

JULY 26, 2016

Meeting Announcement:

The Graybeards, May/June 2016

Place of Announced Meeting:

The Comfort Inn Pentagon, 2480 S. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22206

Announced period of Meeting:

July 26, 2016 – 1200 – 1600

Call to Order:

Thomas Stevens, President, at 1220

Pledge of Allegiance:

L. T. Whitmore, Director

Invocation:

John W. (Jack) Keep, Chaplain

Installation of New Officers and Directors:

Past President Larry Kinard duly swore in the following new Officers and Directors:

- ◆ President Thomas W. Stevens
- ◆ Second Vice President Jeffrey Brodeur
- ◆ Director Narce Caliva
- ◆ Director George Bruzzgis
- ◆ Director David J. Clark
- ◆ Director Paul Cunningham
- ◆ Director Luther Dappen
- ◆ Chaplain John W. (Jack) Keep

Rules of Decorum and Debate:

President Stevens reviewed the KWVA Rules of Decorum and Debate which outlines acceptable conduct by all in attendance at the meeting.

Adopt Agenda:

President Stevens called for a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda. Upon motion by Director McCarthy, seconded by Director McHugh, the Agenda was approved.

Roll Call:

Secretary Ewing called the roll.

KWVA Board Members:

- ◆ President, Thomas Stevens–Present
- ◆ First Vice President, Warren Weidhahn–Absent
- ◆ Second Vice President, Jeffrey Brodeur–Present
- ◆ Executive Director, James R. Fisher–Present
- ◆ Secretary, Lewis M. Ewing–Present
- ◆ Treasurer, Thomas Gregg–Present

- ◆ Director, Roy E. Aldridge–Present
- ◆ Director, Albert H. McCarthy–Present
- ◆ Director, Thomas M. McHugh–Present
- ◆ Director, L. T. Whitmore–Present
- ◆ Director, Narce Caliva–Present
- ◆ Director, Robert F. Fitts–Present
- ◆ Director, J. Fred Ragusa–Present
- ◆ Director, Lewis Vaughn–Present
- ◆ Director, George Bruzzgis–Present
- ◆ Director, David J. Clark–Present
- ◆ Director Paul Cunningham–Present
- ◆ Director, Luther Dappen–Present

KWVA Staff:

- ◆ Chaplain, John W. (Jack) Keep–Present
- ◆ Webmaster, Jim Doppelhammer–Present
- ◆ Communications Director, Fred Lash–Present
- ◆ DPAA Director, Bruce (Rocky) Harder–Present

Recorder:

- ◆ Elite Reporting, Carol O’Brocki–Present

LEGEND: ■ = new topic • = individual bullet points

Action on Absences:

President Stevens asked for a motion to excuse First Vice President Warren Wiedhahn, who is representing the KWVA at this time in South Korea. Upon motion by Director Whitmore, seconded by Director Caliva, First Vice President Wiedhahn was granted an excused absence.

Declaration of a Quorum:

Secretary Ewing reported that a quorum was present.

Approval of Previous Board of Directors Minutes of July 23, 2015:

Secretary Ewing stated that these minutes were published in the September/October 2015 issue of *The Graybeards* magazine. Upon motion by Director Aldridge, seconded by Director Ragusa, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Tom Gregg explained that he is a CPA and a partner in a firm in Dallas and has served as our Treasurer for about two years now. He reported that the firm of Franklin and Vaughn, located in Illinois, has served as our independent auditors for the past two years and they are doing a good job for us at a reasonable cost.

■ Sager Financial Services in Charleston, IL serve as our bookkeepers and are now paying our bills for us. They also prepare our IRS 990, which has been filed for the calendar year December 31, 2015.

■ Executive Director Jim Fisher hand delivered copies of our IRS Form 990 and our audited financial statements, which were produced by Franklin and Vaughn, directly to our Congressional contact, Rep. Trey Gowdy, as required by regulations, since we are a Congressionally chartered organization. Treasurer Gregg reminded

the Board that, as Directors, each of them is required to read the IRS 990.

■ Treasurer Gregg reviewed the audited financial statement for the **calendar year** ending December 31, 2015. Investments showed a slight loss due to the declining stock market. Income declined and expenses increased, resulting in a net loss in 2015 of \$9,000, compared to a net increase of \$90,000 in 2014. He attributed the loss to our declining membership.

With no further discussion, upon motion by Treasurer Gregg, seconded by Director Bruzgis, the audited financial report dated December 31, 2015 was approved.

