

Call for the Meeting: KWVA Website and *The Graybeards*, Mar-Apr 2009, May-Jun 2009, Jul-Aug 2009 Issues, Letter from the President/Chairman Mac Swain, Aug 24, 2009.

Place of Announced Meeting: The Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport Hotel. 4545 W. John Carpenter Way, Irving, TX 75063, Phone 972.929.4500

Call to Order: President Mac Swain called the meeting to order at 0904 hours.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Ruffing.

Director Dauster made a motion that the agenda be adopted. The motion was seconded by Director Fountain and carried without objection.

Roll Call and Introductions: The roll was called by Secretary Cohee.

- William Mac Swain, President-Here
- James Ferris, 1st Vice President-Here
- Robert Banker, 2nd Vice President-Here
- Frank Cohee, Secretary-Here
- J Tilford Jones, Treasurer-Here
- Charlotte Ayers, Director-Here
- Jeffrey Brodeur, Director-Here
- Richard Brown, Director-Here
- Luther Dappen, Director-Here
- Lee Dauster, Director-Here
- Marvin Dunn, Director-Here
- James Fountain, Director-Here
- George Lawhon, Director-Here
- Tom McHugh, Director-Here
- Luther Rice, Director-Here
- Glen Thompson, Director-Here
- Ezra "Frank" Williams, Director-Here

Declaration of a Quorum was affirmed by Secretary Cohee.

President Mac Swain introduced the below listed Major Staff Members and Other Distinguished Guests:

Staff:

- Billy J. Scott, Judge Advocate
- Leo Ruffing, Chaplain
- Jake Feaster, Asst. Secretary and Supervisor of Management Information System
- Tine Martin, Ethics and Grievance Committee Representative
- J.D. Randolph, National VAVS Director
- Jim Doppelhammer, Website/Database Technician

Department Presidents/Commanders:

- Roy Aldridge - TX
- Jim Bradford - FL
- George Bruzgis - NJ
- Sal Scalotto (First Vice President) - NY

- Frank Williams - MO

Chapter Presidents/Commanders:

- Art Griffith (Senior Vice) - MS 299 Korea Veterans of America
- Warren Wiedhan - VA 100 Northern Virginia
- J.D. Randolph - TX 270 Sam Johnson
- Larry Kinard - TX 215 GEN Walton H. Walker
- Tine Martin - IN 259 Central Indiana
- Roy Aldridge - TX 249 COL Joseph C. Rodriguez (MOH)
- Jim Gill - TX 286 East Texas
- Ruby Brawley (Past President) - CA 316 Modesto
- Luther Rice - IN 129 Southeastern Indiana #4
- Bill Scott - VA 313 Shenandoah Valley

President Mac Swain commented that we need to understand that we are still under information that we had before at the Board Meeting in Arlington, VA on July 25, 2009 with respect to our rules of decorum and debate that will take place. That is still in effect without having a vote on it since it hasn't been six months.

He stated, "For you people in the audience, if I allow you to speak, please introduce yourself by name, and chapter—and if you are not in a chapter, just say that you're at large—and I will recognize you if you hold up your hand if the Board is through with their discussion and you have something that you would like to say about the discussion that we went through. But this is only if I give you the right and the opportunity to do so.

I also need to remind you that when you talk to the Board, you talk to the President, and you make all of your remarks to the President. And we do not speak derogatorily at any individual. His idea may be one that you don't accept, but there's no reason to—we don't want anybody to say to anybody in here, well, that's a lie, or what have you.

And I will remind you that the Chair may call for voting by a show of hands or a voice vote, "Yea," or "Nay." If anybody wants a secret ballot or a roll call vote, you may call for it by request, and if one-fifth of the voting Board Members present vote to do so, then we will have that at that particular time. But it has to be by a two-thirds vote."

Approval for Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

Secretary Cohee referenced minutes of previous Board of Directors Meeting, Arlington, VA, July 25-26, 2009, printed in *The Graybeards*, Sep-Oct 2009 issue. A motion was made by Director Lawhon that the minutes be approved, seconded by Director Dauster. The motion was carried with no objections.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jones commented that each of the Officers and Directors was given a copy of the nine months activity ending September of 2009. "In addition," he said, "I have included a page that reflects the same income and expenses for the same period of 2008/2007. As you can see, at the end of September alone, since 2008 we had spent \$52,630 more than our income." So we had that deficit.

