

## KWVA Membership

# Recruiting Report



(L-R) Bill Hutton, National KWVA Secretary, Tom Sensari, Jeff Brodeur, Chairman of the KWVA National Recruiting Committee

Recently, Tom Sensari, who manages the “Logo” program for the KWVA, was honored for his tremendous service as the exclusive distribution agent for the Korean War and Korean Service Veterans symbol. The decals and patches sale have provided the funding for the activities of the National Recruiting committee. Tom has worked tirelessly in responding to orders for these articles from all over the world.

Tom, a Korean War veteran himself, has been the quartermaster for the KWVA Department of Florida, and is very familiar with the sales and distribution of much Korean War merchandise. He is a life-long Florida resident, residing in Pinellas Park.

### Recruiting Members In Minnesota

We are all members of the Korean War Veterans Club, Rochester, Minnesota. At present, time we have a membership of 167, and we are still growing.

Several of us meet on every Monday morning from 8-9 am at Grandma’s Cafe in Rochester. We meet for friendship and social activities. We usually have around 30 members every Monday morning, and we have breakfast. We have members from the Army, Air force, Navy and Marines—and some women members.

Rochester MN Korean War Club members at the Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial featured on the front page of the Jan/Feb 2006 *The Graybeards*: (Front, L-R) George Kramer, Duane Overby, Ralph Danielson, Lyle Lubahn, George Margellos, Allen Frahm, Lloyd Vehrenkamp, Duane Baxter, Ed Rucker, Bob Dewitz, Merle Peterson (Back, L-R) Wilbur Anderson, John Boler, Russel Monson, Kieth Larson, Les Johnson, Lyle Solem, Orrin Knutson, Del Ollhoff, Harold Dison, Al Havlik, James Wignes, Ken Thamert, Wayne Uptagrafft, Bill Meyers

Commander Wayne R. Uptagrafft



We also have a Color Guard, which consists of twelve members. We participate in parades, memorials, Veterans Day activities, and present the colors at one of the grade schools. We also march in the Rochesterfest parade and Western Days in Chatfield, Minnesota.

In addition to our other activities, we also furnish coffee “and” for the VA Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I have handed out several applications for the Korean War Veterans Association membership. As Korean War veterans, we have waited a long time to get recognized. Several of us have applied for the KWVA (and The Graybeards), and I am sure there will be many more from the Club to apply.

One note of interest: Orrin Knutson, sitting in the vehicle in one of the nearby pictures, is the owner. He put the trailer together himself, and included ten chairs for veterans who can no longer walk. Now, they can ride and wave to crowds and throw



Korean War veterans of Rochester, MN (Bottom, L-R) Commander Wayne R. Uptagrafft (standing), Dale Christanson, Lloyd Vehrenkamp, George Margellos, Lyle Lubahn, Duane Baxter, Les Johnson, Stanley Whiting, Les Griebenow, Duane Overby, Ralph Danielson, Orrin Knutson (Back, L-R) Del Olhoff, Kenneth Thamert, Harold Dison, Charles Canfield, John C. Boler



candy to the kids at parades and other events.

I have been Commander of the Korean War Veterans Club since 2003. I served in the Army with Special forces (8240th Army unit "Wolfpack.") I was at Kanghwa-do Island in 1952, and I was awarded the Bronze Star w/v, CIB, Good Conduct medal, and other awards.

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## Recruiting Members In Texas

KWVA Chapter #298 Commander Juan Gonzales, other chapter members, and KWVA Recruiting Team member Ed Buckman, V.A.V.S. National Director J. D. Randolph, National Secretary Bill Hutton, and Texas State Commander Marvin Dunn visited the San Antonio VA Hospital in an effort to attract new members to the Association.



The folks gather at the CIN 298 meeting in San Antonio and exchange ideas



J. D. Randolph reported that, "We had a very good meeting with the members of the chapter. We gave them posters, decals and pins. We were just veterans helping veterans getting started. This meeting involved members of the Recruiting Committee helping the chapter, and our help was well received. This was a mission well done."

Ed Buckman added to the report. "We were greeted warmly by Alamo Chapter President Juan Gonzales and the brass of the VA," he noted. "They very graciously provided a room for a meeting. Each of the individuals gave suggestions to Juan and the

group how they could form a growing and vibrant chapter."

Buckman's report continued with ideas that might be helpful to other chapters as well:

Some of the suggestions made were to have Saturday daytime meetings to have better attendance. Several of those coming were anxious to help Juan. We also suggested uniforms that the chapter might wear with pride. Marvin told of their excellent "Tell America Program." J. D. showed some of the things that have helped our chapter grow and prosper.

Several of the attendees were not in the VA system, and we took care of that on the spot. We told them to check out the "Cold Weather Film" in the VA library. Several of us had brought posters and I had the brochure with his name and phone number on the brochures, and a supply of stickers for the posters. I also gave him two dispensers for the flyer so he can locate them and refill them as needed. They have 38 VFWs in town so there are plenty of veterans in that area and, they should be thinking of multiple chapters in greater San Antonio.

Since Bill Hutton was in town for a business conference, he lent us a hand. We appreciated the time he took to give us his thoughts and views. J. D. had a chance to meet with important people in the VA and bring him closer to his VAVS National Director position to share ideas with the VA in San Antonio. It was a great pleasure to have State Commander Marvin Dunn along for this type visit to a new chapter in the state of Texas.



I shared expenses with J.D. and Marvin, and it was a productive trip. We would have liked to have had more of the members in attendance, but they had a meeting scheduled for that evening, and I'm sure Juan will pass the word and ideas that they might use to strengthen their chapter.

Overall, we were very pleased, and now we will follow up by phone to see how the chapter is doing. This is a great area for veterans, and we hope the future brings many chapters to this area. All in attendance liked the new patch and agreed that we need the younger veterans in our organization.

In the final analysis we enjoyed every minute of the meeting.

**All Chapter and/or Department news for publication in *The Graybeards* should be mailed to Art Sharp, Editor, 152 Sky View Dr., Rocky Hill, CT 06067 or emailed to: [Sharp\\_arthur\\_g@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net)**