■ Treasurer Gregg reviewed the financial statement for the **fiscal year** ending June 30, 2016. Comparing changes in net assets (net profit) for prior years, net assets declined from \$148,000 in 2014 to \$26,000 in 2015 to \$18,000 in 2016. However, we are still in a strong financial position with liquid assets.

- Comparing actual to budget numbers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, we have a positive variance of \$50,000 in dues received and a positive variance in fundraising receipts of \$20,000. However, the variance in donations shows a negative \$25,000.

- We experienced a negative variance of \$36,000 in our investments.

- For our total net income, we had a positive actual to budget variance of \$36,000. Comparing actual to budget expenditures, The Graybeards magazine expense was \$5,000 below budget.

- Meetings and conventions expenses were slightly higher than budget, but our headquarters expense was down \$10,000 over the budget.

- Communications expenditures show a negative variance of \$9,000, since we had not budgeted any communications expenditures.

So the bottom line, the actual net increase in assets or our net profit, was \$18,100, compared to our budget of negative \$26,000.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding actions the Board could take to reduce expenses, including reducing the number of The Graybeards magazines published each year from the current 6 copies to 4 copies. Also discussed was the advisability of producing a two-year budget, which would be a good tool to assist the Board with longer range planning for our Association.

No action was taken on either suggestion.

■ Treasurer Gregg commenced a discussion on the 2017 budget, comparing it to the 2016 budget and to the working budget for 2017. He explained that it is a working budget until the Board approves it, then it will be a proposed budget for the General Membership to vote on at our Annual Meeting in October.

The budget is showing revenue of \$314,500, expenditures at \$365,595, resulting in a shortfall of \$51,495. We budgeted for a \$34,000 decrease in revenue from \$348,000 in 2016 to \$314,000 in 2017.

Upon motion by Treasurer Gregg, seconded by Director Caliva, the proposed budget was approved.

Membership Report:

■ Director David Clark, who just assumed the Chairmanship of the Membership Committee, asked Mr. John T. (Sonny) Edwards to give the Membership Committee report.

Recruiter Edwards stated his appreciation for being asked to participate in the meeting and expressed his apologies for having to leave early, but he needed to return home to be with his wife, Virginia, who is recovering from surgery and undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer. He expressed their sincere appreciation to all of the KWVA members who have supported them during Virginia's ordeal.

- Sonny conveyed his concerns over the opposition some Korean WAR Veterans have shown over having Korean DEFENSE Veterans as members of the KWVA. Since 1953, our Defense Veterans have been on the line to continue the mission initiated by our War veterans in 1950; to defend the Republic of Korea and maintain the cease fire. The Defense Veterans have earned, and deserve, the privilege of being honored members of the KWVA—along with our War Veterans. Additionally, we need the Defense Veterans to help preserve our legacy.

- Sonny reminded everyone in the room that we all are members of the Membership Committee, and we all need to carry application forms with us and be prepared to identify and recruit new members, both Korean War and Korean Defense veterans. They are out there—we just need to actively recruit them. He also reported that as of the end of July this year, we have lost more members than we did in all twelve months last year.

■ Past Membership Chairman, Director Bob Fitts, echoed the comments made by Sonny with emphasis on the need to attract new members, both war and defense veterans.

■ Membership Chairman David Clark thanked everyone, especially Sonny Edwards and Bob Fitts, for the great work that already has been done. He noted that:

- We are at the point where we need to rely more on the Korean Defense veterans to reverse the current trend of declining membership.

- The Korean Defense veterans are being minted every day. There are 25,000 U.S. service members serving on the peninsula right now. That is where the growth is. If we're going to have any growth, however, we are going to have to go to them, not wait for them to come to us.

- We need to reach them in innovative ways, different ways, e.g., social media, perhaps Facebook, and we need to consider designing an application form that can be completed, with dues paid by credit card, and submitted online. That's how our younger generation conducts business today.

In short, we need to offer incentives that will make the KWVA attractive to our younger veterans.

How can we make the KWVA more attractive to them than the American Legion or the VFW? David and his Membership Committee members, with the help of the entire Board, are ready to roll up their sleeves to begin a new, concerted, effort to explore new avenues to attract all Korean veterans in order to grow our membership.

■ Executive Director Jim Fisher stated that he feels the key to attracting and retaining members lies with the Chapters. Those Chapters that meet monthly, are active, and offer opportunities for the members to participate frequently in programs, parades, and events, etc. are the Chapters that are growing and prospering.