- For the nine months period in 2009, we had a profit of \$11,626. This profit is realized, even though our income from dues is down by \$48,000.

- In nine months in 2008 we had income of dues of \$196,688; whereas this year, during that same period, we have only received \$148,023 from dues.
- In 2008 we received approximately \$42,000 from our fundraisers. This year we will realize only about \$7,000 profit from our fundraisers. What all this means is that we have raised—or we have over \$50,000 less income this year as opposed to 2008; however, in spite of this, we are showing a profit of \$11,000 at this time.
- There is one bright light, and that is our investments. Our investments continue to grow as the market continues to recover. At the end of December 2008, our portfolio was worth \$274,000. At the end of September of 2009, our investments were worth \$314,000.
- As we're all well aware, the dues figure will continue to become smaller each year due to two things. Unfortunately we're all getting older and our death rate is increasing. And in addition, of course, we have more people that are taking life memberships, which reduces our income from monthly and from yearly dues. This is also hurting us."

Old Business

- **Appointments:** President Mac Swain stated that his appointments will not be asked for at this particular time because there are quite a bit of changes that are going to have to be made.
- President Mac Swain also reported that we have changed our CPA from Louisiana to Texas, like he asked to do at the last Board Meeting. "And it looks very much like we will also get our audit person to be from Texas, so we don't have to send out all of our data to Louisiana or drive down there or something for him to look at and then come back.

I will tell you that one of the reasons the CPA has been changed is the fact that it was getting very difficult to get information in a timely manner, and it is a lot better for us to have a CPA to whom Tilford can actually go and talk to eyeball to eyeball. And I can also go with Tilford and if there's any problems try to get them straightened out.

- The other changes that Tilford is talking about are changes that were very simple to make. I usually try to get somebody to go to Washington, D.C. Mr. Bob Banker is my Second Vice President and I have called him many times to go to a meeting rather than me flying up there and what have you. These particular meetings are just information meetings that are about two hours long or sometimes maybe three hours.

I refuse to go for a dinner any place. So I save a little bit of money on the travel as the President. I do go to those particular things that are necessary if it's something that I need to do to represent us. I don't just say no. I go to that particular event."

- **Approval to Destroy Election Ballots for 2009:** President Mac Swain asked for approval to destroy the election ballots for 2009. Nothing has been stated that somebody wants to check them or anything else. Director McHugh made a motion to destroy the 2009 ballots, seconded by Director Brown and passed with no objection.

Ethics and Grievance Committee Report

- Member Tine Martin reported that at this time there are no grievances pending.

Reunion/Convention Committee Report

- President Mac Swain commented that Second Vice President Bob Banker has been filling in the position as Chairman of this committee, but since he lives in Maryland the local Chapters here in Texas have actually been doing the bidding and the work for him.

"This is no reflection on Chairman Banker, but the fact is that there are a lot of things that have gone on that we've had to do as a Reunion and Convention Committee. I worked with the committee, made up of Chapters 215 and 270, so they are your hosts and are doing a good job."

Bylaws Committee Report

Chairman Lawhon stated that the Bylaws Amendment, as presented to the Board of Directors at the July 26, 2009 Board Meeting in Arlington, VA and accepted by the Board unanimously, will be presented to the general membership tomorrow for ratification.

Ratification of a Purchase for a SMART DRAW Computer Program

Assistant Secretary and Supervisor of Information Management System Jake Feaster explained that the SMART DRAW Program will give us the capability to produce easily interpreted graphs, charts, etc. for use in reporting the current status of the Association to the Board, Staff and Membership. The cost of the Program is \$246, which includes unlimited support for a year and a \$100 special discount. Director Lawhon made a motion that the Board ratify the purchase, seconded by Director Rice, and the motion was passed without objection.

Approval for Software Licenses to Support Chapter and Department Websites

Director Lawhon reminded the members of the Board that a project for a KWVA national website for Departments and Chapters was approved at the Board meeting held in Norfolk, VA on October 24, 2008. Approval is now requested to purchase ten software licenses at a one time at a cost of \$225 each from Champaign Computer Corporation. Director Lawhon made that motion. The motion was seconded by Director Brodeur and passed with a vote of nine for and five against.

