

# KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC. ■ ■ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**OCTOBER 11, 2016**

**Meeting Announcement:**

KWVA Website and the July/August 2016 issue of *The Graybeards* magazine.

**Place of the Announced Meeting:**

Gold Coast Casino and Hotel, 4000 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, Phone 702-367-7111, October 11, 2016 @ 0900 – 1100.

**Call Meeting to Order:**

President Thomas W. Stevens

**Invocation:**

Executive Director James R. Fisher

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Judge Advocate William Burns

**Declaration of a Quorum:**

President Stevens appointed Mr. William Mac Swain as the Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Mac Swain reported that there was a quorum present.

**Rules of Decorum and Debate:**

President Stevens reviewed the Rules of Decorum and Debate printed on SPM Form 4.14-1 in the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. Standard Procedures Manual.

**Administrative Announcements:**

Executive Director Fisher pointed out the location of facilities within the hotel and briefly reviewed the schedule of upcoming activities.

**Adopt Meeting Agenda:**

Upon motion by Commander Charles Travers of the Mid Florida Chapter #173, seconded by the KWVA Ethics and Grievance Committee Chairman and Commander of the Lake Erie Chapter #112 Steve Szekely, the Meeting Agenda was adopted.

**Roll Call of KWVA Board of Directors:**

President Thomas W. Stevens	Present
First Vice President Warren Wiedhahn	Present
Second Vice President Jeffrey Brodeur	Present
Executive Director James R. Fisher	Present
Secretary Lewis M. Ewing	Present
Treasurer Charles T. Gregg	Present
Director Roy Aldridge	Present
Director Albert McCarthy	Present
Director Thomas M. McHugh	Present
Director L. T. Whitmore	Present
Director Narce Caliva	Present
Director Robert Fitts	Present
Director J. Fred Ragusa	Absent
Director Lewis Vaughn	Present
Director George Bruzgis	Absent

Director David Clark	Present
Director Paul Cunningham	Present
Director Luther Dappen	Present

Secretary Ewing stated that fifteen (15) officers and directors were in attendance, with two (2) directors being absent.

**KWVA Staff:**

Senior Advisor Larry Kinard  
 Judge Advocate William Burns  
 Webmaster Jim Doppelhammer  
 KWVA Liaison to Korea Jongwoo Han  
 Sergeant at Arms Bill Mac Swain  
 Court Recorder: Joanne Williams, from Depo International Services

**■ Action on Absences:**

- President Stevens asked approval to excuse two of our Board of Directors members who are absent: Director Ragusa, whose wife is very ill so he needed to be with her, and Director Bruzgis, who is facing some serious surgery so his doctor would not grant him permission to travel.

§ Upon motion by Charles Travers, seconded by Dick Leaf, Chapter #270, the excused absences were approved.

**■ Approval of Minutes of the Previous General Membership Meeting:**

- The last General Membership meeting was held in Arlington, VA, July 25, 2015. The minutes of that meeting were printed in the September/October 2015 issue of *The Graybeards* magazine.

§ Upon motion by Charles Hoak, member of Chapter #313, seconded by Charles Travers, the minutes were approved as published.

**■ Guest Speakers:**

**Doctor Jongwoo Han**

Doctor Han is a professor at Syracuse University and President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF), a foundation dedicated to preserving memories of Korean War veterans and honoring their sacrifices during the war. He and his staff are attempting to meet with, and accumulate the personal stories of, as many Korean War veterans as possible to be retained in the KWLF Digital Library.

- He reported that a two-day meeting was held in Baltimore, MD, to make all the interviews into a digital history textbook about the Korean War so that the younger generation in the United States can learn about the war.

§ It is a major undertaking and will cost approximately \$400,000.

- He has the assistance of two professors who are leaders in writing the curriculum.

- Dr. Han thanked our Korean War veterans for their sacrifices during the war and pointed out that what was accomplished there resulted in South Korea becoming the 11th largest economy in the world today.