■ Director Jeff Brodeur recommended that we change the wording on the patch that now reads “Korean Service Veteran” to read Korean Defense Veteran,” and that we begin phasing it in for use by the Association. No action was taken at this time on his recommendation.

■ Other Directors, including Whitmore, McHugh and Aldridge, offered suggestions to attract new members – all of which will be considered by the Membership Committee.

Guest Speakers:

Mr. Dan Baughman - the DPAA

President Stevens introduced Mr. Dan Baughman, a representative of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA), who gave us a brief history of his organization and recapped the work they have been performing from the 1970s to present and our efforts to get the North Korean government to cooperate with us in our efforts to recover the remains of our MIA's.

- Even though their archeology standards were very substandard, they did hand over 208 caskets of remains from 1994-1998. From 1996-2005 we had teams operating in North Korea, where we recovered 229 caskets of remains. With more modern technology, like DNA and other methods available to us today, we have disinterred 119 caskets out of the ground that had been temporarily held in the Punch Bowl in Hawaii and resolved 60 of those cases.

- We asked for and received approval from the Chinese government in 2008 to conduct recovery efforts in China to identify sites where some of our military aircraft may have crashed during the war.

- In 1992 the Army formed a task force to attempt to determine if any of our prisoners ended up in Russia. Overall, the work of the Russians has resulted in us finding out about over 300 air cases where they crashed in North Korea. So they have helped us in resolving the fate of some of our airmen.

- Since 2000 we've been in South Korea doing investigations for the approximately 1,000 individuals who are still missing in South Korea.

- In 2017 they will be working on cases dealing with the retreat from Taejon all the way to the Pusan perimeter and then to the bowling alley all the way down to Battle Mountain. Also, they will be going back to the Heartbreak Ridge area. Of the 8,177 cases they have, they have resolved 350.

- They would like to get back into North Korea. However, the National Security Council will not permit them to do so due to the unstable leadership in North Korea.

Following a brief Q&A period, the Board thanked Mr. Baughman and expressed its appreciation to the DPAA for its ongoing efforts to recover and identify the remains of our MIAs, and for the dignified manner in which it returns the remains to their families.

President's Report:

Having only been in office since June 25th, President Stevens stated that he didn't have anything to report at this time. However, he would have a report for our October Board meeting. Instead, he asked the KWVA Legislative Director, Lewis Vaughn, and Director Paul Cunningham, Chairman of the 2017 Veterans Day program, to give reports on their activities.

■ Director Cunningham stated that it was an honor for the KWVA to be named the host veterans group for the 2017 Veterans Day observances. At this time he is still putting together his committee, for which he needs two or three more people.

Two main areas we are responsible for are funding the event at an estimated \$35,000-\$50,000, and then getting a good representation of our Korean veterans to attend the event in the amphitheater at the Arlington National Cemetery. They will keep us posted as plans come together over the next seventeen months.

■ Director Vaughn reported that he had visited with Jerry Wadley, of Finisterre Publishing, Inc., the publisher of our *The Graybeards* magazine. He was very impressed.

- Dr. Wadley explained the procedure he follows in the collection of articles and pictures submitted by our editor, Art Sharp. He sorts them into three different categories: the articles that must go into the next issue, the ones to squeeze in if there is room, and the articles that can wait.

- It takes him on average 80-90 hours to put together each issue, at a cost of \$12.50 per hour. They discussed potential cost savings issues, including using a lighter weight paper and reducing the number of issues per year from six (6) to four (4). Neither of these options seems to be very practical.

One thing we can do is to have our Chapter Presidents monitor their membership rosters closely to ensure that only one copy of our magazine goes to each home and to keep their rosters current by deleting deceased Life Members.

Director Vaughn's closing comment was, "That magazine (*The Graybeards*) is a great magazine, and I think we need to keep it going."

Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director Jim Fisher stated that plans are coming together for a great Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, but we need get the word out to the Chapters and encourage our members to attend.

- We have invited the Minister of Patriot's and Veterans Affairs, the Mayor of Las Vegas, the Base Commander from Nellis Air Force Base, and the Governor of Nevada, Brian Sandoval, to attend the banquet.

- Fisher reviewed the schedule, including the meetings, tours, and entertainment, and encouraged everyone to register now.

- Fisher reported that the 2017 Annual Meeting will be held at the Sheraton in Norfolk, VA. He is getting requests for the 2018 meeting for Dayton, Ohio and Washington, DC. Other suggested sites mentioned were Branson, MO. and San Antonio, TX.