Director Lawhon commented now that the software purchase has been approved we need to decide whether the Association wants to pay for it outright and keep it that way and allow people to petition for the software for eligible Chapters in the Department. Or, do we want them to pay a part of that, half of it, or whatever. A motion was then made by Director Thompson that the Departments and Chapters pay 75 percent of the fees. The motion was seconded by Director Brodeur and passed with nine for, three against and two abstentions.

New Business

- **Approval for General Membership Agenda for Meeting to be held on October 26, 2009:** Director Brodeur made a motion that the agenda for the General Membership meeting be approved, seconded by Director Ayers and carried without objection.

- **Appointment of Mr. Jeffrey J. Kim as an Honorary Member of the KWVA:** President Mac Swain reported that Mr. Kim is a gentleman from Georgia who, over the last several years, has donated \$5,000 to the KWVA and he would like to be an Associate Member. But if he's

going to be an Associate Member, then he's going to have to pay dues.

We can make him an honorary member and he doesn't have to pay dues and he can continue to give his money. He still won't have the right to vote or anything else, but it will be a recognition, because he has made more than one application to join the group. Director Brown made a motion that Mr. Kim be accepted as an honorary member of the KWVA, seconded by Director Fountain and carried without objection.

• **Need or Opportunity for an Association Liability Policy:** Director Dauster commented that his principle objective is to keep the insurance low for this organization and we've been very successful in doing that. We have almost cut it in half since he started doing some investigation on better coverage at lower costs.

We have a one-million-dollar legal liability policy that assures if any member of the Board should be sued for any reason that the policy will respond—after a \$5,000 deductible—and defend the case up to a one-million-dollar limit. That policy also includes crime coverage with a \$500,000 dollar limit; it would be for any act that is not of a legal nature. That's stealing from us, primarily.

In addition, we produce a magazine, *The Graybeards*, six times a year, with an estimated distribution of 17- to 18,000 people. The contents that are published are guaranteed by this policy and that should there be a legitimate claim against the publication, against our editor, or the publishing company, the publisher's liability policy will respond, once again, following the deductible, and defend the KWVA up to one million dollars.

After a lot of research we determined that the estimated number of Chapters that have liability insurance is only about 12 percent. I did get comments repeatedly that when we have a special event, we buy coverage for that event. We're going to participate in a parade with a float, so we buy a protection for that event only.

Now that we have a Federal Charter, there may be a solution to all this. I contacted some brokers who say that now that you are chartered we can insure your parent organization and provide liability coverage to each and all of your Chapters. I want the Board's approval to permit me to examine these companies to offer them all of the information that they need to evaluate our organization's history, and to see if we can get liability insurance that protects the President and the headquarters in Texas and extends to every Chapter.

Director Lawhon made a motion to authorize Director Dauster to examine companies to evaluate obtaining liability insurance to cover Chapters and Departments of our Association under an umbrella; it was seconded by Director Brown and passed without objection.

• **Suggestion for an Outstanding Fundraiser:** Director Dauster commented that we have tried different ways and means of raising funds to offset the huge losses that we've been encountering for the last number of years. In a report that Glen Thompson prepared showed that for the years 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007, we lost over \$60,000 a year. Now we have learned we got another year, same thing. This cannot continue without this organization finding some legitimate manner of building up our treasury. And we decided that there is a way to do it.

At a meeting yesterday a group of us got together in the presence of

Ms. Hannah Kim who is becoming internationally known for her dedicated work for the Korean War Veterans Association. Her life is devoted to that. She has great plans to produce a fundraising activity that could be most successful. The opportunity is tremendous. We set no limits, but we don't know what it would do.

But, at the meeting yesterday approval was given to this plan that will utilize the experience and knowledge of Ms. Hannah Kim, and let her direct us into a plan which would be our major fundraiser for the year 2010. I would ask that this Board approve that.

Another very interesting facet of it is that this is a fundraiser that doesn't ask you for money. You don't have to buy a ticket, either. This is a fundraiser where the activities are all conducted with people outside of our organization, who look at us and remember that we saved their country. And they are so appreciative and sensitive to us.

