

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING — ST. LOUIS, MO

OCTOBER 12, 2012

Call for the Meeting: Website and July-August 2012 issue of *The Graybeards*.

Place of Announced Meeting: The Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, St. Louis-Westport, 1973 Craigshire Rd., St. Louis, MO 63146

Call to Order: President Ferris called the meeting to order at 1300 hours, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation by National Chaplain Leo Ruffing.

Roll Call and Introductions: President Ferris asked for a roll call of the officers and directors, which was then called by Secretary Cohee:

KWVA Board Members:

- Jim Ferris, President
- Larry Kinard, 1st Vice President
- Roy E. Aldridge, 2nd Vice President (Excused)
- Frank Cohee, Secretary
- John Barwinczok, Assistant Treasurer
- Richard Brown, Director
- Luther Dappen, Director
- Lewis Ewing, Director
- James Fountain, Director
- Arthur Griffith, Director
- J. Tilford Jones, Director
- George Lawhon, Director
- Thomas McHugh, Director
- Salvatore Scarlato, Director
- Thomas W. Stevens, Director
- Ezra Williams, Director (Excused)

Secretary Cohee noted the officers and directors present represented a quorum.

President Ferris then asked for a count of the membership. There were 62 present and that resulted in a quorum.

Adopt Agenda: Director Brown made a motion that the agenda be adopted; it was seconded by Director Griffith and passed unanimously.

Annual Membership Meeting Rules of Decorum @ Debate:

President Ferris read the rules. Mr. Kaiser, CID 4, MO made a motion to accept them. It was seconded by Ed Valle, CID 40, MN and approved unanimously.

Introduction of Chapter and Department Commanders: President Ferris introduced Sal Scarlato, President, Dept. of NY; Tilford Jones, 1st VP, Dept. of TX; Ed Valle, CID 40, MN; Richard Sapp, CID 86; Mike Glazzy, President, Dept. of CA; J. D. Randolph, President, CID 270, TX; Kenneth Hoffman, President, CID 96, MO; John Gunther, CID 44, MO; Tom Stevens, President, CID 181, KS; Tom McHugh, 1st VP, Dept. of NJ; Frank Cohee, Commander, CID 158, FL; John Barwinczok, CID 296, NY.

Introduction of Staff and others: Jim Doppelhammer, KWVA Webmaster; Jake Feaster, Asst. Secretary and Supervisor of Membership Management; Jamie Rednour, Membership Adm. Asst.; Larry Kinard, 1st VP and Chairman of the Tell America Committee; J. D. Randolph, National VAVS Director; Bill Burns, Judge Advocate; Kevin Secor, Office of the Secretary for Veterans

Affairs; Bill Mac Swain, Immediate Past National KWVA President; Jamie Wiedhahn, Son of Warren Wiedhahn, KWVA Liaison to Washington, DC; Professor Jongwoo Han, KWVA Liaison to Korean-American Assn.

President Ferris then asked those in attendance to please rise for a moment of silent prayer for two members who recently passed away, David Mills and Ed. Buckman. He then asked Kevin Secor to come forward and speak to the membership.

Kevin Secor, Special Assistant to the Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs:

Mr. Secor commented that he was a VSO liaison for Secretary Shinseki, and on the Secretary's behalf he wished each and every one the best and to say thank you for all that we do for our veterans, and also for the VA. He said that since he has been with the Department he has seen many, many, many changes. One of the President's best decisions he has ever made was selecting General Shinseki to be our Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The VA is now a state-of-the-art VA. Changes have been made at the VA medical facilities, at the Veterans benefits administration and at the national cemeteries.

The VA budget, when he came aboard in 2005, was about \$98 billion. This year, the budget that is now before Congress is \$140 billion, an increase of 40 percent. This is because of the Secretary's determination and his push to get that increase for the right reasons. With the increase in the budget the VA has added 57 new community-based outpatient clinics, 20 more mobile health clinics, and a 5th Poly trauma center, in San Antonio, TX.

Under construction are three new hospitals, at Orlando, Denver and New Orleans. The claims backlog has also been improved. Even though there is still a 580,000-claim backlog, that means fewer claims in the system that are over 125 days old. What a lot of people do not know is that this year the VA adjudicated 1.1 million claims and received 1.5 million new claims.