The KWVA will also participate in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC in 2017.

Old Business:

Secretary Ewing presented five (5) "Online Business Without a Meeting Agenda Items" that were approved by the Board during the period between the last physical meeting of the Board and today's meeting. The votes on these items needed to be ratified at this meeting in order for the actions to be officially reflected in our minutes.

■ Action Item No. 1, dated October 22, 2015 requesting the Board of Directors to ratify the appointment of Richard Hernandez as our National VSO. The request was approved.

Upon motion by Director McHugh, seconded by Director Dappen, the Board ratified that action.

■ Action Item No. 1, dated December 24, 2015 requesting the Board of Directors to approve the allocation of \$300.00 to the Tibor Rubin Chapter #329 for organizational expenses. The request was approved.

Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director Bruzgis, the Board ratified that action.

■ Action Item No. 1, dated January 25, 2016 requesting the Board of Directors approval to extend the contract with Communications and Outreach Director Fred Lash for an additional six (6) month period (February 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016). The request was approved.

Upon motion by Director Fitts, seconded by Director Ragusa, the Board ratified that action.

■ Action Item No. 2, dated January 25, 2016 requesting the Board of Directors approval to reassign a portion of the KWVA Treasurer's financial responsibilities from our Treasurer to Sager Financial Services. The request was approved.

Upon motion by Director McHugh, seconded by Director Whitmore, the Board ratified that action.

■ Action Item No. 1, dated March 4, 2016 requesting the Board of Directors approval to appoint Narce Caliva to the Board of Directors to complete the term of Director Richard Brown who resigned due to health reasons. The request was approved.

Upon motion by Director Whitmore, seconded by Director Clark, the Board ratified that action.

■ Secretary Ewing called for a motion to approve destroying the Voting Ballots cast for the 2016 election of KWVA Officers and Directors now that the vote has been certified by the CPA.

Upon motion by Director Bruzgis, seconded by Director Dappen, approval was granted.

■ President Stevens asked for a motion to approve the reappointment of Jim Fisher, Executive Director, Lew Ewing, Secretary, and Tom Gregg, Treasurer to serve from June 25, 2016 through June 25, 2017.

Upon motion by Director Aldridge, seconded by Director Ragusa, the request was approved.

■ President Stevens asked for a motion to approve the Committee assignments as shown on the list of those in your packet.

Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director Caliva, the list of Committee assignments was approved.

■ President Stevens asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Larry Kinard as the Immediate Past President Advisor to the President.

Upon motion by Director Bruzgis, seconded by Director McHugh, the appointment was approved.

■ President Stevens, as past chairman of the Bylaws Committee, made a motion proposing a Bylaws change that would amend the current language in our Bylaws that require the Board to hold two (2) meetings each year to read that the Board would hold only one (1) physical Board meeting each year. The rationale for the proposed change was to eliminate the cost associated with the second meeting.

In addition, the need for two (2) meetings per year has been eliminated with the addition of an Executive Director, bi-weekly conference calls between the Executive Director, President and others and the addition of our Online Business Without a Meeting voting process now in place.

Following was a lengthy discussion with various motions made, but never seconded, or withdrawn. The advisability of giving the President the discretion to call for one physical and one electronic Board meeting was proposed. However, discussion centered on the importance of the Board being able to hold two (2) physical meetings whereby the members of the Board would be able to interact face-to-face and hold discussions (such as this one) on matters that come before the Board.

The motion made by President Stevens, seconded by Director Aldridge, to amend the Bylaw that calls for two (2) physical Board meetings per year be amended to read that the Board will hold one (1) physical Board meeting per year was not approved.

■ President Stevens presented a proposed amendment to the SPM that he submitted when he was Chairman of the Bylaws Committee. We have been using a CPA in Tucson, Arizona, at a cost of \$3,500 per election. The proposal is to have the ballots processed through Jim Doppelhammer's office and certified by the CPA in Charleston, Illinois at a much reduced cost, estimated to be \$500 per election.

Upon motion by Director McHugh, seconded by Director Clark, the proposed amendment was approved.

■ President Stevens opened discussion on a proposed Bylaw amendment as submitted by Col. Bill Weber (U.S. Army ret.) that would allow Republic of Korea KATUSAs who fought alongside our U.S. forces during the war, and who have since immigrated to the United States and become American citizens, to become Regular Members of the KWVA. Following discussion, it was recommended that the proposed amendment be expanded to include any veterans from any country who fought in Korea under the United Nations flag and who have since immigrated to the United States and have become American citizens, to be eligible for Regular membership in the KWVA.

