

**MINUTES: ANNUAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, QUINCY, MA****OCTOBER 30, 2011****Call for the Meeting:** KWVA Website and The Graybeards, July-August 2011 Issue**Place of Announced Meeting:** Boston Marriot Quincy, 1000 Marriott Drive, Quincy, MA 02169

Call to Order: President Mac Swain called the meeting to order at 1007 hours, followed by the Presentation of the Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance led by John "Sonny" Edwards, and the Invocation, led by Chaplain Ruffing.

**Roll Call and Introductions:** President Mac Swain asked Secretary Cohee to call the roll.**KWVA Board Members:**

William F. Mac Swain, President• James E. Ferris, 1st Vice President• Larry Kinard, 2nd Vice President• Frank E. Cohee, Jr. Secretary• J. Tilford Jones, Treasurer

- Richard E. Brown, Sr. Director
- George Bruzgis, Director
- Luther Dappen, Director
- Marvin Dunn, Director
- Lewis Ewing, Director
- James A. Fountain, Director
- Arthur S. Griffith, Director
- George E. Lawhon, Jr. Director
- Thomas M. McHugh, Director
- Luther E. Rice, Jr., Director
- Thomas W. Stevens, Director
- Ezra "Frank" Williams, Director

Secretary Cohee declared that all officers and directors were present, except for Director Dunn, and that there was a quorum. Director Brown made a motion that Director Dunn be excused; the motion was seconded by Director Fountain and was approved unanimously. A count was taken of the members in attendance, including the board members. The total count was 55, resulting in a quorum for voting.

**Adopt Meeting Rules of Decorum & Debate:** President Mac Swain read and explained the rules. Director Brown made a motion to accept the rules. It was seconded by Director Griffith and approved without objection.**Adopt Meeting Agenda:** Roy Aldridge made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda; it was seconded by J .D. Randolph and approved without objection.**Introductions of Department/Chapter Commanders/ Presidents, Major Staff Members and Others:**

- Roy Aldridge, Commander, Department of Texas
- John "Sonny" Edwards, Department Commander of Virginia (also Sergeant of Arms)
- Sal Scarlato, Department Commander of New York
- Frank Williams, Department Commander of Missouri
- George Bruzgis, Department Commander of NJ
- Lew Ewing, Chapter Commander of CID 313, MO

- Warren Wiedhahn, Chapter Commander of CID 100, VA (also the Washington, DC liaison and coordinator for the Revisit Program)
- J. D. Randolph, Chapter Commander of CID 270, TX (also the National VAVS Director)
- Albert McCarthy, Chapter Commander of CID 299, MA
- Tom Stevens, Chapter Commander of CID 181, KA
- Leonard Speizer, Chapter Commander of CID 213
- Conrad Perreault, Chapter Commander of CID 320, NH
- John Weidenhof, Chapter Commander of CID 13, DE
- Luther Rice, Chapter Commander of CID 129, IN
- Joe Calabria, Chapter Commander of CID 66, NY
- Billy Scott, KWVA Judge Advocate
- Tilford Jones , KWVA Treasurer
- Frank Cohee, KWVA Secretary
- Jake Feaster, KWVA Assistant Secretary and Supervisor of Membership Management
- Jim Doppelhammer, KWVA Webmaster
- Jamie Reynolds, KWVA Membership Administrative Assistant
- Larry Kinard, KWVA, Chairman Tell America Committee
- Kusa-Ryll, Recorder
- Miles Brown, President of the KWVA Legacy Foundation
- Lt. Col. Kang, KWVA liaison to the Korean Ambassador and Korean Marine
- Johnnie Web, Guest Speaker on POW Issues
- Dr. Jongwoo, Guest Speaker on Digital Museum Website
- Kevin Secor, Assistant to the Secretary of VA Affairs
- Jeff Brodeur, Past National Director, CID 299
- Art Griffin, CID 299, Fund Raiser Chairman and Coordinator for this Annual Meeting

