

Guest Editorial

An Appeal To Local Chapters

All local chapters have numerous fundraisers each year and then redistribute those funds to other groups and organizations to help them promote better living conditions for the veterans of all wars. Donations are made to the veterans hospitals and homes, along with the Fisher House, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Heart Fund, etc.

I believe that chapters should put aside enough funds each year to send one person to the KWVA's Annual Membership Meeting. We could do this by paying the transportation and hotel costs of the person, who volunteers or is voted on by the members to attend. The issues that come up can be found in *The Graybeards* prior to the meeting. Your local chapter can discuss the issues and then have your representative vote according to your decision.

This will get more people involved in the operation of the Association, and it would be a chance for the local chapters to get more input. As we get more involved in the local levels, we should get more focused on our State and Association levels.

By getting more members involved and interested in the promotion of a greater organization, we could live up to our potential of being one that can compete with the VFW, American Legion, etc. Since we now are nationally chartered, we need to live up to those standards and move up the ladder to greater heights.

If each local chapter that has the means to do these things would step up and be heard, we could possibly have as many as 250 or more voters at the next meeting, as compared to the 78 we had in Texas in 2009. Let's keep working to make this a greater KWVA than ever before!

Thanks for your efforts.

*James (Jim) Fountain
National Director
(314) 974-3579*

Membership Directory Update

The cover and the editorial pages for the directory and related CD have been approved for production. The gallery (pictures) and the membership information are now being assembled and the directory will soon be released to the publisher. No further changes can be made.

While only the actual number of products ordered will be printed, there will more than likely be a few extra copies available due to last minute cancellations, returns, etc. If you have missed the initial opportunity to order this fantastic document, which is in effect a brief history of your life, I strongly suggest that you call Customer Service at 1-800-877-6554 and request that your name be placed on the waiting list.

For the most part, the majority of the members were really excited about the project. This is reflected in the number of sales and response rate. Following are the latest statistics through October 26, 2009.

Sales Information:

• Regular Edition	722
• Collector's Edition	5,030
• CD ROM	112
• Regular Edition/CD ROM	43
• Collector's Edition/CD ROM	1,464
• Tribute Prints	1,888
• Tribute Print/Membership	11
Total Orders:	9,270

18,358 members called in to update their information. Using 17,499 (minus 859 cancellations), the sales rate was 53%.

If you recall, there was an article in the Jul-Aug *Graybeards* on page 7 and continued on page 31 that I wrote about the Directory. One of the benefits that I mentioned was that we are offering inactive members a special membership dues cost of only \$10 to be reinstated as a member for one year.

As of the end of October 31, 2009, 1,367 inactive members have taken advantage of this offer—and the KWVA has received

checks from Harris Connect in the amount of \$13,670. **The cost to the KWVA = "0."**

I do not have any numbers yet, but we discovered several bad e-mail addresses and several bad postal addresses. There were 32 deceased members who were still being sent *The Graybeards*. **Again the cost to the KWVA = "0."**

My telephone calls and emails commenting that this was a fraud, a scam, or too expensive have essentially stopped. I wonder why?

While I have received a number of phone calls and emails about the directory, both pro and con, several members have taken their time to call. At least one has written me a personal note to say how much he appreciates being able to participate in the project.

Here is a copy of that letter:

Dear Frank,

I am an active member of CID 10 here in Connecticut, and would like to comment on the printing and distribution of the KWVA Directory. Rather than complain about a so-called hard sell (sales pitch), I would like to compliment the General Membership for taking on such a worthy project. It was about time.

Before shipping out to Korea in 1952 (40th. Inf. Division, 160th. Regt.) I took my basic at Ft. Jackson, SC with Co. K, 61st. Inf. Training. Good friendships were made during that time, but we got split up in Korea and it's been over 57 years. The Directory will assist in trying to locate old friends.

Incidentally, my two contacts with the Harris people were cordial and business like. Certainly anyone that can survive Korea should be able to handle a little telephone sales pitch, don't you think?

Again, Frank, thanks for all you do to further the interests of the KWVA.

s/James R. McGann
1203 Boulevard
West Hartford, CT 06119

THE GRAYBEARDS DEADLINES

Articles to be published in the *The Graybeards* must be sent to the editor no later than the 15th day of the first month of that issue. —Editor.

Jan-Feb	Jan 15
Mar-Apr	Mar 15
May-June	May 15
July-Aug	July 15
Sept-Oct	Sept 15
Nov-Dec	Nov 15