

COMMENTS FROM A KWVA MEMBER

For some time now, in fact much longer than the announced 2008 KWVA election period, a collection of non-members; expelled members; members on probation, some regular members and yes, even some who never can be members, have collectively joined (*if you want to use that term*) to attack the KWVA, a non-profit, state-chartered organization, the purpose and mission of which is to inform and serve Korean War Veterans and their families.

There are some who support this group, or are in it for whatever mischief they can do. We can't tell you who all they are, because most times, when they send one of their nasty emails around, they address it to themselves, and, '*undisclosed recipients.*' That's using your smarts, but I would characterize it more as deception. You can be assured that the email you see below with Clyde Hooks name on it, advertising his candidates for election is less hostile in attitude and language than most of what these people usually put out. It's sole addressee is, you guessed it, '*undisclosed recipients.*' There are also a few websites where their hostility is posted; at least one of which clearly oversteps copyright laws, and perhaps libel laws also.

Read what they say here and when you get the March-April Issue of The Graybeards, read carefully what all the candidates have to say and carefully compare it with what they present to you in their Candidate Profiles. With the vote that you have, you literally have the future, if there is to be one, of the KWVA itself. You might say that with over 16,000 members, how can these few malcontents prevail? Sad to say, but I'm told that less than 5,000 of you vote each year for one reason or another. However you exercise your right to the precious act to vote in this election; I beg you, please help change that statistic to an upward trend.

So read what KWVA Member Glen Thompson has to say below as an answer to the Clyde Hooks email. It may appear overlong, but if you care about our outfit for whatever reason, please take the time to inform yourself. Glen says you can respond to him via email, but only if your questions and/or comments are civil & polite. He's had enough of trash emails, sometimes containing opinion, sometimes outright lies, neither supported by credible evidence, that is if there is evidence put forth at all. Please note that the comments he makes about quotes from emails are a matter of record. Although he put his email address below his signoff, you can get started on an email to him at gthomp@tx.it.com.

I am very careful with people who are not careful with the truth. The problem with liars is that you never know when they are going to get you.

Maybe only the '*undisclosed recipients*' know.

George E. Lawhon LR18750
Webmaster, KWVA Department Of California

"PLEASE NOTE: All expenses, cash and time for this mail were donated by KWVA members in good standing, out of their own pockets. No KWVA funds were expended."

Department of California
Korean War Veterans, Inc.
3361 Williams Road
San Jose, California
95117-2579



America's Longest War
From 1950 until Now
"Freedom Is Not Free!"

Glen Thompson is a charter member and the first Secretary/Treasurer of KWVA Sam Johnson Chapter 270. He currently produces the Chapter 270 Newsletter. He also serves as Treasurer, Membership Chair, and Newsletter Editor for the Greater Dallas Veterans Council, a coalition of over seventy veteran's organizations in the Dallas area. He has served on the Department of Texas Bylaws Committee and is presently serving on the KWVA Bylaws Committee. While he is not a candidate for office, he feels strongly about what he has written in his observations and analysis below.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

By Glen Thompson LR28718

Let There Be Light exposes the destructive platform of a gang of KWVA candidates. These candidates bill themselves as the Dickerson-Doyle ticket which refers to that slate's top two candidates, Byron Dickerson for President and Michael Doyle for 1st Vice President.

On the following pages, Let There Be Light responds to an e-mail message broadcast by Clyde Hooks, a candidate for Director on the negative Dickerson-Doyle slate, which includes mostly criticism unsupported by reality or fact.

First, let's introduce the two candidates at the top of the negative Dickerson-Doyle slate.

Byron Dickerson has occupied a seat on KWVA's Board of Directors as 2nd Vice President, then as 1st Vice President. His terms as Vice President are noteworthy in that he has done absolutely nothing. In scanning the minutes of KWVA board meetings, you will be hard pressed to find one instance where Byron Dickerson introduced any new business. He briefly served on the Reunion Committee but couldn't handle that well. In short, Byron Dickerson has been a do-nothing Vice President. We see evidence that a group of attack dogs I'll call the Disciples of Destruction believe they can manipulate Dickerson, if elected. To confirm this, look at electronic postings by Bob "*I move to disband KWVA*" Fuoco; Ken "*This disgusting KWVA*" Buckley, and John Kronenberger who make statements in the name of Byron Dickerson. Seldom do we see a statement that can be credited directly to Byron Dickerson.