**Approval of the Minutes for the previous Annual Association General Membership Meeting:** The meeting was held in Arlington, VA, July 25, 2010. The minutes of that meeting were printed in The Graybeards, September-October 2010 issue. Secretary Cohee said he could read the minutes or a motion could be made to approve them as printed in The Graybeards. A motion was made by Conrad Perreault, CID 320, that the minutes be approved as printed in the magazine. The motion was seconded by Don Hall, CID 299, and approved unanimously by the membership.**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tilford Jones said that, as we all know, there are some bad things and some good things. "First, I will present the bad things. Our income this year for membership dues has dropped again. Many members have decided to take life memberships. We are having an increase in deceased members, and the stock market has declined. Nevertheless, the good things are that our investments have increased from \$274,000 in 2008 to \$360,000 as of October this year. Art Griffith and his fund raising committee have raised \$64,420 so far, and allowing for the expenses we should end up with at least \$50,000 profit. Overall, the KWVA is very sound financially. In comparison, the nine

months figures from 2010, we had assets of \$416,444, whereas at the end of nine months in 2011 we had \$447,048.”

Don Byers made a motion that report be accepted; it was seconded by Marvin Timm and approved without objection.

**Guest Speaker:** Johnnie Web, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. “The mission of this organization is to search for, recover, and identify those missing from past conflicts, starting with WWII to the present day. There are well over 70,000 Americans still unaccounted for as a result of those conflicts. If you look at our five year running average, it is about 85 to 90 identifications a year. Congress says that they need to do more. There are still 7,975 individuals missing in Korea, over 5,500 of them in North Korea.”

**Guest Speaker:** Rick Downes, President POW/MIA Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POWs and MIA. Rick commented that his father is still MIA. He was in the Air Force and was lost January 13, 1952. Rick said for all of us to get with our local congressmen and put in a word that you want your MIA fellow servicemen identified.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Jongwoo Han, Digital Museum Website. Dr. Jongwoo is a member of the faculty in Political Science at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. He commented that he has collected about 40 hours of interviews and 1,800 artifacts from members of CID 105 (NY) in a month. Dr. Jongwon then presented a slide show and showed one slide of the names of Korean Katusa who fought with us, along with several other slides of the interviews. One of the comments was “There is no war that was any good, but this was a terrible one.” Another one was “Stay away from war, if you can. It was a violent war.” The Korean War has not been forgotten, and will never be forgotten.

**Guest Speaker:** Kevin Secor, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veteran Affairs. Kevin stated on behalf of Secretary Shinseki that he sends his best wishes for all for a successful meeting and to thank all of you for all that you are doing for your servicemen or women, veterans, and their families and survivors. In his closing remarks Mr. Secor commented that “Our mission, ladies and gentlemen, is the same as yours: to care for those who have served the families and survivors. We—I am talking about the KWVA and the VA—are a team and must continue working together.

**Korean National Memorial:** Because of inclement weather, Col. Bill Weber, USA (Ret.), was unable to attend the meeting. So, President Mac Swain called on Retired Col. Warren Weidhahn to speak about the Korean Memorial’s Wall of Remembrance. Col. Wiedhahn’s first comment was that nobody can replace Col. Weber: nobody. Bill Weber was one of the originals on the dedication committee to build our memorial. He has been the leader, as some of the other leaders have passed away. It was this committee that decided it was about time that we had our names on our wall as well. In essence, that is the Wall of Remembrance. It has gone through several committees in Congress and has been approved by the Association’s Board of Directors. Please write down H. R. 2563, which is the legislation going through the House of Representatives right now in regards to our proposed Wall of Remembrance. Your support of this legislation is needed. Please write to both your Representative and Senator and ask them to sign on for H. R. 2563.

**Korean War National Museum:** Tony Enrietto, current President and CEO. Tony commented that he was also a West Point graduate. Therefore, he has a distinct interest in making sure that the museum becomes a reality.

Since taking over the project five and a half months ago, he has heard from a number of Korean veterans. He said that his guess was that the first and foremost question is: “What the heck has happened? What’s going on, and what are you guys going to do?” You want to know where the money went. In the last 13 years, the organization raised \$9 million. Currently, it owns one piece of property in Springfield, IL. It also has a 7,000-square-foot pre-view museum there. The money that was raised went to support that operation and to keep the current operation in existence.