With all that being said, there is also another thing that's still critically important, and that is with your volunteerism at our VA facilities, which is so urgently needed. The VA is here for you with 316,000 employees. 100,000 of them are veterans, and we are hiring more veterans.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. God bless you all and thank you for your time. Mr. Secor was followed by Professor Jongwoo Han.

Professor Jongwoo Han, KWVA Liaison to Korean-American Assn:

Professor Han commented that he was there to interview Korean War veterans about their sacrifices and memories and that he has done that 63 times already. On behalf of all Koreans I want to thank all of you. You are the backbone of this friendship between the United States of America and Korea and also strong alliance. The 63 previous interviews and about 2,500 artifacts can be viewed at www.kwvdm.org, which is the website for the Korean War Veteran Digital Memorial.

While the Professor was in DC last year he met with Larry Kinard, Chairman of the Tell America Committee, and our President, and talked about how they could work together and expand the digital memorial with the Tell America Program. He then showed a video of that meeting.

Following the showing, Larry opined that what Professor Han is doing fits right in with where we need to go with the Tell America Program. Professor Han concluded by commenting that this is a very small example of what we can do together about your legacy.

Approval of Previous General Membership Meeting Minutes of 10/30/2011: In lieu of having Secretary Cohee read the minutes, J. D. Randolph, CID 270, made a motion to approve the minutes as published in the Nov-Dec 2011 issue of *The Graybeards*. Bob Hill, CID 194, seconded the motion; it was approved without opposition.

Treasurer's Report: Assistant Treasurer Barwinczok stated that the primary checking account as of Sep 30 2012 has a balance of \$37,737.94, and the savings account has a balance of \$40,860.05. Robert Osborn, CID 6, MO made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Ken Hoffman, CID 6, MO, and approved unanimously.

Budget and Finance Report-Approval of 2013 Budget: Chairman Jones had the budget displayed on a viewgraph screen. He commented that the budget for 2013 was \$342,409, which is a little over \$15,000 more than 2012. Most of this is due to an increase in meetings and headquarters expense. There were several decreases in other areas. Ed Valle, CID 40, MO made a motion to accept the budget as proposed; it was seconded by J. D. Randolph, CID 270, and approved unanimously.

Mike Glazzy, Department of CA President, asked if the budget for *The Graybeards* included expenses for mailing extra *Graybeards* for recruiting purposes. Chairman Jones responded, "No, it does not. That comes through the membership office if you are requesting additional copies other than what our normal distribution is."

President's Report: President Ferris told the membership that it is important that they know what is going on. First, he noted that last June he was elected with about two-thirds of the votes that were cast for the office of the President. When I saw those numbers I could only come to one conclusion, and that was to show some leadership for the KWVA. Our Past President, Bill Mac Swain, was a great example of a leader, and I had the honor and privilege to be his first VP for four years. Now it is time for me to do the same.

As soon as I knew I was elected, the first thing I did was create a Recruiting Committee under the standing Membership Committee. I appointed Sonny Edwards to be in charge of that new committee. Recognizing that both the American Legion and VFW have more Korean veterans on their rolls than we have, I contacted the executive director of the VFW and then met with him and some of his staff. I found out that they have 220,000 Korean War veterans on their rolls and we have 16,000. I asked him to help us recruit some of these people, and he agreed.

Last month, when I was in Korea, I appointed Mr. John Lee, a native South Korean and an attorney, to be our South Korean liaison in Korea. He should be able to help us a lot with recruiting people over there. Also, when HR-5903 is passed, it will open the door for us to start recruiting some of the folks that are on the DMZ and other places in Korea.

My next priority, after recruiting, is to find a way to reduce our costs for producing *The Graybeards*. This is our largest budgeted item, at about \$170,000.00 a year. I arranged to meet with

Ambassador Shea twice and asked him to go to the Korean government and ask them to help us with the cost. I made it clear that we did not want a one-time donation but rather a subsidy to defray the costs forever. I am trying hard to lead this organization for generations to come, and I hope I can do that.

President Ferris then introduced Ed Valle, President of the Twin City Metro area in MN, and Chris Wagner, representing the Kahler Grand Hotel, located in Rochester, MN.