§ They now are providing economic aid to countries that are in need, just exactly the opposite of how it was 65 years ago when South Korea received the aid.

- He received the KWVA's support at our meeting in Quincy, MA in

**LEGEND: ■ = NEW AGENDA ITEM; ● = NEW TOPIC/SPEAKER; § IMPORTANT POINT**

2011 and began collecting interviews from members of the Syracuse Chapter #105.

§ He has recorded over 800 interviews, plus he has accumulated 8,000 pictures and letters that will be recorded and preserved.

- Dr. Han discussed:

§ The history of the KWLF

§ How and why he started the foundation

§ Some of the people who influenced him from his high school days forward, including his father, who was the superintendent of the Korean Air Force Academy.

- He proudly talked about the second history teachers conference held this year in Orlando, FL, where he had 90 teachers from 25 states gather to learn about the beautiful things that have come out of the Korean War as a result of your sacrifices and those people who were killed in action and are still missing.

- The 2017 teachers conference will be held either in Washington, DC or in Las Vegas; he plans to invite at least 200 teachers.

- Dr. Han talked about the Model United Nation Asian Affairs (MUNAA), a new global organization for high school students from around the world, with 800 students in the United States.

§ His foundation will host the first MUNAA conference in 2017 to educate our high school students about Asian affairs, at which they will talk about the Korean War and North Korea and China.

§ The second pillar of his education program is the Korean War Digital History Project, which will make our interviews and artifacts into digital teaching materials.

§ He will be working with Mr. Terry Cherry, the incoming President of the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS), who is fully onboard and will help promote all of these projects.

§ He plans to make a documentary about the Korean Revisit Program and the Peace Camp Program in an effort to keep our legacy together.

§ He solicited help from the KWVA in his efforts to obtain more interviews from both Korean War and Korean Defense veterans.

### **Mary Urquhart**

Mary Urquhart, who lives in Hollywood, CA, is a movie star and also serves on the board of the Korean War Memorial Foundation, where she will be playing a major role in raising funds for the Wall of Remembrance. Her introduction to the memorial came when a family friend, whose brother fought in the Korean War, approached her soliciting her help in raising funds to provide maintenance for the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC, which was falling into disrepair since the National Park Service did not have the funds available to make the necessary repairs.

She is a professional fund raiser. Her experience tells her that it is imperative that we raise funds for the maintenance of the Memorial and also create an endowment fund now, in addition to raising the funds required to build the Wall of Remembrance.

- Her plans are to begin with a major fund raising event in Seoul, followed by one in Washington, DC.

§ By May 2016 she had commitments totaling \$11 million in Seoul.

§ Now that the bill has passed, the ROK Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs is prepared to commit another four and one half million dollars to

the Wall of Remembrance for a three-year period.

§ The goal in Seoul is to launch a national campaign with the citizens to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

§ R & E, one of the top four media companies, has agreed to sign on and launch this campaign with them.

§ She feels that once the donations are starting to come in from Korean companies, then United States companies will feel pressure that they will have to pony up also. We will get more support from the defense contractors, information technology, and insurance companies that will benefit.

- In her opinion, the Wall of Remembrance will cost approximately \$25 million, and it will take up to three years to receive all the final approvals from the various commissions, including the Arts Commission and the Preservation Commission, that must sign off on the Wall.

- In the meantime, all of us need to begin raising funds on our local level. The fund raising campaign will need to be professionally done through the use of social media.

- For a social media campaign to be successful, we will need a face (a prominent, well known and recognizable person) to serve as the spokesperson for the KWVA. Really, we need several, preferably five, who would help raise awareness for the Memorial as well as the KWVA.

- Much work remains to be done.

### **Dan Baughman**

Mr. Baughman is with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), a new organization formed from different organizations within the Department of Defense. Their job is to account for missing American servicemen who go back to 1941 and selected civilians. That includes Korea.

- He stated that the number of MIAs in Korea did not change from the number first reported in the 1970s all the way through the 1980s, since we were unable to get into North Korea to search for our missing.