Michael Doyle as a KWVA Director holds the unofficial title of "Troublemaker" on the board. When the board is not in session, he makes offensive comments to and about other board members and passes out written pages of complaints. Yet, when the board is in session, Doyle has failed to introduce any new business before the board. Mike Doyle is another do-nothing board member.

What KWVA needs most is competent leaders, who can and do deliver what they promise when they are seeking election.

The other candidates on the Dickerson-Doyle slate represent sour-minded candidates who offer many complaints, but make no positive recommendations. Many simply mouth the rantings of Ken "*This disgusting KWVA*" Buckley; Bob "*I move to disband KWVA*" Fuoco, and John Kronenberger and his vicious, slanderous "*John K Report.*"

Consequently, it should be noted that all the attacks on President Dechert and on rest of the Administration, of which you are a duty-bound, sworn member (see above), signed by you in emails (sent out to 'undisclosed recipients') and web postings since the Reno Convention, indicate one of three personal attributes of yours that can be considered as a public response to the generosity of President Dechert and the Board of Directors, in releasing you from probation: Appreciation; gratitude, or treachery.

You, Byron Dickerson, and all the rest of us can choose for ourselves.

Pass this along, if you can, together with any answer to any of my questions that you wish to offer. My email address is below.

Just don't ask anyone else to do it for you.

Respectfully, and for the Good of The Order,
George E. Lawhon LR18750

email: george@lawhon.org

"PLEASE NOTE: All expenses, cash and time for this mail were donated by KWVA members in good standing, out of their own pockets. No KWVA funds were expended."

Are you aware of the fact that past issues of The Graybeards can be downloaded from the KWVA website: <http://www.kwva.org/>? Had you done that, many of your questions would have been answered.

Do you use a computer only to receive email? If not, how will you communicate with the membership and KWVA staff?

We have never spoken personally, you and I, but everything I have said here is based on what you have placed before us, the voting membership, or to be more precise, what you have also allowed to be done so by proxies.

I have tried very hard not to be personal, but rather to describe my extremely strong opposition to what has appeared in emails or on the internet in your name.

Considering the evidence, I do not know how you can credibly answer my questions, but you must do so, if you want my vote, or the vote of any voting member who you want to place credibility in what you have said, rather than what I have presented here. You can look, Mr. Dickerson, but you will not find, anywhere, a statement I have made which is contradictory to what I have said in the past. I definitely have opinions, and strong ones at that, but there is only one version of them. When I speak, it is from my heart and my head, and they are in harmony. In your case, I do not see how you can credibly deal with the duplicity you have so brazenly demonstrated.

Finally, the remarkable idea that you would abolish the Ethics & Grievance Committee, which was approved by the KWVA Membership, by vote, shows an ignorance of, or an arrogance towards your own organization that is truly astonishing.

If you have any sense of duty or honor left, sir; I recommend kindly that you at the very least withdraw your candidacy as President, and seriously consider resigning from the KWVA.

At our age, we should not belong as a member of an organization we want to tear down, especially one that our KWVA brothers have worked so hard to build, and to which you have contributed so little, as in apparently nothing.

Finally, for others who may read this, I urge them to compare what you have accomplished with what you have promised the membership in your previous campaigns for office. They have simply to go the archived issues of The Graybeard, March-April issues, of the previous years, to do that. The links to them are on the KWVA, Inc, at <http://www.kwva.org/> and can be downloaded.

Also for all those who may read this: At the Reno Convention in October, 2007, you were on probation. Even though you and Director Doyle had bypassed the E & G Committee process and submitted three complaints cloaked as 'resolutions,' attacking the President and the Administration (of which you are a part); and which were rejected by the Board, President Dechert asked the Board to consider shortening your probation period, which was approved by the Board. Had he or the Board of Directors not done that, there would be no 'Byron Dickerson's Slate for 2008.'

