Section 3, all of which collectively gave them a clear picture of format and style, and some of the content. The Board was told that as the SPM revision process proceeds, they will be periodically given the changes, and asked to contribute their comments and recommendations as they felt appropriate. The Board gave their approval for us to proceed.

KWVA President Mac Swain approved the insertion of a booklet containing the 2009 Bylaws as a removable document from the centerfold of the Jan-Feb 2010 edition of *The Graybeards* for your personal convenience. Now that it is in your posses-

sion, especially at chapter and department meetings, the booklet will help to support the Good of the Order. It is also posted on the KWVA website, <http://www.kwva.org>

One of the arguments against the 2009 Bylaws Amendment presented at the Membership Meeting was that you simply could not enforce the Bylaws rule that ALL must pay National/Association dues. Not true. It is only truly unenforceable if those charged with the obligation and duty to enforce the Bylaws fail to do so. And if they refuse, where is the honor in that?

I will repeat, here is a procedure that will ensure enforcement of, and compliance with, the Bylaws: *Before any chapter or department meeting, those present must be carded to ensure and verify current Regular KWVA membership. There is nothing new about that.*

Let me point out that at an Annual Membership Meeting that process is the method used to guarantee that those who will discuss, debate and vote KWVA business are those who have paid for the privilege. It will work only if you, as a member, insist on enforcement.

I know it will be difficult if, as I am told, there are actually chapter officers who do not belong to the KWVA, or are delinquent in their dues. If you are a current, regular KWVA member, you are entitled to ask for this. In fact, I hold that you are obligated and bound by honor and duty to do so.

None of the above prevents a guest from attending, as long as they are identified and do not participate in chapter or department business.

BYLAWS

The disrespectful practice of non-payment of the required annual dues by those who claim chapter membership, and the officers who allow and encourage it was, and apparently still is, damaging the Association, in that it does not permit an evaluation and or verification of the eligibility of these chapter 'members' as Korean War veterans. It takes the issue beyond basic unfairness, and the members, especially officers, should realize that it threatens our recently granted Federal Charter, if

allowed to continue.

The Federal Charter reads:

'...120101. Organization

“(a) FEDERAL CHARTER.—Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated (in this chapter, the ‘corporation’), a nonprofit organization that meets the requirements for a veterans service organization under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that is organized under the laws of the State of New York, is a federally chartered corporation.

“(b) EXPIRATION OF CHARTER.—If the corporation does not comply with the provisions of this chapter, the charter granted by subsection (a) shall expire...’

STANDARD PROCEDURE MANUAL (SPM)

The Bylaws Committee continues to work on the revisions to the Standard Procedure Manual (SPM). We had hoped to have the final draft ready before the end of January, 2010, but that has of necessity been changed. As you read this, an updated draft is in circulation. The plan is to have the final markup ready to present to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in July, for approval, and subsequently posted for download from the KWVA website. In fact, all Board members will have seen the markup prior to the meeting.

SOME REMINDERS

Until the upcoming revisions for the KWVA Standard Procedure Manual (SPM) are approved by the Board of Directors and in place, the current SPM and our Federal Charter are all available for review and/or download from the KWVA website, <http://www.kwva.org>, at any time.

We have an obligation to meet the compliance requirements to the new Federal Charter, Public Law 110-254 (S.1692) granted on June 30, 2008 to the Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated.

With fraternal respect for all who honor the Good of the Order,

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Director

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