

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING-KWVA

Isle of Capri Hotel, Bossier City, LA, October 5, 2005
SUMMARY

The following are summary notes on the key points of the Annual Meeting. This summary is from the "Verbatim" transcript, taken by a paid certified court stenographer at the hotel. The Verbatim notes are available for reference through appropriate channels from the National KWVA Secretary.

Before getting into the transcript, we should review why we have an annual meeting in the first place, and why attendance and participation is so essential.

The mission of the convention is two-fold. Legally, an annual meeting is required by the Bylaws since we are chartered as a 501(c)(19) not-for-profit corporation. Then, of course, the gathering with old friends, sharing and reviewing issues and events that affect Korean War and Korea Service Veterans, are all essential FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.

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The meeting began at approximately 11:00AM, President Louis Dechert presiding. Chaplain Len Stegman led the group in prayer, with special thanks for our many blessings. President Dechert led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

All Directors and elected officials were present (Director Stan Grogan later left on an excused absence, subject to verification), as Secretary Bill Hutton called the roll. Honored guests included Colonel James L Stone, MOH-Korea, former PW, and Life Member from Chapter 215, General Walton H Walker, Department of Texas, and Mr. George R Cramer, Veterans Service Organizations' Liaison Officer, US Department of Veteran Affairs.

Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Yanacos reported that there were 105 verified voting members present; a *quorum* was attained.

The Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN, had been distributed in *The Graybeards* magazine, Nov-Dec, 2004, issue. No corrections to the minutes had been offered.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Richard Hare submitted his report. Current assets include \$492,000 in Mutual Funds with Smith Barney, and \$19,282 in cash, for a total of \$511,000. Income for the 12-month period ending in August was \$241,000 (over 90% of which was from dues). A complete Treasurer's report is available in the current issue of *The Graybeards*, but the "bottom line" is that net income is down \$62,000. This is primarily due to reduction in dues receipts, and it is a MUST that the organization enlists new members. In any organization with a large percentage of aged Life Member, and reduced recruiting, dues income will fall. Recruiting has been increased (see other portions of the Minutes) and two major fund raising activities planned starting in December and extending through 2006 (see other portion of the Minutes).

There were discussions and clarifications on several issues, including travel expenses. President Dechert and Treasurer Hare outlined the procedures for reporting and controlling such expenses. There was discussion about membership growth and fund-raising and further discussion was deferred to New Business.

There were questions about the \$233,000 annual dues for 17,000 members. Part of the difficulty is that the membership number includes all classifications of members, including Honorary and Life.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

(President Dechert asked for, and received approval, to change the Agenda items order) Director Bill Mac Swain then presented the Bylaws changes, which had been developed and approved by the Executive Council during three meetings in 2005.

Director Mac Swain explained the process of how and why KWVA must have an up-to-date Charter and Bylaws (to protect the non-profit status). He then moved that the Bylaws be reviewed, paragraph by paragraph, which passed.

There was considerable discussion over the "Qualified Service Years" wording in Article I, Membership. A motion to change specific wording was made, which died for lack of a Second.

There was also discussion about the process and wording of the Bylaws change procedures. Some members asked about the old bylaw wording. Director Mac Swain reminded the members that the proposed changes had been printed in *The Graybeards*.

A motion was made by First VP Dick Adams that the Members take a break for lunch, so the attendees would have the opportunity to re-review the Bylaws and proposed changes. This carried. President Dechert and Sergeant-at Arms Chris Yanacos reminded all present that it was essential that everyone return after lunch in order to maintain a *quorum*.

LUNCH BREAK

COME TO ORDER

Chaplain Stedman prayed for God's blessing and reminded all that the convention time is pressing.

RESUMPTION

President Dechert observed that there was no *quorum* at the resumption of the meeting, so moved the meeting on non-*quorum* issues:

Change in Evening Schedule

It was announced that VA Secretary Nicholson would speak first, before the full evening program, because of an emergency scheduling problem requiring his early return to Washington.