Please note: Charles Smith; Sam Naomi, & Lynnita Brown are on probation. Bob Fuoco and John Kronenberger have been expelled from the KWVA.

Good News!

On the positive side, most of the candidates for National office are well qualified individuals who will build on the solid foundation put in place by President Dechert and his administration. KWVA's membership is growing despite a death rate of over 11% during a recent 36-month period. Jim Doppelhammer and Jake Feaster keep the membership database up-to-date ensuring accurate membership figures for the first time in several administrations. In submitting to three independent audits for the first time ever, members are assured that KWVA's financial house is in order. While those who yell the loudest about KWVA's bylaws yet never propose an amendment, Bill Mac Swain has been the driving force in upgrading KWVA's Bylaws and in creating the Standard Procedure Manual. The Graybeards edited by Art Sharp represents the top of the line in veterans' magazines.

Summary

On the following pages, Let There Be Light will show you the flawed outlook of each candidate on the Dickerson-Doyle ticket. Then, I will show point-by-point why the Dickerson-Doyle Hate Slate is a recipe for disaster. Finally, you will see a list of all KWVA candidates in alphabetical order by office.

Watch for those flagged **Not Recommended**.

Acknowledgments

It is proper that I recognize those who helped me put this article together. Jim Doppelhammer provided membership growth figures and he made several useful suggestions. I am grateful to Jake Feaster for his suggestions. I also deeply appreciate George Lawhon's guidance. Director Lee Dauster's enthusiasm for this project has been inspirational.

Glen Thompson LR28718

Email: gthomp@tx.it.com

PLEASE NOTE: My comments below are in *[Italics, Bold]*.

"From: Clyde Hooks [koreanwar1950@bellsouth.net]

Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2008 10:48 AM

To: undisclosed-recipients:

Subject: Candidates Pledges for Board of Directors and Others

To all Members of the KWVA Board of Directors and Others:

We hope you will share this information with any other Regular Members of the KWVA that you know. We take this opportunity to introduce ourselves briefly regarding our hopes for the KWVA and ask for your support in electing a slate of officers which will dedicate itself to improving not only the image of the organization but also the camaraderie and

goodwill that should exist. KWVA should be an organization devoted to recognizing the tremendous sacrifices encountered as a result of communist oppression and ensuring that these sacrifices are never forgotten. This slate of officers will work toward this end without demeaning those who seek additional information or those who have differing views. We will be open to all suggestions and be completely open with our actions.

Byron Dickerson
Candidate for President

After a thorough review, those who have been expelled, those with charges against them, and those on probation will be reinstated if the "Just Cause" charges are deemed inappropriate. *[Who will do this review, your anti-KWVA pals Kronenberger, Fuoco, and Buckley? Under the member-approved bylaws, you need a 2/3 vote by the board to reinstate a former member. Do you plan to toss the bylaws which calls for at least 2/3 of the Board, previous notice in The Graybeards, and at least 2/3 members before making any changes to it?]*

The Ethics and Grievance Committee will be dissolved--no organization of brotherhood needs such a committee.
[How? Do you plan to burn the member-approved bylaws to satisfy your personal whims? It takes 2/3 approval by the board and previous notice in The Graybeards before you can bring bylaws changes to a vote by the membership. You won't see any changes in the bylaws until October 2009.]

Members must be respected.
[Do you show respect for members by attempting to override the bylaws they approved? Is it your respect for members that causes you to lie about not receiving a quarterly detailed financial report showing each check by category? Several of us KWVA members who attended the meetings at Bossier City, San Antonio, and Reno at our own expense accomplished more than you did at those meetings. Would it not show respect for the membership to repay KWVA for your reimbursed expenses? After all, you didn't do anything except occupy a seat on the board.]

