



THE NEWSLETTER

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

SECOND QUARTER PLUS - 2007



Bob Balzer, President
2007-2008



Our State Convention in Sebring was very successful both in information and camaraderie.

We're off to a good start and I'm looking forward to working with every Chapter to accomplish their goals. We have a solid slate of dedicated officers and appointees who, I know, will do their best on behalf of the Department of Florida.

At the Convention, I outlined my number one goal for this year – The “Wounded Warrior Project”. I'm sending each Chapter a complete brochure/folder outlining this endeavor.

It's my personal opinion that there is no greater cause at this time than helping our fellow veterans in their time of need. I'm open to suggestions on how we can best raise the funds for this very worthy cause.

My number two goal for 2007-08 is membership. I need your input of ideas doubling our membership this year. It can be done with each member recruiting one new member.

Let's have every Chapter represented at our next Department Convention to be held in Tampa next year. Start planning now.

Bob Balzer

MEET THE VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Pictured at the left are Harold Sievers our Veteran of the Year receiving the Eddie Ko award check from Joan Arcand, Department of Florida Treasurer. Eddie Ko, whose generosity provided the funding to start the program had already presented the award at this point.

The Handy Reference List of New Officers and their addresses/e-mail addresses/ phone numbers:

[Cut out and save]

President: Frank "Bob" Balzer

811 Orangewood Avenue, Deland, FL 32734

e-mail PEGDICKCHAMPION@peoplepc.com

Telephone - 386-822-9068

First Vice President James Bradford

1776 6th St. NW #308, Winter Haven, FL 33881

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Telephone 863-293-3055

Second Vice President Charlie First

5439 Denise Ave, Orlando, FL 32810

e-mail CFirst@cfl.rr.com

Telephone 407-292-7837

Third Vice President Murdoch Ford

4843 5th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542-5732

e-mail MertnLou@earthlink.net

Telephone 813-783-9033

Secretary Joan Arcand

Treasurer Richard Arcand

5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

e-mail richard.arcand@verizon.net

Telephone 727-392-5648

Historian Kelly Goodblood

4725 Pepper Grass St. Middleburg, FL 32068-5257

e-mail KellyGoodblood#comcast.net

Telephone 904-688-0153

Sergeant-at-Arms Michael W. Tutolo

1502 Elm Terrace, Titusville, FL 32780

e-mail M-E.Tutolo@juno.com

Telephone 321-269-4221

Chaplain Harold Sievers

510 Saint Andrews Blvd, Lady Lake, FL 32159-2256

e-mail ColSievers2@aol.com

Telephone 352-753-4929

Highlights of the 2007 Convention at Kenilworth Lodge, Sebring

The consensus of the attendees was that we had a grand time at the Annual Convention.

Where do we begin to show all the fun. With the ladies, of course!.



First – You had to get by the card table in front of our meeting room.

CONTRIBUTION (Joan Arcand)

KENILWORTH LODGE, SEBRING

“Old in face, new in grace”

William McCraney, DoF President

Medal of Honor recipient, Bill Charette was our honored guest along with Bill McCraney, DSC, Willis Jackson, DSC, Charley Price, Silver Star, and Clarence Dadswell Bronze Star. Various guests were introduced at the Convention functions.

Business decisions were made pertaining to dates for Council meetings for 2007-2008 and voting for the next Convention Venue was decided in favor of the Tampa Chapter as presented by Murdoch Ford.

Veteran-of-the Year nominees were treated like VIPs throughout the Convention. They were: characterized by the letters sent in from the various Chapter Presidents and supporters.

Of the 15 nomination letters received for the “Veterans of the Year” for the Korean War Veterans, Department of Florida, a general theme runs through all the paragraphs.

CONTRIBUTION (Joan Arcand) CONT'D

Each person, in his own way, is dedicated to the goals of his Chapter. He is a “doer-of-good-deeds”, a visitor to the sick, usually instrumental in forming a Chapter – a memorial – a program – or a dinner.

He is boundless in thoughts and actions. He is meticulous in dress, a shining example to his membership and the community. He goes the extra mile for a member, a widow or a fellow Veteran. He is a promoter, a tireless worker and “Johnny-on-the-spot” - always providing unselfish, untold hours of volunteering and, most important,

Love of God, his country and his family

As you can see from the above assessment of the letters received, it would be virtually impossible to select the Veteran on the basis of how he is described by his fellows. In the end, the Committee was forced to acknowledge that the Veterans so honored would represent their Chapter in any given year. The Veterans honored this year were:

Chapter	Name
158	Frank Cohee
014	Clarence Dadswell
210	Julius Farago
175	Murdoch Ford
199	Gene Gillette
189	Robert Hawes
192	Ken Heisner
174	Richard Mellinger
017	Al Ratner
106	Anthony Ricigliano
267	Don Sherry
153	Don Smith
169	Harold Sievers*
188	Don Struhar

*Winner of the Eddie Ko Award.

Our new President, Bob Balzer, took over the reins along with new Board member, Murdoch Ford.