- In 1994, Jimmy Carter visited Kim Il-Sung and convinced him to let us into North Korea. So, from 1996 to 2005, we had recovery teams operating in North Korea between three and eight months a year, conducting 33 missions in which we recovered 229 caskets of remains.

- There were more individuals represented in the caskets than 229. That was important to us since, even though the armistice agreement calls for both sides to turn over remains that they find after the armistice, that wasn't done after 1954.

- The North Koreans did repatriate to the United Nations Command 208 caskets of remains they had recovered between 1990 and 1994, although they did a terrible job of collecting them.

- Some of the caskets contained remains of up to eight humans each.

- We didn't have any DNA at the time to sort out these guys, but we did have some really good anthropologists who rearticulated them like a puzzle. However, we were getting very few identifications of those remains that came back from the North Koreans.

- We are getting good identifications from the work that we did in North Korea because we supervised the chain of custody of it from end to end.

- Each side worked for some number of months in 1953 through 1954 recovering war dead.

- We got back 4,167 caskets that included Americans, New Zealanders, Australians, British and South Koreans. Out of those recoveries we could

Please turn to **MEETING** on page 57

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## MEETING from page 24

not identify 867 Americans who were turned over by the North Koreans and Chinese.

- One of those caskets went into Arlington and 866 went into the Punchbowl in Hawaii National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. In 1999 we started exhuming those caskets; from the 119 caskets exhumed to date, using today's technologies, we have identified and returned 68 sets of remains to the families.

- We also have 19 known war dead in China. Some of our aviators were lost pursuing Russian flown jets into China, attacking them as they were landing or taking off.

- About 15 years ago we asked the Chinese for their cooperation and they gave us limited cooperation. They agreed to an archival agreement that gave us limited access to the information in their archives.

- There were reports during the war that hundreds of prisoners were sent to Russia, so in 1992 we formed a commission to run this aground. The Russians allowed us to go into the old gulags, check the card files and hospital records, and excavate some plots in some of their cemeteries where some Americans reportedly were buried. Unfortunately, no Americans were found.

- It is still an open research question to date. We have not identified specific MIAs who ended up in the gulag system from the Korean War.

- We also have an archive program in South Korea because we have about a thousand individuals lost in the territory near Chipyeong-ni, Naktong Bridge, the Bowling Alley area, Taejon area and all around there. We have a number of missions every year that continue to search that area.

- Of the 8,177 MIAs known in the 1970s, we have resolved nearly 400 cases so we are now looking to identify 7,889 MIAs.

- We are still trying to get back into North Korea and are ready to go once we receive the OK from the National Security Council.

### Warren Wiedhahn

- The Korea Revisit program began in 1975. The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea funds the program for veterans of the United States, and all of the other nations who supported the ROK during the war, to return to Korea as their guests.

- The program is administered by the ROK Minister of Patriot and Veterans Affairs. Mr. Wiedhahn's company, Military Historic Tours, coordinates the tours for them.

- In addition to the Revisit Korea Program for our veterans, the MPVA also sponsors Dr. Jongwoo Han's Youth Camp for Children Program held in July of each year.

- In 2016, for the first time, the MPVA opened the Revisit program to include Korean Defense veterans in addition to the Korean War veterans.

- Also, in situations where a Korean War Veteran is deceased or, if the veteran is still living but unable to travel, the program has been expanded to allow the veteran to select a direct descendent: son, grandson, daughter, granddaughter, or their spouse, to go representing the veteran.

Mr. Wiedhahn encouraged everyone, especially the Korean Defense

veterans, who has not participated in the Revisit Korea Program to do so while your health permits you to go.

### ■ The Graybeards Editor

President Stevens announced that the editor of our The Graybeards magazine, Mr. Art Sharp, has submitted his resignation to become effective after editing the March/April 2017 issue of the magazine.