As for the current state of affairs, we had an entire leadership change about 18 months ago. We have a brand new chairman of the board, Denis Healy. He is also a chairman for the Turtle Wax Corporation. He has started to restructure the entire organization. Incidentally, he is also a Korean War veteran.

He gave me three distinct tasks: clean up the operation, stabilize everything that is happening and get it done. So that’s what I need to do. When I came on board, Chicago had been selected as the site location. However, it became very clear that it wasn’t going to happen there, so the decision was made to look at New York. We are now looking at two different sites in New York City and are in negotiations on those two sites. These two sites were chosen because of the integration into the Korean community itself. More specifically Koreatown is close to both sites.

My objective is to have a 15,000-square-foot museum built for you. It is my intent to have a letter of intent signed for at least one of two buildings before the end of this year and to have the designs and operations finished between 18 and 24 months from that point.

**President’s Report:** President Mac Swain discussed a lawsuit that has been filed against the Association as well as one of the Chapters. The lawsuit involves an automobile accident where a Chapter member was on his way to a funeral to participate in a color guard and ran into another car, killing a kid who was driving the other car. It would appear that the suit is not valid because the Chapter does not have a color guard and the member was representing the VFW. They were suing for \$4 million.

There was also a State Department problem that has now been resolved satisfactorily among all the parties. The President reported that he gets a lot of letters stating that a Chapter has a ROK soldier who fought in the Korean War and has now come to the United States and has become an American citizen, so why can’t he belong to the KWVA? The answer is that he can, but only as an Associate Member, because he did not serve with our armed forces in Korea.

If you recall there were two speakers earlier that talked about POWs and MIAs. If you also recall, if you read my “From the President” articles that are in every issue of The Graybeards, I told you that I had attended a POW/MIA meeting in Washington on April 29th. At that meeting I told them that the KWVA definitely wanted to see us get back into North Korea as soon as possible and to not worry about making it a political thing, but to make it a humanitarian thing.

We need to get these people out of North Korea while there are still some people alive to receive them when they come home. He then reported that an agreement between North Korea and the United States had been made and we will resume searching sometime in April 2012.

## Old Business:

**Motion from the membership to ratify the Board's approval for the selection of St. Louis, MO for the October 2012 Annual Membership Meeting:** Roy Aldridge so moved; it was seconded by William Britt. The motion was approved without objection.

Motion from the membership to ratify the Board's approval for selection of Washington DC for the Annual Membership Meeting in July of 2013: Roy Aldridge so moved. It was seconded by Bob Wessa, CID 299. The motion was approved without objection.

**Motion from the membership to ratify the Board's approval of a bylaw change, set forth in *The Graybeards*, Nov-Dec 2010 to change how Association offices are filled:** J. D. Randolph so moved. It was seconded by Al McCarthy, CID 299. A voice in the audience asked, "What happens if there is a tie vote?" President Mac Swain commented that would be covered in the SPM. The motion was then approved without objection.

**Motion from the membership to ratify the Board's approval of a bylaw change, as set forth in *The Graybeards*, Nov-Dec 2010 issue. This change will require at least two scheduled Board meetings before the Annual General Membership Meeting:** Warren Wiedhahn so moved. It was seconded by Robert Joy, CID 299. The motion passed without objection.

**Motion from the membership to ratify the Board's approval of a bylaw change, as set forth in *The Graybeards*, Jul-Aug 2011 issue. This change will require changes in the submission dates of applications and ballots for all future elections.** J. D. Randolph so moved. It was seconded by Roy Aldridge. The motion passed without objection.

## New Business:

**Motion from the membership for approval of the 2012 Budget from the Budget and Finance Committee:** President Mac Swain introduced Director Ewing as the recently approved Budget and Finance Committee Chairman. But, since he was just approved yesterday, he has not had the time to review the budget in detail so Treasurer Jones will present it to you. The proposed budget was projected on a screen for everyone to see. Treasurer Jones pointed out that the expected income from the membership dues has been reduced. Also, the expected donations for *The Graybeards* have fallen off so that has been reduced. Donations to the KWVA, the ads in *The Graybeards*, and the fundraisers have increased. So, the budgeted income for 2012 is \$316,000, compared to \$325,000 for 2011. As for expenses, travel in our headquarters has been cut back quite a bit, but a President's discretionary fund has been added. Among other things this fund is to cover gifts that he must give to dignitaries of foreign governments when he attends their functions. A gift is always expected. So, the expenses are budgeted at \$316,700. Marvin Timm made a motion to accept the budget as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Speizer. The motion passed without objection.