Hannah is going to start now to put together some ideas as to how we're going to approach this fundraiser. Probably by the first of the year we'll be ready with all the addresses, names and everything that we need. We want the Board's approval to allow this.

Director Dauster made a motion to allow the Fundraiser Committee to pursue a fundraiser independent of solicitations from the membership and any funds necessary will be approved by the Board of Directors; it was seconded by Director Lawhon and passed without objection.

• **Appointment of Ms. Hannah Kim as an Honorary Member of the KWVA:** Director Dauster received a suggestion from an unknown member that the Board provide an Honorary membership to Ms. Hannah Kim, the young woman who is going to spend so much of her time on our behalf to help this organization. Director Dauster made a motion that Ms. Hannah Kim be made an Honorary member of the National Korean War Veterans Association, INC.; it was seconded by Director McHugh and passed without objection.

President Mac Swain commented that Ms. Kim has already been accepted by the two and-a-half million members of the Korean Veterans Association of Korea. She was given an honorary membership in that organization within the last few weeks.

• **Membership Office to stop mailing a First Class copy of *The Graybeards* to Selected Members:** Director Thompson made a motion to direct the membership office to stop mailing a first class copy of *The Graybeards* to the individuals listed on the KWVA Directory of Officials; seconded by Director Rice and passed with no objection.

• **Reduce the Per Diem to \$10 for Travel days and \$15 for Meeting days:** Director Thompson made a motion to reduce the per diem to \$10 a day for travel and \$15 a day for meetings. It was seconded by Director McHugh.

Following discussion of the motion it was amended by Director Lawhon to consider a motion to reduce the per diem and review it at the next annual meeting; seconded by Director Fountain and passed with no objection. The original motion was then voted on and passed with no objection.

• **Consider changing the number of Members required to start a Chapter:** Director Lawhon reported that he received an email from Department of Oregon Commander Neil McCain in which he raised a question of whether the Association had ever considered lowering the minimum amount of regular members in good standing required to start or maintain a chapter.

Commander McCain submitted three options for consideration: Keep the minimum at 12, change it to 10 or change it to 8. Director Lawhon made a motion to change the number of members required to sign the petition form to become a Chapter from 12 to 10 or 8. The motion was seconded by Director Williams. Following discussion on the motion it was amended by Director McHugh to change the required number from 12 to 10; seconded by First Vice President Ferris and passed with no objection. The original motion was then voted on and passed with no objection.

President Mac Swain noted that this change will be referred to the Bylaws Committee, published in *The Graybeards* and voted on by the General Membership at the next Membership Meeting.

• **Free use offer of an 11-song Patriotic CD for use as a Fundraiser:** Fundraiser Chairman Art Griffith reported that a free Patriotic CD has been offered by KWVA Member Wendell Austin, a recording artist from Winn, Maine. He has a POW recording that he would like the Board to approve to be put on the KWVA website and offered for sale at \$10 each. He would mail them out and the \$10 would go to the KWVA.

Chairman Griffith made a motion to pursue the use of Mr. Austin's CD, as authorized by the Board, with all ramifications resolved before we enter into a contract; seconded by Director Lawhon and passed with no objection.

• **Proposal for a U.S. Monument in Busan (Pusan):** President Mac Swain commented that we have a proposal summary to make American's presence known in Busan. Since the United States was the greatest contributor to the UN Forces in the Korean War by providing over 1.6 million people, equipment and command of the joint forces the Office of Korean Affairs, the U.S. Department of State wants to work on a monument for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery (UNMCK) in Busan.

They are going to coordinate with members of Embassy Seoul and the Korean Desk to propose a U.S. monument at that cemetery to the American Battlefield Monuments Commission. The problem is that nowhere in the proposal do they state what they want from the KWVA. Past Director Warren Wiedhahn stated that he would look into the proposal if that was okay with the Board. Mr. Wiedhahn commented that the United Nations Cemetery in Busan is primarily for United Nations Forces, other than the U.S.

He stated, "At the end of the war, all the graves were empty and they either sent the KIA back to the United States or they sent them to the Punch Bowl. The graves that there now—they are primarily Korean War veterans who married Koreans and have subsequently died, and the widows requested their bodies be interred there so that they could go visit them because they lived in Korea.

