



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

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**MONTHLY**

**REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2014**

Washington, D.C.

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

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

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and hoping that 2015 brings you a happy and healthy New Year.

This report is my monthly report for December 2014. It highlights what I have been working on during the month of November 2014.

**RECRUITMENT:**

- We continue to put a full court press on recruiting. There have been some conversations pertaining to Korean Veterans organizations that can no longer manage their associations due to the declining membership and health of some of them members. A suggestion has been made that these organizations could be managed under contract by the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) and would count for dues and membership in the KWVA while maintaining their individuality as a sub group within the KWVA. Such organizations as The Chosin Few and The Korean War Ex-POWs could be managed under the KWVA but will have the opportunities to conduct individual events and reunions.
- There are four “recognized” Korean Veterans organizations by the Veterans Administration. These organizations ARE NOT chartered organizations. The only chartered organization is the Korean War Veterans Association. The four organizations are:
  - The Chosin Few
  - Korean Ex-POWs
  - Korea Veterans of America
  - United States Federation of Korean Veterans Organization

Of the four listed above, I would think that The Chosin Few and the Korean Ex-POWs might consider joining the ranks of the KWVA. These two organizations are considered “last man” organizations since only Korean War veterans associated who participated in these actions in the Korean War are eligible to join.

- As membership in the KWVA continues to decline as more Korean War Veterans pass from this earth, it is essential that the KWVA consider new and innovative ways to increase membership into the association. There are an estimated 2,275,000 Korean War veterans still living. There have been some suggestions to increase membership in the KWVA that we may want to consider changing the name of the Korean War Veterans Association to the Korean Veterans of America Association (KWAA).

There is no veteran’s service organization established specifically for the Korean Defense Veterans. There was at one time a group of individuals from New Jersey formed what was called The Korean Defense Veterans of America but they dissolved in 2009.

The Korea Veterans of America (based in Massachusetts) is presently seeking and recruiting Korean Defense Veterans into their organization.

If we decide to change our name, we will need to seek approval from the Congress of the United States. It may be worth considering so that the Korean War Veterans Association will not become a "last man" organization.

This could be an agenda item for discussion at the spring Board meeting on March 27, 2015

### **EVENTS/MEETINGS:**

- The KWVA Spring Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2015 at the Sheraton Pentagon City hotel located at 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204.

We have a room rate of \$99.00 a night for March 26-27, 2015 with a departure date of March 28, 2015. Please do not make reservations. Please send me your name if you plan to attend and I will make the reservations for you. Please RSVP to me by March 1, 2015. We are talking about a dinner for the Board on Friday evening, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

[http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=829&language=en\\_US](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=829&language=en_US)

- This past month, President Kinard visited Washington, D.C. attend the State of Virginia Department KWVA Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 16, 2014. State President L.T. Whitmore hosted the meeting and the party. Approximately 90 members and family attended the event. The guest of honor was Major General Shin and his wife. MG Shin is the Defense Attaché for the Republic of Korea Embassy. Mr. Warren Weidhahn was the Master of Ceremonies for this event.

While President Kinard was in D.C., he had a full schedule of meetings to contend with. I coordinated the following meetings during his stay:

- Toured the Doubletree hotel in Crystal City: Both President Kinard and I toured this venue as a possible location for our annual meeting which will take place in July 24-27, 2015. This venue meets all of the requirements to conduct a successful meeting and banquet. We are presently negotiating pricing with the hotel. We continue to look for other hotels in this same area. Two other venues we are considering is the Marriott Hotel in Crystal City and the Hyatt Hotel in Crystal City. We have also asked for a proposal from the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel. We should have a decision on what venue we will use in early January 2015.
- The KWVA Washington Committee for the 2015 Annual Meeting and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Memorial met with President Kinard, LTG(R) Olmstead and LTG(R) Maloney to brief them on the plans and progress for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the KWVA annual Membership meeting which will take place in Washington, D.C. on July 24 – 27, 2015.

This committee will also update the KWVA Board of Directors at the spring meeting that will be conducted on Friday, March 27, 2015 at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel.

- President Kinard and I met to review past KWVA documents and ongoing actions that need attention. President Kinard transferred a number of documents to the D.C office.