**Fundraiser Raffle Drawing:** Art Griffith, Fundraiser Chairman,

conducted the drawing by getting various members to draw a ticket out of the box. The winner of the \$2,500 was Carl F. Baswell, LR 20526, from Arizona. The winner of the M-1 Garand Rifle was Joseph J. Drozd, LR 38261, from PA. The final winner, for the laptop, was Robert C. Weymouth, LR13993, PA.

## Other Committee Reports:

**Membership:** Chairman Stevens commented that "The numbers I have pretty much reflect the story that Tilford [Jones] has been talking about as far as a reduction in the membership. This month in October we have had 38 new members and 740 new members for the year to date, whereas last year there were 78 new members in October and 961 at this point last year. As of now, the total membership is 16,355, as compared to 17,170 at this time last year. This is a reduction of 815, or minus 5 percent.

**National Ceremonies:** Chairman McHugh reported that the ceremonies at the Korean War Memorial and Arlington Tomb of the Unknowns were again supported by the same chapters as in the past several years. President Mac Swain and Director McHugh presented wreaths, along with chapter members. On Veterans Day, CID 142 [MD] and CID 33 [MD] supplied the Honor Guard for the massing of the colors. On Memorial Day, CID 299 [MA] supplied the Honor Guard for the massing of the colors. CID 299 is the only chapter that offers to supply the Honor Guard on Memorial Day. Any interested chapters that would like an opportunity to present the colors are asked to contact Chairman McHugh. At yesterday's Board meeting, the Board approved adding to the KWVA flag the words "Korean Service Veterans."

**Revisit Korea Program:** Coordinator Wiedhahn commented that some of the Board members asked him to give a little background on the program and the changes that have taken place in the last five years.

"The revisit Korea Program was started in 1975. At that time the veterans and their spouses or a relative were invited to visit Korea. The Korean government paid for everything except the airfare. Around the year 2000 the program began to expand and develop further. There was a lady at that time referred to as Lt. Honey who administered the program from her kitchen table. In 1990, Lt. Honey decided she could not do it anymore, and I was asked by Harley Coon if I would do it. At first I said I would not, but Harley pleaded with me and I finally agreed to do it.

In 1998 it expanded again and now they also have a grandchildren program.

"The best people to sell the revisit program are those that have been on one. Luther Dappen can give a testimony on the success and how the Koreans thank us for coming back and as we all get older, we really owe it to ourselves and to our family. Now, if the veteran cannot go he can send a family member, like a son, daughter or grandchild. They can also take a companion with them. We have asked for some time if the program could be expanded to include Cold War veterans and the answer has always been no, because they want to be sure all Korean veterans have priority. Just this year, the Korean Government has said that we can start sending Cold War veterans on the revisit tours in 2014.

"When we talk about the members, every person who goes on a

revisit tour must be a member in good standing of the KWVA. A lot of new members have joined for that reason. A recent addition to the program is that if you have not been back for five years, you can now go back again. The out-of-pocket expense is the \$450 administrative fee. The Korean government is now paying one half of the airfare. And, the veteran's cost is difficult to calculate, because it varies from location and from the time of year."

**VA Volunteer Service (VAVS):** Chairman J. D. Randolph reported that we are doing well, "But we are losing hours every year because our veterans cannot volunteer as much as they did when they were younger. There are many hospitals across the country that have no representatives. We do have members, both the national members only and from the chapters, who volunteer at hospitals. We get credit for their hours but we do not get credit for serving that hospital.

"We have to be in 30 hospitals to be a voting member of the National Advisory Committee that advises the Secretary of changes. So we need more people. The Chapter or Department has to submit to me the names. They must be a member in good standing of the KWVA, and a regular volunteer of service to be a representative or a deputy."