A new feature for The Graybeards will be a "Sound Off" column for members to speak their minds--whether agreeing or disagreeing with the administration and/or the organization. *[Now you want to destroy The Graybeards. That magazine has improved greatly under Art Sharp's editorship. Unlike the previous editor who was arrogant and condescending, Art Sharp is approachable and helpful. He and he alone makes all editorial decisions. But evidently, you want your handlers, Kronenberger, Fuoco, and Buckley to exercise editorial control over The Graybeards. Yep, we can all see where this is going. You want to turn The Graybeards into a scandal sheet where members can vent their spleen about everything under the sun. Attorneys across the land are looking forward to that day. By the way, do you agree with Bob Fuoco's barrage of mail and e-mail communications to Members of Congress urging them to kill the bills granting KWVA a Federal Charter?]*

legally called meeting.

Serve as liaison between the committees assigned by the President and Board of Directors.

Coordinate the activities of all assigned committees.

b. DUTIES

Be prepared to assume the duties of President of the Association upon death, resignation, or termination of the President.

Assist the President in carrying out the responsibilities and duties of that office.

Volunteer to coordinate and be responsible for any Standing or Special Committee which he might have interest or in which he has qualifications, to effectively coordinate and oversee.

Perform such other duties as the President or Board of Directors may assign."

SUMMARY

To put in the mildest manner I can, it is a mystery to me why you have associated your name with a collection of persons who don't like the very organization to which they belong, who express their views, nasty and mean-spirited at best. One of them, Mr. Fuoco, who broadcasts reckless, sometimes confused and incoherent emails, you actually named as your campaign manager! He sometimes copied his hate mail to members of Congress, while he was still a member, and members wonder why we do not have a Federal Charter! The opposite of that is the very first goal you list in your Candidate Profile (See above).

What's disturbing to me is your saying one thing in one venue, and something radically different in another. What's MOST disturbing is your use of proxies, allowing or encouraging others to speak your mind for you. That does not demonstrate forthright and straightforward leadership. You advocate 'open' leadership, but give no example, anywhere, of an ability or willingness to demonstrate it yourself. The most accurate description of that would be "Lazy Leadership," and is definitely not what the KWVA needs to direct its growth and improvement. We need forward thinking, informed leadership, and competent administration. We need respect for not just the membership, as you profess, but also the hard work done, and the progress made, by the volunteers' achievements. If any needed changes are to be effected for either the Bylaws or the SPM, they should be done by the rules established and approved by the membership. *They are posted on the KWVA website.*

Whatever your actual views may be, you have not demonstrated the experience or skills needed for the leadership tasks that confront an office that runs an organization of almost 17,000 members, with varied tasks, responsibilities & national & international interfaces.

You do not seem to personally use emails, except to receive them, or to be aware of specific and helpful information that is on the KWVA website <http://www.kwva.org/>, or in The Graybeards. Have you actually read the Bylaws and the Standard Procedure Manual? Or the Minutes of the Meetings you attend?

5. How is a member to tell if Mr. Dickerson agrees with what's said on the Buckley website? Are there two different Byron Dickersons?

6. Do you believe that you are performing your present duties as 1st Vice President in compliance with the KWVA Bylaws & Standard Procedure Manual?

A. Below are the Bylaw and SPM details of what should be your present duties, as 1st Vice President. Instead, while in that office, before the Reno Meeting, you and Director Doyle submitted three (3) sets of accusations, in the format reserved and set down in the Standard Procedure Manual for Resolutions, and which were rejected as improper by the Resolutions Committee. They were subsequently rejected by the Board of Directors, at the Reno Meeting. They were deemed improper because the accusations should have been submitted to the Ethics & Grievance Committee, and came with no documented evidence to support them.

B. Considering your sworn duties as 1st Vice President, it would have seemed more honorable to resign your position, and submit your charges and complaints to the Ethics & Grievance Committee. Since the rejections of your accusations by the Resolutions Committee and then the Board of Directors at the Reno Meeting in October, you have done neither. It is reasonable, then, to assume there is no documented, credible evidence to support your complaints.

From Page 10 of the Bylaws, as ratified by the Membership, October 26, 2007:

"KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC. 2007 BYLAWS (Continued)

B. Vice Presidents. The two Vice Presidents shall assist the President in the performance of his duties.

The First Vice President has seniority, and in the absence of the President, shall serve as and have the powers of, the President. In the absence of both the President and the First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall be responsible to the membership of the association. The Second Vice President shall be honorary chairman for the Association Membership meetings held during his term of office."