- He commended Mr. Sharp on the outstanding job he has done editing our magazine for the past 13 years.

- We are seeking applications from qualified candidates to fill this very important position. To date, we have received two applications.

### Ray Amelio – The Storyline Group

President Stevens introduced Mr. Ray Amelio, who is working with The Storyline Group in Atlanta to write a book entitled: Doc Amelio's The Lighter Side of War, in which he is trying to capture the funny stories that veterans have experienced from all of the wars.

- Mr. Amelio served as a medic during the Vietnam War and experienced, firsthand, some humorous situations that he recalls.

- While working with veterans for 48 years since the Vietnam War, he heard more stories that he wanted to share with others, especially veterans, so the plan to publish these stories in a "coffee table" size book materialized.

- He asked for, and received, the non-financial support of the KWVA from the Board of Directors at yesterday's Board meeting.

§ He wants to conduct some interviews with some of you while here in Las Vegas.

### ■ Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Jim Fisher stated that we had a very busy year in 2016 and we can expect another extremely busy year in 2017.

- One important thing that we accomplished this year was to become more visible and receive more publicity for the KWVA.

- We are ranked in the top ten of the VSOs in the United States, but to be able to keep going in that direction, the Korean Defense veterans will be vital.

- He stated that the 2017 Annual Meeting will be held October 4-8 at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, VA, where there are many interesting things to see.

- We have flooded the Korean Embassy with requests for the Ambassador for Peace Medals to the point they ran out of medals and they are having more made.

§ They had some administrative problems with the personnel in charge of the program, but that has been corrected and they should fill all of the requests in the near future.

- The KWVA will be in charge of all of the events in Washington, DC in 2017, including the presidential events in Arlington National Cemetery for Veterans Day.

§ Director Paul Cunningham will chair the Veterans Day ceremonies for the KWVA.

§ We want as many Korean Veterans as possible to attend all of the activities, especially the program in the Arlington National Cemetery

amphitheater, the reception at our hotel, and the ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

- 2018 will be the 65th anniversary of the end of the Korean War so, upon the request of our Korean friends, we will hold our Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, July 25-28.

§ The ROK Embassy will participate in and support many of the scheduled events.

#### ■ Dates of Annual Membership Meetings

- President Stevens called for a motion to approve the location for the 2017 Annual Meeting to be held in Norfolk, VA in October 2017 and the 2018 Annual Meeting to be held in the Washington, DC area in July 2018.

§ Upon motion by Mr. Steve Szekely, seconded by Mr. Bill Lack, the motion was approved.

#### ■ Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Gregg reported that this is the third year for the independent CPA auditors in Illinois. Their engagement runs out after 2017, so we will be putting out another proposal for our audit.

- Sager Financial Services in Charleston, IL is our accounting firm. They keep track of our general ledger and they also prepare our IRS 990, which has been filed.

- He stated that the budget will show that we need new members and we need to replace our Assistant Treasurer who passed away recently. Suggested qualifications will be in The Graybeards soon.

- Next, he reviewed our audited financial statements:

§ We have investments of \$759,000 at year-end December 31, 2015.

§ Our investment portfolio has really turned around and shows an increase of approximately 30 percent from prior years.

- Looking at the Budget for the 12 months ending June 30, 2017, the budgeted revenue is at \$334,500, \$14,400 lower than the prior year.

- He reviewed changes in revenue and expenditure line items.

§ We are budgeting a 44 percent increase in investment income

§ Membership Office expenses are down a few thousand dollars

§ Membership meeting expenses are going up

§ Headquarters expense is down

§ The Elections Committee expenses are going down

§ VAVS Committee expenses are going down

§ Membership Committee expenses are going down

§ Donation expense is going up

- We are budgeting \$45,000 for the 2017 Veterans Day Events in Washington.

- The budget shows that we will need to tap into our reserves to cover a decrease in our net assets of \$57,095.

§ Upon motion by Treasurer Tom Gregg, seconded by Mr. Charles Travers, Commander of Chapter 173, the 2017 budget was approved.