Status of Bylaws Changes

President Dechert reminded the group that the Executive Council had twice before approved the Bylaw changes.

Status of Federal Charter

Charley Price (Chief of Staff) reported that, although the US Senate approval looked good, we were falling behind in the House of Representatives, and urged all members to write (not email) or otherwise personally contact their Congressmen and urge passage of HR 3476. He

explained how the Charter would give us stronger power with Veterans Services, and introduced our new National VAVS Director, J. D. Randolph.

QUORUM RE-ESTABLISHED

The Sgt-at-Arms reported that a quorum was again present.

CONTINUED REPORT OF BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Director Mac Swain resumed his presentation. Tine Martin made the motion that the Bylaws be passed as presented by the Executive Council. J. D. Randolph seconded the motion. Director Mac Swain withdrew his previous motion, and 2nd VP Dickerson withdrew his second. There was a challenge by Clyde Hooks, which was overruled by Judge Advocate Sim Goodall. There was considerable discussion. A question was asked for clarification -- The new Bylaws state that new members of KWVA joining chapters after October 5, 2005 must first be members of KWVA National. Existing non-national members (prior to and including that date) would be allowed to remain in their existing Chapters without being required to join National KWVA. Director Mac Swain pointed out several minor wording changes for the record. President Dechert called for a standing vote. The motion carried (99 for the motion and 3 against -- 102 votes).

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Director Jim Ferris presented the budget, as approved by the Executive Committee. (Budget presented separately in *The Graybeards, Sep-Oct 2005 issue*). Total income and expense is projected at \$366,000. Some of the key issues include: [1] the need for increased revenue from *The Graybeard* advertising, [2] better breakout of expenses for the KWVA Website (now, some costs charged against the Website are actually for database development and operation or other technical services), [3] reducing the number of *The Graybeards* issues each year (it will remain six issues per year), and [4] the plan to raise and budget income projected at \$94,000 from fund-raising.

On fund-raising, a raffle will be held for three Korean War-era weapons. In addition, there will be a (no cost) mailing through Fund Raising Strategies, a national firm who will mail out 80,000 letters for donations on behalf of KWVA. The Budget as presented by Director Ferris was approved.

REUNION COMMITTEE (CONVENTION 2006)

2nd VP Byron Dickerson reported on plans for the 2006 Convention, recommending the El Tropicana Hotel in San Antonio, TX, October 8-11, 2006. There was considerable discussion about the hotel, and other options. The motion was made to confirm the date and city, but that the Executive Council would make the final determination of facilities, based on available alternative hotels.

ELECTION REPORT

1st VP Adams reviewed the 2005 election, and stated that the committee had under spent its budget. He also urged members to run for office in 2006 [Editorial comment: The preliminary "Call for Election" is in this issue of *The Graybeards*.]

NEW BUSINESS

TELL AMERICA REPORT

Marvin Dunn gave the report for Chairman Larry Kinard. He reported that materials provided to National KWVA by local chapters were very helpful in this effort. He also discussed videos that are available. He then singled out James Yaney of Indiana, who was able to get Public Television to show a special video on Veterans Day. James Yaney presented a moving and impressive report to the members.

RESOLUTIONS

Director Lee Dauster introduced three resolutions, all of which were approved:

Positive support for Medal of Honor to Father Emil J. Kapaun, a POW in Korea

Awarding the Purple Heart to all Prisoners of War who die from causes not otherwise covered by regulations for the award, while in captivity

Recognition to Eugene Chin Yu, for his support of US Korea Veterans

RECRUITING TASK FORCE

Director Jeff Brodeur reported on the situation of recruiting new members. He reminded the members of the new Korean Defense Service Medal, available to help attract Korea Service Veterans who served after the Armistice. He also commented about recognition such as the State of Maine that recently recognized post armistice service (featured on the cover of the Jul-Aug *Graybeards*). He then discussed how the KWVA Website, new recruiting posters, and the new decal were valuable as recruiting tools.

ADJOURNMENT

President Dechert adjourned the meeting and reminded all of the remaining convention events.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hutton
KWVA Secretary