From Page 9 of the Standard Procedure Manual (SPM), Rev 004:

"KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
STANDARD PROCEDURE MANUAL

- 9 -

2. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

a. RESPONSIBILITIES

"Assume and perform the responsibilities and duties of President when absent. "Absent" is defined as the President being incapacitated to the point of being unable, physically or mentally, to perform his/her duties or not being physically present at a

Every effort will be expended to make the KWVA a respected organization with a growing membership--not an organization that has suffered a decrease in membership.

[You speak with a forked tongue! Even as death claimed 1,877 KWVA members between 02-08-05 and 02-08-08, membership grew under Jeff Brodeur's able leadership as Membership Chair. While death claimed over 11% of its members during that period, KWVA still had a net gain of 299 members! Exactly how many of those new members did you recruit during your terms of office? One E&G member, Doyle Dykes, recruited nine new KWVA members in 2007. He recruited ten new KWVA members in 2006, six in 2005, six in 2004, and five in 2003. Meanwhile, what were you doing to ensure membership growth? Simply warming a seat on the board at members expense doesn't count.]

Mike Doyle

Candidate for First Vice President

As a candidate of the proposed slate I will work to bring about changes which will give you, the members, what has not been very important in the near past--authority.

[Wrong! Authority demands matching responsibility. No member has the authority to act for KWVA unless the membership has elected him or elected officials have appointed him to a position. Thus, no member has the authority to write checks against KWVA accounts unless the President has appointed him as Treasurer with approval from the Board. No legitimate organization would long survive by mindlessly handing out authority.]

I, along with the others on our slate, will endeavor to run this wonderful organization for the members, all the members and not just a select few.

[Yet, you've chosen Bob Fuoco who circulated the e-mail "I move to disband KWVA" and Ken Buckley who wrote "This disgusting KWVA" in his e-mail as your spokespersons. Which is it, a wonderful organization or this disgusting KWVA?]

We wish to serve you not decide among ourselves what is the right path without asking you, the members.

[Yet, you and your troupe decided to ignore the bylaws and disrupt the meeting in San Antonio. Your past actions indicate that you want to run the show.]

We intend to have a completely transparent organization.

[Does this transparency include confessing that you along with all other board members have received detailed quarterly reports showing each check written by category? You have yet to renounce Bob Fuoco for his attempts to derail the Federal charter bills.]

Glenn Berry
Candidate for Second Vice President

My intention as 2nd Vice president is to return the KWVA back to the rank and file members who have so long been left out and ignored.

[Specifically, how do you intend to "return KWVA to rank and file members"? You need to think for yourself instead of repeating false claims by Fuoco, the disgraced former member who lobbied Members of Congress to kill the KWVA Federal Charter bill.]

I will listen to each and every member who has a complaint and see that their rights as a member are upheld.

[You may listen to complaints such as those by disgraced former member, Bob Fuoco, who once posted the e-mail message, "I move to disband KWVA." But by satisfying Bob Fuoco, you take away the rights of most other KWVA members who do want a strong growing organization. Which rights are you going to uphold?]

I intend to see that every member's right in the 1st amendment to the Constitution of the United States--freedom of speech--is upheld.

[Obviously, you either haven't read or don't understand the Bill of Rights. They protect you and me from the government. In no way does the 1st amendment take away the rights of any church, business, non-profit, or veteran's organization to discipline its members for speaking against it. You may speak freely and bad mouth anything, but in a free society, you must also be prepared to accept the consequences for your speech and behavior. You seem to dislike the idea of taking responsibility for your words and actions. The full text of Amendment I to the United States Constitution follows:]

*Bill of Rights
Amendment I*

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

I will work with the other members of the board--to work as a team is the only way we can accomplish our mission.

[Your running mates, Dickerson and Doyle have shown a tendency to work against, not with the current board. The Dickerson-Doyle duo is noted for its lack of accomplishments. Is this Dickerson-Doyle template the kind of teamwork you plan to emulate?]