#### ■ Membership Committee Report

- Membership Committee Chairman Director David Clark began his report by thanking and commending Mr. John T. (Sonny) Edwards, a past Director who currently serves as the Deputy Chairman of the

Membership Committee, for the fantastic job he has done in keeping the incoming membership going just by sheer energy.

- Mr. Edwards asked Director Clark to recognize in his absence, Mr. Eddie Bell, the Department of Texas Commander, and Mr. Steve Szekely for their outstanding efforts in recruiting new members and assisting with the organization of new chapters.

- Director Clark reported that through September, our membership has declined by 627 members from 13,847 in 2015 to 13,220 this year.

§ We are recruiting new members, however, not to the level that we are losing them.

§ To date this year, we have lost 1,068 members who have passed away, compared to 807 for the same time last year. Unfortunately, that trend will continue since the average age of our Korean War members is 85 years old.

- The Korean Defense veterans are the future of the KWVA, unless we want the organization to become a last man standing organization. If we don't recruit the Defense veterans, that is going to happen – it may be 10 years from now, but it's coming.

- We can't talk about it today because it's too early in the planning stages, but the Board is considering an aggressive plan, using outside professionals, to implement a recruiting strategy aimed at growing our membership.

§ We are looking at using social media and redesigning our website with new content aimed at attracting the younger Korean Defense veterans to make them want to join our organization.

§ Whatever we do we must do it now –time is running out!

- During the Q & A period, an unidentified member suggested that we change the name of the Association to the Korean Veterans Association because he was having difficulty recruiting Defense veterans because they did not consider themselves "War" veterans.

- Mr. Arden Rowley, a Korean War veteran who was a Prisoner of War in Korea, reminded everyone that the Korean War has not ended – there was a truce signed. The Korean War is still in effect so, in his opinion, anyone who served in Korea after July 27, 1953 should still be considered to be a Korean War veteran.

- Mr. Eddie Bell, who is a Korean Defense veteran and Commander of the Department of Texas, KWVA, supported Mr. Rowley's position, stating that he has a plan for recruiting new members in Texas, and eventually across the country, whereby he stresses using the word "War" rather than Defense since the war has not ended.

§ There is still combat in Korea today whether you want to believe it or not. If we want to maintain and build on our legacy, he feels it is important to retain the name Korean War Veterans Association.

#### ■ Legislative Affairs

- Our National Legislative Director, Lewis Vaughn, said that we have several pieces of legislation that we want to introduce into Congress this year.

§ First, we will re-introduce a bill authorizing the printing of a POW/MIA forever stamp. The folks in Florida worked on this. They received about 50 sponsors. However, the bill did not get out of Committee. The National Legislative Committee will be working with folks from Florida.

§ The second bill is what we call the 10 percent rule, designed to

amend the IRS ruling that limits the number of Korean Defense veterans who may join the KWVA. This bill will remove the perceived differences between the Korean War veterans and the Korea Defense veterans and is being headed up by Sam Johnson.

Mr. Vaughn reminded everyone that once the bill gets out of committee, we will need the help of everyone in the room to contact their Congressmen and Senators, encouraging them to be a co-sponsor for the bill and, of course, vote for it when the time comes.

#### ■ Fund Raising

§ Director Tom McHugh, the Chairman of our KWVA Fundraising Committee, reported that the 2016 Fund Raiser netted a grand total of \$75,026, thanks to a last minute donation of \$250 from the wife of Mr. Bill Richards for a used blue blazer that Director McHugh was accepting offers for.

§ We thanked Mrs. Richards and also we commended Director McHugh for his outstanding fund raising efforts this year.

• Director McHugh explained that, in his opinion, the Committee's decision to offer cash prizes to the winners rather than a cruise or an M-1 rifle, helped increase the number of tickets sold. They plan to offer cash prizes again in 2017.