Upon motion by Director Vaughn, seconded by Director Bruzgis, the Board voted unanimously to refer this proposal to the Bylaws Committee with instructions to draft the required changes to the Bylaws and bring it back to the Board for its final vote at our October 2016 Board of Directors meeting.

■ President Stevens presented a request submitted on behalf of his

Chapter by Mr. Tom Thiel, Commander of the Korean War and Korean Defense Service Veterans of Lake County, (Florida) Chapter #169), that the KWVA support a nationwide effort to campaign for and assist in obtaining a First Class POW/MIA Forever Stamp to increase the public knowledge and awareness that there are over 83,000 United States servicemen and women still unaccounted for.

Upon motion by Director Aldridge, seconded by Director McHugh, the Board voted to approve the request. Senior Advisor, Larry Kinard was requested to contact Mr. Thiel to determine the extent of the assistance the Chapter was requesting and to determine how the KWVA can help with this very worthy project.

■ President Stevens presented a request for the KWVA to make a donation to support the U.S. Army Museum at Ft. Belvoir, VA. No specific contribution was included in the request. Following discussion, upon motion by Director Aldridge, seconded by Director Clark, the Board voted to support the request on a recorded vote of eight (8) in favor and five (5) opposed with no amount defined.

■ President Stevens presented a request for the KWVA to support a House Resolution proposed by the "Coalition of Korean War and Cold War Families of the Missing" for the U.S. government to resume talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Upon motion by Director McHugh, seconded by Director Fitts, the Board voted to table this request until we find out what it is about.

■ President Stevens introduced a proposed change to Bylaws Article I Membership, 3. Dues. However, following a brief discussion, he referred the proposal to the Bylaws Committee for further study and to be re-introduced at a later Board meeting.

Remarks from Senior Advisor and Past President Kinard:

Mr. Kinard asked for a few minutes to express his gratitude and thanks to all of the Board members, and others, who served with him during his term as President of our Association. He stated, "I feel like I had wonderful support. I've gone around this country to some of the meetings and people seemed to be very appreciative of what the Board has done over the last three years. I just want to say thank you.

"Mainly I feel like we've had a good three years during my term as President. I think we did some good things. I really feel the KWVA is in a better position now to move forward than we were before we took some of the actions we've taken.

"I think the addition of an executive director has moved us a step closer to being a very professional recognized organization. A lot of that is due to Jim Fisher and what he's doing for us."

To show his appreciation to the members of the Board, Larry presented each of them with a personally inscribed coffee mug bearing a picture of our Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. The Board members all thanked Larry for his service as President with a round of applause.

The President recessed the Board of Directors meeting in order to convene an Executive Session.

Board of Directors Reconvened:

Following the Executive session, President Stevens reconvened the regular session of the Board of Directors.

Upon motion by Director McHugh, seconded by Director Cunningham, the Board voted to terminate the KWVA contract of Mr. Fred Lash as the Association's Communications Director.

Next, President Stevens called for a vote on Mr. Kenneth Cook's request for reinstatement as a member of the KWVA. With a unanimous vote, the Board rejected Mr. Cook's request for reinstatement.

Closing:

President Stevens called on our Chaplain, Jack Keep, for a closing benediction, which was followed by everyone standing and saluting the flag.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Director Aldridge, seconded by Director Whitmore, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lewis M. Ewing, Secretary

Christmas/Thanksgiving etc. stories wanted



Rumor has it that we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Festivus, Christmas, and other major winter holidays again this year. With that in mind, our editorial staff requests that you send us your stories, photos, and assorted art work of your experiences at Thanksgiving, Hanukah,

Festivus, Christmas, etc. during the Korean War. We will fold them into a special holiday edition.

No doubt you exchanged cards with the folks back home, created battlefield Christmas trees, attended special religious or non-religious services, dreamt about being home with your families, spouses, friends, etc.

Where were you? What were you thinking on those holi-

days? Did the enemies recognize them in any fashion, e.g., increase or decrease their attacks, deliver special propaganda. Or, was it simply business as usual? Who went above and beyond the call of duty to make your holidays special...maybe a cook, a chaplain, a medic?

Let us know where you were, what was happening, who was involved, etc. Just send your material to: Arthur G. Sharp, Holidays Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573-7141.

Please get your stories in as quickly as possible, preferably before 15 November 2016.

Thanks.

And Happy Thanksgiving, Hanukah, Festivus, Merry Christmas...happy whatever holiday you observe.