B. On the Buckley website you:

- Criticize the Bylaws, some of which were discussed, debated, and passed while you sat as Vice President, but there is no record of you ever objecting, or even commenting on their enactment.
- Discuss your intent to abolish or discard much of the progress made to date. It is not clear how you expect to do this. It is the Board of Directors that makes revisions to the Bylaws. The President has no vote, unless there is a tie. Unlike the President, you and Director Doyle ALWAYS had a vote. You will have to have a majority of the Board to support you, with a quorum, and 2/3 of that.
- Declare that you want to abolish the Ethics & Grievance Committee. Really? In spite of the fact that it was not only approved by the Board of Directors, and later approved by the entire KWVA Membership, by their vote? Really? Why have you or Director Doyle never opposed in writing or in a called meeting the E&G Committee or any of its findings?

The Minutes of the KWVA Executive Council Meeting, Arlington, VA, July 26,2005, officially record that the authority of the Ethics & Grievance Committee was approved by UNANIMOUS vote, and one of those votes was given by Byron Dickerson.

C. In emails, signed by Byron Dickerson:

- Why do you claim in an email with your name at the bottom that the membership has received no financial reports, clearly a false statement?
- Why do you claim in an email with your name at the bottom that 14 members have been expelled? That is an unsupportable, false statement also.

3. Why does the text of your Candidacy Profile in The Graybeards (March-April 2008) not match up with the goals and intentions attributed to you, as listed in the email (see above) sent out on the internet?

A. The Candidate Profile is usually written by the candidate, in the 1st person.

B. What's posted on the Buckley website and sent via emails, at least in the case of Byron Dickerson, is written in the 2nd person. Except for the Candidate Profile, there is no record, it appears, where you personally place an opinion or an objective or a plan of action yourself. Ordinarily this might be OK, except that unlike the other two candidates for President, you have, or allow, these other, contradictory presentations.

4. Do you plan to exercise your office duties in that manner? That is, have someone else, a proxy, a substitute leader, to do your presidential duties for you?

Mr. Dickerson, one can only assume that you do not read our magazine, since it is beyond imagination that you would make such a serious charge, considering the absence of evidence you put forth against officers of the KWVA who discharge their fiduciary obligations to the KWVA charter and the members. Sounds intentionally deceptive to me, and I say shame on you!

"...The Graybeards, while a truly wonderful magazine, contains only items approved by the current administration. You may recall that the issue prior to the last election contained 10-12 pages of all the accomplishments of the current president. This may happen again - promoting whoever the administration has chosen to run for president in the next election. The average member never sees or hears anything that is contradictory to the policies of the organization as it is now operating. An example is the fact that the recent fund raising was declared by the U.S. Post Office to be a lottery which is illegal - were you ever told about this?..."

Now that is a nasty, collective set of speculation and untruth, and the last bit is unsupported by fact. What recent fundraising? We have your accusation. Where is your EVIDENCE? Again, if you are unable or unwilling to read The Graybeards, sit down with someone so they can read it to you. You imply that you are not an 'average member,' but at the very least, the 'Average Members' read the contents of The Graybeards. You apparently don't, or you wouldn't make your shameful, unfounded, unwarranted accusations. If you think a federal law has been violated, sir, put up or shut up. The Yellow Pages have the applicable phone numbers for reporting such, and being a former postal employee, you should know what to do.

QUESTIONS

1. Have you personally, Byron Dickerson; as a KWVA Member, or as an KWVA officer, ever put before the KWVA Board of Directors, in writing or orally, any of the issues attributed to you on the Buckley website, or in the email sent out by Bob Fuoco & more recently Clyde Hooks, with your name at the bottom? There does not appear to be any record of either.

2. Why does the text of your Candidate Profile in the current The Graybeards (March-April 2008) not match up with the goals and intentions attributed to you, as listed (see above) on the Buckley website, or your current Candidate Profile? (See below).

A. In your Candidate Profile, your views, intent and goals are considerably more moderate than the emails and web postings, which are aggressive and full of radical changes to an established organization. That is opposite to what you say in your current Candidate Profile. The contrast goes even further when you read Glen Thompson's response to the '2008 Dickerson Slate' you will find in Let There Be Light.

