



**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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MONTHLY

REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2014

Washington, D.C.

The following from the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association is given for the month of November 2014.

To: President and Board of Directors for the Korean War Veterans Association

Let me first wish you and your families a wonderful Holiday Season and Blessings for a happy and healthy New Year.

This will be the first in a series of monthly reports that will be provided to you with a brief description of what has been accomplished and what I had worked on in the previous month.

RECRUITMENT:

I have been working with Director Sonny Edwards on two initiatives to reach out to the 65th Infantry Regiment (All Puerto Rican Regiment) and the American Indian Korean War Veterans. Many Korean War Veterans of these two minorities have not even heard of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Both Sonny and I have spent time with Mr. Don Loudner who is the President of the American Indian Veterans Association of the United States of American. Don is very interested in helping to bring more American Indians into the Korean War Veterans Association. We have been encouraging him with any support we can in assisting in the recruitment of American Indians into our Association.

I have reached out to Mr. Tony Mele , the Executive Director of the 65th Infantry Regiment. The 65th was an all Puerto Rican Regiment that was assigned to the Third Infantry Division during the Korean War. They have a very active Association. I encouraged Tony to assist in having members of the 65th Infantry Regiment to join the Korean War Veterans Association. He stated that he will bring this up as an agenda item at their next Board meeting. We agreed that we need to meet and continue conversation on this matter.

One final statement about recruiting new members into the KWVA. It is not the responsibility of one or two individuals. It is EVERYONE's responsibility to recruit.

EVENTS:

This past month on Veterans Day, President Kinard visited Washington, D.C. to participate and attend Veterans Day commemorative events at the White House, Arlington National Cemetery and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Others who accompanied President Kinard were in Arlington National Cemetery were Chaplain Leo Ruffing and Director L.T. Whitmore. Both Leo and L.T. were the color bearers representing the KWVA. We all participated in the KWVA Wreath presentation at the Korean War Veterans Memorial where there was a good crowd on hand for the ceremony. MG Shin, the Defense Attaché also participated in our ceremony.

Immediately after the wreath presentation our group and the crowd on hand participated in the turn to Busan remembrance ceremony. L.T. Whitmore read the proclamation to the crowd.

On Veterans Day, Major General Shin invited us to his home for a luncheon meeting to commemorate Veterans Day and to briefly go over events for the upcoming New Year (2015). It was a very productive meeting and MG Shin and his wife are gracious hosts.

In November I had a meeting with the Assistant Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Hong. He is Tiger's replacement at the Embassy. LTC Hong is a very gracious individual with a heart for the Korean War Veterans. He speaks very good English and is willing to help and support the KWVA in any way he can. He works directly for MG Shin. LTC Hong is a part of the July 24-27, 2015 anniversary committee for the Embassy.

The KWVA Washington Committee for the 2015 Annual Meeting and 20th anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Memorial had its initial meeting for the events of July 24 – 27, 2015. The Committee consists of the following individuals:

Jim Fisher – Executive Director

Warren Wiedhahn – 1st Vice President

Rick Dean – Executive Director, Korean War Memorial Foundation

LTC Hong – Assistant Defense Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea

Miss Hannah Kim – Director of the Moment of Peace

I have been looking at hotels in the metropolitan D.C. area that will give us the best price and meet our support requirement. I have narrowed it down to three hotels. We are in the second round of conversations. I will have President Kinard look at the hotels on his next visit to Washington, D.C. We would like to have a hotel selected by January 15th.

I spoke with Dr. Jongwoo Han to incorporate his program with the KWVA. He stated that the only assistance he is in need of at the present is to see if KWVA can secure 60 rooms in the same hotel that the KWVA will be staying at during their visit to Washington, D.C. for the annual meeting. I have no problem securing the additional rooms, but I feel the rooms designated to Dr. Jongwoo Han's contingent should be on a separate contract..

I have coordinated with the Military District of Washington for support of Armed Forces Color Guards, Bands, Buglers and Wreath presenters for our event. Our point of contact at MDW is SFC Seth Lombardy. We have been given a guarantee that they will support our events.

I met with Robbin Owen at the National Park Service pertaining to securing the Memorial for events during the July 24 – 27, 2015. The Memorial is secured for the KWVA. She is requesting a meeting with her staff and our Committee as soon as we have finalized our event. This should take place in January.

I have spoken with Warren Weidhahn. We have selected the dates for the mid-winter board meetings for March 25 -27, March in Washington, D.C. The Board meeting will be conducted in the same hotel that we will be staying in during the week of July 24 – 27, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE:

I met with a lobbyist friend of mine and I gave her the background and some of the suggestions from the members of the KWVA. There are four scenarios that we are looking at to get the problem with the IRS resolved:

1. Make a formal request to the IRS to eliminate the provision that limits the KWVA to 10% non-war veterans. Recommend when we go to the IRS we have a letter explaining the purpose of relief with signatures from as many Congressman and Senators supporting the cause.
2. Get a bill Initiated in the 114th Congress and acquire enough co-sponsors to get it passed by Congress in 2015.

3. Possibly change the name of the Korean War Veterans Association to Korean Veterans Association of the United States of America.

She highly recommended that we seek the assistance of a “Association Lawyer” to see what would be the most efficient and cost effect measure to move this action to resolved in the most expedient manner.

I will be discussing this topic with the President when he comes to Washington D.C. in December.

FUND RAISING:

Spoke with Tom McHugh. He sent out over 50 letters to major corporations seeking for assistance in contributing to the KWVA. We have not heard any positive answers back as of this date.

Tom is also working on a separate commemorative coin for the 20th anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in which the profits of selling the coin will go to the KWVA.

IN CLOSING:

I would say my first month on the job has been a challenge. There is much to learn pertaining to past procedures and policies. The Directors whom I have been working with are very dedicated and true to the mission.

An initial thought is that we need to recruit and recruit young. For the legacy of the Korean War Veterans Association to continue we need to reach out to all who served in Korea up to the present. Without them, KWVA will cease to exist.

It is an honor to serve you and be a part of this great organization.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

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Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association