I don't know who this group is. There are several groups. There is a superintendent in charge of the United Nations Cemetery in Busan. I'd be glad to look into this for you and report back to the Board."

• **Revisit Program and 60th Anniversary:** Coordinator Warren Wiedhahn reported that the Korea Revisit Program is alive. He stated, "As a matter of fact, the last group for this year just came back today. Over 200 Korean War veterans went to Korea this year as part of the Korea Revisit Program. Many of you have been on the program.

For those who don't know, the Revisit Program is funded by the Korean

government. The 60th Anniversary of the Korean War commences next year. There will be four events, primarily. One in June is the big one. They've invited our President to come over again. There will be one in September, one in October and one in November. They don't hold anything in July and August because it's so hot. Their plans right now are to triple the revisit quotas for next year.

In addition to that, we requested and we finally got a sympathetic ear that they're going to relax the eligibility. If you have ever been back—no matter when—you can apply to go back again. The only restriction is, and we've adhered to that, is that the person who has never been back will have first priority.

The other eligibility which we have requested has to do with what some people call the Second Korean War. That was 1966 to 1974, when there were a lot of U.S. soldiers involved with fighting the North Koreans. We have requested that these soldiers who were there during that period of time also be granted authority to go back. They have continually denied it for those soldiers that are stationed there now or that were stationed there. I say "soldiers," Army, Navy, whatever. They continually deny that.

They said there has to be shooting involved. And I guess we have to go along. We don't have any choice. We have to respect them. But we have requested and they just keep turning us down."

Director Brodeur asked, "Did you say there had to be shooting involved? Do you know how many people have been shot up there in that period?"

Mr. Wiedhahn replied that it's like beauty is in the eye of the beholder. It's their country, it's their money and we've requested and keep requesting, but they didn't want to accept it.

Anyhow, I just want to leave you with the fact that the 60th anniversary is coming up. The big one will be in June. As far as the U.S. is concerned, we're still working on that. There will be a celebration in March and in June for the 6/25. But the first big event next year in the United States will be in Norfolk for the Inchon Landing and the Liberation of Seoul. That will be in the middle of September of next year. There will be more coming out as we work with the DoD and Congress for the U.S. events.

• **Tell America Committee Report:** Operations Director Larry Kinard reported that the Tell America Program is still working. He stated, "It's still going strong. I have added 30 Chapters to the numbers that have Tell America Programs.

I wish I could tell you how many Chapters we have in the program. I've tried to get a survey and to get some responses, but only a few have responded. My estimate is about half the Chapters that we have are in the Tell America Program and are doing well. My goal is still to try to get the word out about the program and get Chapters involved.

Hannah Kim has a lot of good ideas that I think are going to help us out in that program. And I'm really looking forward to working with her and the possibility of getting some more funding."

Member Doyle Dykes, Chapter 270, requested permission to speak, and it was granted by President Mac Swain. Mr. Dykes would like to make a presentation to Hannah Kim of a book. Mr. Dykes commented that this is the best book that "I have ever read on the Korean War. It was written by Vincent Krepps. He had a twin brother that was killed in Korea. Vincent came home and his brother did not. The book's title is "One Came Home". And I want to present this to Ms. Kim."

• **National Ceremonies Report:** Chairman McHugh stated that he wanted to commend Marty Goge and the following Chapters for their unflinching support in the following ceremonies:

■ “President Mac Swain and myself attended the Veterans Day Ceremony in 2008 and the Memorial Day Services in 2009. On Veterans Day in 2008, Marty Goge attended the VDNC meeting at the VA. Chapter 142, Maryland, was the Honor Guard for the Tomb of the Unknown and Korean War Memorial. They assisted in the presentation of the wreaths.

■ Memorial Day 2009, Chapter 299 Massachusetts, assisted with the presentation as the Honor Guard for the Tomb of the Unknown and the Korean War Memorial wreaths.