*Note from the Secretary:* I realize that this is quite confusing, so call J. D. at 972-359-2936 with your questions.

**Tell America Program:** Chairman Larry Kinard commented that all of the Chapters should have active Tell America Programs, "Because this is our way for Korean veterans to put forward our legacy. He believes that 96 of the 236 Chapters currently have active programs.

Syracuse University and its website are going to be another way to carry forward the legacy. The other thing that is happening right now is working with our partners in the Department of Defense. The DOD staff that is here with us are very interested in doing what they can to help the Korean War veterans. I welcome their help. We were pleasantly surprised to receive 7,000 books from the Republic of Korea. Once we got the notice in The Graybeards and on the website, all the books were gone. Col. Kang, our new liaison with Korea, has another 5,000 books for our use."

**Legacy Foundation:** Tilford Jones, Treasurer of the Foundation, commented that it is a 501 (3) (c) organization, a foundation to promote the education of young people and adults about the Korean War. It was founded to support the Tell America Program and *The Graybeards*. At the present time \$10,000 has been received in contributions, which have paid for one issue of the magazine.

The Legacy Foundation is completely separate from the KWVA, and it is strictly for educational purposes. Miles Brown is the President, and J. D. Randolph is a Director. So, call any us if you have any questions. We would just like you to keep us in mind if you have so much money you do not know what to do with it.

**Membership Records:** Supervisor Jake Feaster handed out a report on the status of all of the chapters and departments. Jake explained the contents of the KWVA website and suggested that everyone use it to keep informed of the status of their Chapter. All chapter and department Presidents should have a password to access more detailed information than is available to the general

membership. If you do not have a password, call Jake and he will tell you why.

**For the Good of the Order:** President Mac Swain introduced Lt. Col. Kang, the attaché for the Ambassador to Korea. He is an officer and gentlemen and is in the Marines. President Mac Swain commented that he has done some miraculous things for the KWVA, and "I will keep those private, other than you have a reception before the banquet tomorrow night sponsored by the Ambassador and his Attachés. General Lee will also be at the banquet.

First Vice President Ferris commented that this is President Mac Swain's last meeting, and that we should all give him a big hand. Whereupon there was a standing ovation. President responded that it was an honor to serve Korean veterans.

President Mac Swain then presented several plaques to the officers, directors, staff and others that supported him during his term in office.

A motion was made by Roy Aldridge to adjourn. It was seconded by J. D. Randolph.

The Chaplain gave the closing prayer and President Mac Swain gave the salute to the flag.

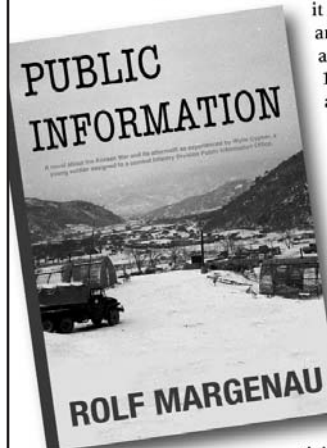
The meeting was adjourned at 1532.

Respectfully submitted.

*Frank Cohee, National Secretary, KWVA*

## New novel about the Korean War: PUBLIC INFORMATION

Written by a sergeant from the 7th Infantry Division,



it tells the story of a young soldier who arrives in Korea during combat in 1953 and follows his adventures during a 16 month tour of duty. He becomes a combat correspondent and writer for the *Pacific Stars and Stripes*, travels widely, associates with a number of indelible characters (which will be familiar to veterans who were there), engages in combat, gets in trouble and even finds love.

The book is carefully researched and includes recently discovered information about the conflict. The characters speak military jargon, including colorful curses, and issues arising from both sides of the 38th Parallel are examined - prison camps, repatriation, activities of the U.N. Forces, the "Army Way," and leave in Japan. Basically, it's a coming of age story under harsh circumstances.

Readers have called it "hilarious...moving...poignant."

The soft cover 380 page book retails for \$25.

A special 20% discount is offered to readers of *The Graybeard*. Visit [www.frogworks.com](http://www.frogworks.com) and enter the coupon code "KVET" for the discount. The first 50 pages of the novel are available free there, too. Also available from Amazon.com for download.