Mr. Valle: Chris and I are here to make a presentation to encourage you to vote on the 2014 reunion to be held in Rochester, MN.

Mr. Chris Wagner: Mr. Wagner showed several slides of the facilities of the Kahler Hotel as well as what Rochester had to offer. The room rates at the hotel will be: economy room: \$79, standard room \$89. There are also upgraded rooms available at various prices and there is free parking. There will be a free wine and cheese reception, and a buffet breakfast for \$9.95.

Mr. Hill, South Dakota, CID 194, made a motion that we accept Rochester for the annual membership meeting in 2014. It was seconded by Robert Fitzgerald, Quad Cities, IL. The motion was passed unanimously. President Ferris commented that at the meeting of the Board yesterday they approved the dates of the 15th - 19th of October, 2014. All in favor of those dates say aye, whereupon all said aye.

Other Committee Reports:

Membership: Director Stevens, Chairman of the Membership Committee, questioned the previous report of the KWVA having 16,000 members. The figure that he got off the web site recently was 14,523. The membership department sent out cards last year to verify that the member was still alive and if he wanted to continue receiving *The Graybeards*. A lot of members did not respond, which resulted in a drop of the membership. A large number of life members did not respond, so they were put into an inactive category and will no longer be receiving *The Graybeards*.

I have been trying to contact those members who did not respond. I am finding that many are deceased, and several do not remember receiving the postcard. So, gradually, we are recouping those members who failed to return their card.

Norm Benty, CID 26, IL asked if the KWVA has ever considered sons and daughters of the Korean War veterans. Chairman Stevens responded that, "I am not sure what the history is on that but I think it has been considered at one time and was voted down by the Board of Directors."

Chairman Stevens then commented that was all he had to say and asked Jake Feaster, Membership Management Supervisor, to come forward.

Mike Glazzy, Department Commander for CA, commented that as a means of recruiting in CA, he is considering distributing *The Graybeards* to all of the veterans in the six Resident homes in CA. One home he visited had 250 Korean War veterans. I want to thank Jim Doppelhammer and Frank Cohee for providing me with extra *Graybeards* to distribute at that home.

Jake Feaster, Membership Management: Jake commented that he and Jim Doppelhammer have been working on the KWVA database for about seven years. It has been a real challenge, because up until then there had been very little coordination. We still have a long way to go, but we also have come a long way. We

now have 233 Chapters and 15 Departments, and we are trying to form more as well as trying to get more members in the existing Chapters. There are about 9,000 active members, but about 3,400 of those are delinquent in their dues so they are not really active members.

They need to pay their National dues or the Chapter needs to remove them from their rosters. Also, we have about 5,500 active-paid up members who are not in Chapters and we are trying to get them to join a Chapter if there is one in their area.

Jamie Wiedhahn, representing his father, Warren, CID 100, and coordinator of the Revisit Korea Program, stated that in order to participate in the revisit program we require that they are a member of the KWVA or that they join the Association. Unfortunately, many of those do not rejoin after their first year. Jamie said he was an Associated Member and questioned whether or not he could become a Regular Member because he was the son of a Korean War veteran. Chairman Stevens responded that he could not be a Regular Member. He then asked our webmaster, Jim Doppelhammer, to say a few words

Webmaster, Jim Doppelhammer: Jim discussed a new thing on the website, a list of recently joined new members link. This list can be used by the Chapters to recruit new members. The new members list is also published in The Graybeards.

Sonny Edwards, Chairman of the Recruiting Committee: Sonny commented that his Recruiting Committee was everyone in the room and asked how many had an application for membership in his or her pocket. He then introduced the members of his committee, Bob Hill, Warren Wiedhahn, and Jeff Brodeur. He said that the members should work with the VFW and American Legion, because they have a huge database of Korean War veterans.

In the membership report for the last 90 days, only nine states have recruited ten or more members and some have recruited only four or five. There are six states that have recruited none. At the President's request I have put together a "Recruiting Guide." If any Chapters or Departments do not have one, I have some extra copies for you.

President Ferris commented, with that enthusiasm I am gambling on 20,000 new members in the next year. If I could send Sonny to every city, we would probably be larger than the VFW. You will notice all of the blue shirts. I got those shirts for members of the Board. It was one of the first things that I did to show you that we are a team and we are working together. You are looking at one of the greatest Boards that I have sat on. Next up is my First VP, Larry Kinard.