#### ■ Good of the Order

• Mr. Arden Rowley, a member of Chapter #122 in Mesa, AZ, and a former Korean War POW, stated that he has published four books about the Korean War POWs and he will have copies for sale in the Hospitality Room for anyone who wishes to purchase a book.

• First Vice President Warren Wiedhahn reminded everyone that applications are being accepted for four open Director positions on the KWVA Board of Directors and he challenged the members present, especially the Korean Defense veterans, to submit their applications.

§ The election will take place in the spring of 2017

§ The new Directors will take office on June 25, 2017.

#### ■ Closing Ceremony

• Executive Director Fisher offered the closing benediction.  
• President Stevens led the salute to our flag and adjourned the meeting at 11:42am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lewis M. Ewing, Secretary

## JOHNSON from page 17

focus my last two years on helping Third District families and veterans until my final day in office.

I want to give whoever my future successor may be ample time for his or her family to pray about serving in public office. To make an analogy, much like officers in the Armed Forces, you do not step down from your duty station until your replacement has arrived.

Recently, someone asked me how I could remain the eternal optimist in this day and age. The answer I gave sounded simple, but it is true: Hope and Faith. I have boundless hope for America, and I know in my heart our best days are ahead. I have no doubt our future shines bright if we hold fast to the core principles our Nation was founded upon. And of course my faith is what sustained me throughout my darkest days in captivity.

I am grateful to a loving God who spared and redeemed my life and provided this wonderful opportunity to serve others. I have devoted many decades of my life as a public servant to this Great Nation. Giving back to our country I love so much truly feels like America gave me the gift – the gift and honor of serving each one of you.

I look forward to serving you in the next two years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. God bless you and God bless America. I salute you – one and all.

Sincerely,

Sam Johnson

*NOTE: Sam Johnson, after whom Chapter 270 is named, is one of four remaining Korean War-era veterans in the U.S. House of Representatives. The other three are/were John Conyers (D-MI), Charles Rangel (D-NY), who is retiring this year, and Howard Coble (R-NC), who passed away in 2015.*

## Reunion Calendar: 2017

### APRIL

**Forgotten Battles and Units of the Forgotten War:** a Korean War historical seminar and commemoration. (Organized by Outpost International, Society of the 3d Infantry Division), 19-22 April, Springfield, VA, Hilton Hotel. C. Monika Stoy, timmoni15@yahoo.com, (703) 912-4218.

**L Co., 21st Inf. Regt., 24th Inf. Div.,** 19-23 Apr., Nashville, TN. George Vlastic, 910-287-5618, geonanvlastic@atmc.net

**76th Eng. Construction Bn.,** 27-29 Apr., Lebanon, TN, Comfort Suites. Richard Cerone, PO Box 472, Bridgton, ME 04009, 207-647-3877/207-595-2232 (cell), rfcerone@gmail.com or Bruce Fonnest, 3245 E. University Ave., Apt. 1009, Las Cruces, NM 88011, 575-285-1944/575-649-1145 (cell), brucefonnest@hotmail.com

### MAY

**5th Air Force, Nagoya/Komaki Air Base, Japan,** 7-9 May, Charleston, SC. Joe Calhoun, 150 Dufford Rd., Evans City, PA 16033, 724-538-3638, normac@embarqmail.com.

**73rd Heavy Tank Bn.** (Korea 1950-57), 7-11 May, Pigeon Forge, TN. Vic Caproni, 5035 Dellers Glen, Cincinnati, OH 45238, 513-662-4949, vscaproni@yahoo.com

**67th Tac Recon Wing** (USAF, All units), 8-12 May, Boise, ID. Marion Edwards, 126 Willow Ave., Greenfield Twp. PA 18407, 570-222-4307, jeeme@nep.net

### OCTOBER

**25th Infantry Division Assn.,** 2-8 Oct., Oklahoma City, OK. Sarah Krause, PO Box 7, Flourtown, PA 19031, Fax: 215-248-5250; TropicLtn@aol.com or www.25thida.org

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