(Directors listed as received--for your vote to count, you must select only four (4)).

Clyde Hooks
Candidate for Director

As I have served on bylaws and constitution committees in other organizations, I feel qualified to chair a committee to simplify and clarify the KWVA Bylaws and ensure they protect the members and the honor of the those who have served. My term on the current Bylaws Committee has allowed very little of my input.
[You've actually had your say and voted on every proposed amendment brought before the Bylaws Committee. Did you expect your vote should count as two or three? If you rule the Bylaws Committee, it is not a democratic process. Is that what you want to do, have the final say on all decisions by the bylaws committee?]

I would like to see the "Feedback/Return Fire" section of The Graybeards expanded to include concerns of the members regardless of whether they are in praise or critical of the organization and its administrators.
[You want to make The Graybeards another National Enquirer magazine with Bob "I move to disband KWVA" Fuoco, Ken "This disgusting KWVA" Buckley, and John Kronenberger throwing verbal bombs at any and every one. The Enquirer has the money to deal with multiple lawsuits caused by that kind of journalism, KWVA does not.]

The Graybeards should not be used as an organ to promote the serving administration while at the same time criticizing those who might be in opposition to them.
[Don't mess with The Graybeards! That magazine has significantly improved since Art Sharp took over as its editor. Considering all the barbs you and other Disciples of Destruction have hurled at The Graybeards, Art Sharp has shown amazing restraint.]

The editor of the magazine shall endeavor to fully meet his responsibilities as outlined on page 14 of the Standard Procedure Manual with no personal input.
[Read that section again. Precisely what part of those responsibilities has Art Sharp not met during his term as The Graybeards' Editor?]

I would like for the new Board of Directors to make a thorough review of all of the disciplinary actions that have been taken in the past two years.
[Yet Dickerson and Doyle were members of the Board that took those disciplinary actions. Delve too deeply into the actions or lack of actions by the Dickerson-Doyle duo and you expose their uselessness as mere seat warmers on the Board.]

Luther Rice
Candidate for Director

One of my first priorities will be to convince members of the new administration

to restore full membership status to those individuals who have been expelled, suspended, or placed on probation by current office holders.

[Are you sure? Is it OK with you to reinstate the person who sent a barrage of mail, e-mails, and phone calls to Members of Congress urging them to kill the KWVA Federal Charter bills? If you oppose a Federal Charter for KWVA, then say so.]

In addition, the need, role and responsibilities of the E&G Committee needs to be investigated and clarified IF the committee is to be continued.

[Meaningless words. If you had any interest in the role of the E&G Committee, you would have read the bylaws posted on the KWVA web site. Had you seen something in the bylaws that needed changing, you should have sent in a proposed amendment. You didn't.]

David McDonald
Candidate for Director

I believe in the autonomy of the Chapters and hold a sincere respect for the ideas and concerns of every individual member of KWVA.

[If by autonomy, you mean chapters may violate the bylaws and recruit new members without requiring them to join National, then your plan aims to destroy KWVA. If your chapter wanted complete independence, why did it seek a charter with KWVA? I don't know about your chapter, but in my chapter, we independently elected our officers, chose our meeting sites, recruited sixteen new KWVA members last year, logged over three thousand eight hundred volunteer hours at the VA hospital last year, and took part in various patriotic events. We don't waste time complaining about National during our chapter meetings. Didn't during the Coon administration and don't now.]

There is currently a trend to place too much importance on organizational tiers. The premise being the higher the tier, the more important and authoritative the member.

[It's interesting that your running mate, Clyde Hooks is running on the platform of adding yet another tier, KWVA Regions. If your complaint is about State Departments, most national veterans organizations have State Departments and many organizations have District Offices.]

I hold true that all members are equal.

[Not true! Although all members have the same rights to participate in local and national activities, not all members participate. Some members donate hundreds of hours each year to local and national events. These active members have a greater impact on KWVA affairs at the local and national level than those who do nothing but pay their annual dues. No, not all KWVA members are equal.]

There should be no looking up or looking down. I will work to reverse this trend.