Larry Kinard, First VP and Chairman of the Tell America Committee: Larry commented that he is very supportive of trying to do something to provide incentives to the Chapters to recruit. The next challenge is to make sure they do not leave. If these people can come to your Chapter and become involved, especially in the Tell America Program, I think that will help retain them. Out of the 233 Chapters, 109 are participating in the Tell America Program.

President Ferris said that next up is Tom McHugh, Chairman of the Ceremonies and Election Committee.

Chairman McHugh: The Ceremonies Committee has been in

DC as usual for Memorial and Veterans Day to present the colors. We have our new flag with us with the revised writing that recognizes our Korean Service Veterans. Chapter 299, MA, comes down on Memorial Day and presents the colors at Arlington. The Maryland Chapters have been doing the flag ceremony for the last several years, but can no longer do that because of age, etc. We may have to bring in one of the Chapters that are farther away.

Right now it costs around \$3,000 to bring in the Chapter from MA. As for the Election Committee, there has been a small change to the application form. There is a statement on the form that says to include a statement that you are releasing the form to the Election Committee. About half of the applicants do not include that statement. The required statement is now part of the check list. If you are in DC during any of the aforementioned events, please join us.

President Ferris stated that next up is the Revisit Korea Program. Jamie Wiedhahn is going to fill in for his father, Warren Wiedhahn.

Revisit Korea Program: Jamie stated that it was an honor to be with the Korean War veterans and to have the job he has as Revisit Korea Coordinator in charge of taking the veterans and their families back to Korea. The Korean government is very respectful, and Korea is a very gracious country. I am truly and constantly amazed at their generosity.

They just stated a new program called Peace Camp for Youth. This is for the grandchildren of Korean War veterans. It is very similar to the revisit program, where the Korean government pays for everything in country. We think they are also going to pay 50 percent of the airfare. For the 60th anniversary of the armistice in 2013 we are expecting the South Korea government to increase the quotas from 600 to 700. They put about \$25 million a year into this program.

Mike Glazzy, Department Commander of CA, asked if he needed more than a passport to participate in the Korean battlefield tours. Jamie responded that he did, and that he was the one that started those tours because a lot of the veterans were asking to go back to specific spots. This is a three-day pre-tour in advance of the main revisit tour. It is not a government sponsored program.

We tour the entire DMZ, east to west, all above the 38th parallel.

"A GIANT OF A NOVEL...I HATED FOR IT TO END." William Hoffman—*The Trumpet Untown*

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We go to the Punch Bowl, Heartbreak Ridge, Pork Chop Hill, Won Valley, Yung Goo, etc. One of the most interesting things about putting the tour together was finding restaurants with seats. Those are the battlefield tours.

While waiting for the VAVS Director to reach the podium, First VP and Chairman of the Tell America Committee Larry Kinard said he wanted to add another point about the brief account of the Korean War. Jack Walker wrote that book and he did a great job. He only charged us a small royalty for those he gave us because we are going to give them to the Korean War veterans and to the schools. On the back page of the book is Jack's website and e-mail address. Please write to Jack and tell him we appreciate what he did.

VAVS Report: My name is J. D. Randolph and I am the National VAVS Director. I deal with the VA. The amount of service and hours spent by our volunteers in the VA hospitals and national cemeteries is a major part of the President's report that he must send to Congress every year. Last year we had 31,396 volunteer hours, which was a savings to the VA of \$670,618. In 2012 we were down about ten percent to 29,416 volunteer hours and a savings to the VA of \$640,974.

We need more volunteers who are actually helping the veterans. We have a lot of VA hospitals at which we have no representation whatsoever. There are also a lot of states that have no representation. The VA hospitals now depend on the KWVA as the primary veterans organization to help veterans. This used to be WWII veterans, but now it is our turn.

I am very lucky with my Chapter, CID 270, TX. We have 128 members, of whom 46 volunteer at the VA hospital and at the national cemeteries. Last year our Chapter donated 5,532 hours to the Dallas VA. The patients in the hospital would rather talk to a veteran than the hospital staff. So I encourage everyone, if you have people who would like to get certified, send me an e-mail.