Awards were given to Veteran of the Year, Harold Sievers Chapter 169 – Lake County
The winner of the Life Membership payment went to Chapter 175 – Spring Hill

Bill McCraney expressed his appreciation to all who helped make his term as President A-one.

The Sebring Elks Lodge who provided dinner on Friday night and lunch on Saturday did a fine job and the food was great.



SIGN IN THE ELKS FOYER

The Saturday evening banquet catered at the Kenilworth was rated five star with our compliments to the caterer's chef.

We can't forget Laurie and her ladies for the fine wine and cheese reception prior to the banquet.

We've been invited back! The Kenilworth Lodge personnel were more than helpful with all our requests –and we started in January to insure that “we did it all”.

Thank you to all who came, sat on the porch, played cards, ate a continental breakfast and enjoyed the lakeside setting with old and new friends – and helped make Convention '07 an “over the top” success.

Joan Arcand

The Birth of the Department of Florida

As an aside at the 07 Convention, Past President Gaffney passed along these data on the beginnings of the Department of Florida on November 12, 1988 at Virginia Key [Miami]



Major-General James Dozier gives an oath of office to (L to R) Emmet Benjamin (President), Al Rudy (Vice President), Ira Davis (Secretary) and Richard Cecilio (Historian) of the Department of Florida, Korean War Veterans Association

[NOTE: Photo is a third generation copy of a newsprint photo- I was unable to improve on it. [Ed.]

The article goes on to state: "Officers of other Veterans' Organizations and Gold Star mothers witnessed a program which included a drill exhibition by members of the Sunset Senior High School R.O.T.C. Drill team, and a demonstration of the proper disposition of an old American flag. Colors were presented by the United State Marine Corps.

" The organization, [KWVA] whose purpose is to commemorate the 52,240 American Military personnel who gave their lives for their country

inThe Korean War and the 103,000 wounded and 6177 missing in action and the 7000 prisoners of war has been granted a 5 acre site on Capitol Mall in Washington D.C. For a war memorial"

Thanks Tom Gaffney!

Bragging Rights

Joe Sheehan, Chapter 014 photographer, finally got lucky. Here is Ken Milheiser saluting at the Memorial Day ceremonies in Pinellas Park.



CONVENTION 2008!!!

Lt. Baldomero Lopez MOH Chapter 175 is honored to be the Host Chapter for the Department of Florida Convention on May 9th and 10th, 2008.

We have one of the finest hotel/conference centers in the Tampa area reserved.

It is never to early to make preparations and we are well on our way. There will be a shuttle bus to and from Busch Gardens, and a shuttle bus to take members to the Hard Rock Casino on Friday night from 6 PM to 10 PM. Directly across the street from the Clarion Hotel is an 150 store shopping mall. Our Chapter will have information on this and many other attractions in the area..

Mark you calendars for May 9-10 2008 and join us for a great convention!!!

Murdoch Ford

COUNCIL MEETING

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AND/OR THEIR DESIGNEES SHOULD BE CHECKING THEIR MAPQUEST TO FIND THE ROUTE TO THE SEPTEMBER 29TH MEETING AT THE EAST BAY COUNTRY CLUB IN LARGO FLORIDA. WE WILL START EARLY AND GUARANTEE TO HAVE YOU OUT BY 3:30 P.M. THE RESERVATION FORM IS ATTACHED.

**KOREAN WAR VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION
THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**

Joan M.. Arcand, Sec retary
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St. Petersburg, Florida, 33708
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richard.arcand@verizon.net

July 20, 2007

**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA FALL COUNCIL MEETING
2007**

When: Saturday, September 29, 2007

Time: 10:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Plae: East Bay Country Club
702 Country Club Drive
Largo, Fl 33771

Host: Suncoast Chapter 014
St. Petersburg, FL

Although this meeting is primarily for the voting membership of the Department (Elected Department Staff and Chapter Presidents or their designees) all Chapter members and their wives are encouraged to attend. Your presence adds to the value and the enjoyment of the meeting.

Presidents: If, for some reason, you are unable to attend, please send a delegate to represent you and your Chapter. Notify Joan Arcand, DoF Secretary, the name of the designee, a brief statement assigning authority to act on your behalf by September 24 to the address on the letterhead. E-mail will suffice.

1. Bring Chapter flag and stand
2. Wear your KWVA Uniform
3. Have a Chapter activity report covering Jun 07 to Sep 07
4. Lunch will be buffet style Cash bar available for light refreshment at lunch
5. Cost of lunch is \$15.00 per person, includes AM Coffee and danish.
6. Make check payable to: DoF/KWVA and mail with Attendee reservation to 5674 Bay Pines Lake Blvd, St. Petersburg, Fl 33708
It must be received by Sep 24.

Reservation Form – Council Meeting 9/29/07

Member Name	Title	Chapter	Lunch \$15.00 Per
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____

Official Use Only

Date_____ Check No._____ Amount_____ No. of Guests_____