■ On Veterans Day 2009 General Sharp was here and attended a wreath presentation ceremony at the Korean War Memorial. Several members from Chapter 142 (Maryland) and Chapter 313 (Virginia) attended. Chapter 142 was the Honor Guard at the presentation. ■ Chapter Commanders John Wilcox, 142 Maryland, and Billy Scott, 313 Virginia, made the wreath presentation. Chapter 142 Maryland will again be the honor guard at the Tomb of the Unknown and the Korean War Memorial.”

• **Limits of Debate:** Director Thompson commented that our authority allows us, as a group, to limit or change the limits of debate at any time during the meeting or for any specific motion. He stated, “I would like to limit the time for debate to five minutes: two speeches and five minutes. And our J.A. says he will stand when the five minutes is up to let people know when their time is up.” Director Thompson made a motion that those rules be put in to effect.

President Mac Swain stated that two-thirds majority must be obtained to pass that motion and asked for a second. It was seconded by Director Williams. The motion passed, 13 for, one abstained.

• **Membership Report:** Chairman Brodeur reported that we now have 17,721 members. He stated, “That doesn’t include the members who are Chapter members who don’t pay national dues. They’re not included in this figure.

At this time last year, we had 16,892 members. That’s an increase of 829 members. New members this year are 617. Last year we had 698. Deaths of members last year was 705. As of now it’s 474. We’ll probably come in a little short of 705 this year. Now those are known members that we know about. There’s probably many more that we don’t know about.

We formed four new Chapters this year. The figures for the increase in membership this year can be attributed to the renewals done by the KWVA Membership Directory. And under that directory we brought in 1,296 renewals.”

• **Budget and Finance Report:** Chairman Dunn commented that the budget has been reduced considerably from last year. Since it will be published in *The Graybeards*, it will not be discussed in detail in these minutes. Essentially the total revenues are \$324,550.00. Most of the revenues come from dues, which are projected to be \$258,450.00. It is obvious that revenues from other sources are insignificant. Of course the expenses are also \$324,550.00 and most of the expense is for *The Graybeards* at \$177,000.00.

Director Brown made a motion that the proposed budget be accepted, seconded by Director Lawhon and passed with no objection.

• **Review of the Revised Standard Procedure Manual:** Chairman Lawhon reported that there is a drafted Standard Procedure Manual in the process that will be presented for review. He stated, “At the end of the presentation a motion will be made to accept or not accept a conditional approval or temporary approval about what has been presented in the form of a slide show.

Rather than handing out documents, Board members are to look at the screen as we go through each item and either approve it or make suggested changes. Then we will vote on the changes. While each vote will not be identified in the minutes, the results will be reflected in the final version of the Manual.

Director Lawhon made a motion for conditional approval of the draft that was presented of the SPM and the direction that the committee is going. The committee will keep the Board informed as it progresses with current copies.” The motion was seconded by Director McHugh and passed with no objection.

• **Approval to use an outside source for the 2010 Board Meeting and Annual Association Meeting:** President Mac Swain commented that, “As you know, next year is the 60th Anniversary of the war and we have approval to have it in Washington D.C. I would like for you to give me the approval to use a gentlemen who we have met in Washington D.C. that handles The Gathering along with Jack Cloman.

This year we participated and he was handling that program. His name is Jim Fisher. He’s a retired Colonel from the Army, and he has his own business, which is setting up all kinds of conventions and what have you He has told me that he would be more than happy to take care of the convention on a no-fee basis. That means he will do the work for us and not take any of the money that we might collect as part of his payment.

Right now, under the operation of the Bylaws, the Standing Committee is still supposed to be handling our Annual Convention by one of the members on the Board. So there is no additional time to think on this. I want your approval to go ahead for Jim Fisher to be able to do that work. So, if I could have a motion from someone to say we could use an outside source.”

First Vice President Ferris made a motion that we use an outside source; seconded by Director Brodeur and passed with no objection.

• **Exemption of the widows of Prisoners of War and Medal of Honor holders from the payment of any Association dues:** Director Dauster commented that we all know that when the Korean War Veterans Association was founded, Prisoners of War and Medal of Honor holders were granted life membership. He stated, “The proposal that I present to the Board for approval is that there be life membership given to the surviving spouse and that is my motion.” The motion was seconded by Director Fountain and passed without objection.

Director Lawhon made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Director Dauster.

President Mac Swain gave the benediction

The meeting was adjourned at 1535 hours.