- On Wednesday, December 17, 2014, President Kinard, Warren Weidhahn and I met with Mary Cheney who is the Executive Director of the Grateful Nation Program. She also owns a company called BKM Strategies in Old Town, Virginia. Mary is a Patriot and has a genuine concern for our veterans. She briefed us on a program called SAFELINK. Safelink is the name of the Lifeline program operated by Tracfone.

The Lifeline program was created in 1985, during the Reagan administration, at the urging of a bipartisan group of Congressmen and Senators. The program is designed to ensure that low-income households have access to telephone service. Congress codified the idea by establishing the Universal Service Fund (USF) as part of the Telecom Act of 1986.

To participate in the Lifeline program, consumers must have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines (individuals earning \$14,600 per year or families earning \$30,000 per year) or participate in a qualifying state, federal or tribal assistance program such as SNAP.

With over 4 million subscribers, Tracfone is the largest supplier of Lifeline prepaid wireless services in the country. Of those subscribers, over 530,000 have been identified as veterans.

### **Veterans Referral Program**

In 2014, Tracfone is launching the Veterans Referral Program. The program is designed to help ensure that the Lifeline program reaches as many veterans in need as possible.

The program will target veterans currently enrolled in Tracfone's Safelink program and encourage them to help identify other veterans in need. Veterans who participate in the program can choose to either receive a small cash payment (\$5.00) per referral, or to have a donation made to a national veterans' organization.

Ms. Cheney was seeking the blessing of the KWVA and to solicit their support in getting this word out to Korean War veterans and their families who may qualify for this program. In addition, they will produce literature for the KWVA to solicit to members and chapters. If the KWVA recommends this program, TRACFONE will make a sizable donation to the KWVA. They are also considering at this time to take out advertising in the Greybeards.

This will be an agenda item at the Spring Board meeting in March.

- On December 12, 2014, I met with the Assistant Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Hong. He requested the meeting so I could review the Reynolds poster that was produced during the Department of Defense 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War commemoration. The South Korean government was very impressed with the poster that they reproduced 3000 of the posters with three minor changes. The poster comes in two sizes (large and small). They donated the posters to the KWVA to be used for their Tell America Program. The posters that they reproduced look a lot better than the originals. Thanks to the Korean Embassy for their generosity.
- I continue to coordinate with the Military District of Washington for support of Armed Forces Color Guards, Bands, Buglers and Wreath presenters for our event. The events scheduled for July 2015 is slated to be an International commemoration hosted by the KWVA. This means additional support will need to be considered from the Military District of Washington, particularly in protocols and ceremonies.
- We are requesting monthly meetings with the National Park Service pertaining to the events slated for July 2015. Events such as what we have planned take a considerable amount of planning, time and resources.

- Five Year Plan for Annual Membership Meeting:

Many successful organizations achieve success because they set for themselves a few very clear goals and then strive to achieve them. The same can be said for planning events, meetings and gatherings. In selecting cities for the KWVA, we need to make sure that the city we select can offer the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) an experience that is hassle-free, offers some level of entertainment, and is affordable within their means. By establishing a five year plan for the KWVA annual meetings will ensure a professional successful and enjoyable time.

A five plan will enable us to ensure that we select cities that will be one that members and their families will want to attend. These cities should be relatively easy and inexpensive to get to. In today's climate this typically means that attendees **should be able to fly easily in and out of a city, as well as travel within the city once they get there**. Although a location may be real desirable for our association, if our veterans and their families do not have the means to pay for the trip, or afford to get around once they are there, they will not be able to attend.

We are considering having the 2016 Annual Membership meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

This will be a topic of discussion for the spring Board Meetings.

### **LEGISLATIVE:**

The latest on the IRS. I met with my lobbyist friend. She stated that the Ways and Means Committee in Congress feel the approach that we suggested of writing a letter to the IRS with the signatures of Members of Congress on the bottom of the letter could be a viable solution to have the IRS change their earlier decision. They stated to my friend that it is worth a shot and could save a reasonable amount of time instead of submitting a new Bill to Congress.

### **FUND RAISING:**

Nothing to report.

### **IN CLOSING:**

I am starting to get a good grasp of the association. There is still a lot to learn. I wish you all the very best for an outstanding 2015 and hope and pray that the KWVA will have a dynamite year!

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

Respectfully submitted,

*James R. Fisher*

James R. Fisher  
Executive Director  
Korean War Veterans Association