Fundraising Report: My name is Art Griffith, a Director and Chairman of the Fundraising Committee. We took in \$58,384 this year. We had expenses of \$14,315.40, so we have a net profit of \$44,088.60. We will now have the drawing. The winner of the M1 Garand rifle is John Schramm, LR29088.

At this point President Ferris commented that Art has been the fundraising guru for many years and he has accumulated around \$220,000 for the organization. I think that deserves a big hand.

The next drawing, for \$2,000, was won by Gerald Hanson, LR20111. The next and last drawing, for a 50-inch TV, was won by Alfred Debard, LR11564.

President Ferris then asked Colonel (Ret) Jake Feaster to come forward. The President presented a plaque to Mr. Feaster for outstanding dedication and commitment while serving as a U.S. Army Officer for 41 years of active and reserve service, including service in Korea in 1953, and for his service in several Chapters, one as President, Treasurer, Secretary and Judge Advocate, serving two terms as the President for the Dept. of FL, and serving as National Assistant Secretary and Supervisor of Membership Management.

President Ferris then asked Director Jim Fountain to come forward. He thanked Director Fountain, along with all of those who helped him, for his effort on putting the 2012 General

Membership Annual Meeting together. Director Fountain added his thanks to the people who helped him, and said that, "We have not got it made yet-we are still working on it."

President Ferris then called on the Chaplain to give the closing prayer. First, he made a comment about being notified of a member's passing. When he is notified he sends a sympathy card to the family in the name of the KWVA. He asked that he be kept informed so he could do his job.

The Chaplain then led us in prayer.

Member Walter Kaiser, CID 4, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Griffith requested a delay so that he could get permission to destroy the raffle tickets. Director Lawhon made a motion to destroy the tickets; it was seconded by Mr. Barwinczok and passed unanimously.

President Ferris called for a vote on adjourning the meeting, which was passed unanimously. He then asked all to stand for the singing of "God Bless America."

Respectfully Submitted,

*Frank Cohee,
National Association Secretary, KWVA*

Reunion Calendar: 2013

Mail your info to Reunion Editor, *The Graybeards*, 895 Ribaut Rd. #13, Beaufort, SC 29902 or email it to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net. Include Unit, Date(s), Place, and Contact's name, address, phone #, email address. Entries are posted "first come, first served." *The Graybeards* is not responsible for the accuracy of the information published.

APRIL

USS Renville (APA 227), open to all former crew and troops, 3-7 Apr., Portland, OR, Red Lion Hotel. Lynda Rumble, 187 Lakeshore Dr., Mooresville, NC 28117, 704-906-7622, lyndahd01@aol.com (ship's website is ussrenvilleapa227.com)

Marines of Long Ago (All eras, All branches welcome), 16-20 Apr., Myrtle Beach, SC. Joe Cullen, 203-877-0846, aircooledmg7@aol.com, web site info: www.marinesoflongago.org

OCS Class 11-52, Fort Sill, OK. 22-24 Apr., Richmond, VA, Crowne Plaza Downtown, 555 Canal St. Dwight L. Thomas, 319 Palm Dr., Marlin, TX 76661, 254-803-3688, dwrightfwk@sbcglobal.net

73rd Armor Assn., 23-27 Apr., Columbus, GA. Curtis Banker, 44 Westcott Rd., Schuylers Falls, NY 12985-1940, 518-643-2302, curt0742@hughes.net

USS Ault (DD 698), 25-29 April, Erlanger, KY. Pam@GatheringsPlus.com, P.O. Box 1023, Branson West, MO 65737, 417-338-4048

MAY

L Co., 21st Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div., U.S. Army, 1-5 May, Branson, MO. George Vlastic, 918-287-5618, geonanvlastic@atmc.net

67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (All units), 6-10 May, Plano, TX. Marion Edwards, 126 Willow Ave., Greenfield Twp., PA 18407, 570-709-8551, jeeme@nep.net

Army Counter Intelligence Corps, 9-13 May, Herndon, VA, Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel. ellyb@cox.net

SEPTEMBER

USS Hornet (CV-8, CV-12, CVA-12, CVS-12), U.S. Navy/Marines, 24-29 Sept., Warwick, RI, Crowne Plaza. Carl & Sandy Burket, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, <http://www.usshornetassn.com/>