[Meaningless words. Maybe your chapter looks up and down, but in my chapter, we

date and I ask that you give them full consideration for election. These will be members who want the organization to be returned to the members. We will chose a new path.

Thank you,

Byron Dickerson

P. S. If you want to help in electing a new slate and turning the organization back over to the members, please contact Bob Fuoco at bobfuoco@aol.com."

Please note that Mr. Fuoco is no longer a member of the KWVA, having been expelled by the KWVA Board of Directors, for Just Cause, at the Called Board Meeting, at Pineville, Louisiana, on Jan 13-15, 2008. "Just Cause" is defined in the Standard Procedure Manual, in its Glossary of Terms. Both the KWVA Bylaws & the SPM that implements its policy were approved by a duly elected Board of Directors, and are available for viewing and/or download @ <http://www.kwva.org>

The Fuoco email; with your name on it, is a collection, a loose litany of accusations simply not supported by any evidence with a factual basis. Just to make it easier for you, and those who might be reading this, let's examine the following from that email:

"...Expenditures: Have you ever seen a full accounting of income and expenditures? You're not alone--even members of the Board have not been privileged to receive this information. This is a serious matter. These are your moneys and you are entitles to see what they are spent for. Attorney fees, office expenses, travel expenses, etc., etc., none of these have been delineated and the members are entitled to know..."

As a matter of fact, this member (my member number is LR18750) watched and listened at the Reno Convention, October 23-25, during the presentation of the Treasurer's Report by Secretary Richard Hare, and the CPA, Doyle Henderson, where all of the financial information you say you seek, and more, was given. It was later given to the ENTIRE membership in the 2007 November-December Issue of The Graybeards, in the Minutes of the General Membership, on Page 20. I do not recall you making any comment of any kind during the entire meeting.

Also, in the January-February 2008 Issue of The Graybeards, on Pages 20-21, there is a KWVA Accounting and Tax Summary:2004-2005. There has been no comment from you on the record about that, either.

Moreover, you have been receiving, and all Board officers have received, a comprehensive financial statement prepared by the KWVA Certified Public Accountant every three (3) months for the last three years you have served on the Board. Furthermore, you have been free to share and/or discuss any of that information with either the 2nd VP, The President, or the Board of Director members. That includes the open ledger of every check written, which includes attorney fees, & office and travel expenses. If you claim ignorance of that, then you are professing either incompetence or the actions of an outright liar.

The following email message was sent by Bob Fuoco, and signed by Byron Dickerson:

"TIME FOR NEW IDEAS AND CHANGE!

I've long been troubled by the direction in which OUR organization has been traveling: too much dissension; too much secrecy; too much expenditure of money; and many other excesses. Let me expand on just a few of these items:

Dissension: You would be amazed at the e-mails that have disseminated from members of the current administration. Response to members' question have been answered with their being called the following names: maggots, liars, terrorists and suicide bombers, bastards, and on and on.

Secrecy: Many questions asked by chapters, departments, and members have been ignored or answered with an inference that "It is none of your business." All matters of the association is the business of the organization's members and should be responded to in an honest and polite manner.

Expenditures: Have you ever seen a full accounting of income and expenditures? You're not alone--even members of the Board have not been privileged to receive this information. This is a serious matter. These are your moneys and you are entitles to see what they are spent for. Attorney fees, office expenses, travel expenses, etc., etc., none of these have been delineated and the members are entitled to know.

A Couple of Other matters:

**The KWVA Bylaws have been written, rewritten and amended to the point where it is grounds for expulsion for a member to raise a question.*

**The Graybeards, while a truly wonderful magazine, contains only items approved by the current administration. You may recall that the issue prior to the last election contained 10-12 pages of all the accomplishments of the current president. This may happen again - promoting whoever the administration has chosen to run for president in the next election. The average member never sees or hears anything that is contradictory to the policies of the organization as it is now operating. An example is the fact that the recent fund raising was declared by the U.S. Post Office to be a lottery which is illegal - were you ever told about this?*

I have, therefore, decided to run for the Office of President of KWVA and my promise to you will be the return of the organization to you. I want things more open and the members' questions answered. A full disclosure of financial matters will be one of my first concerns--it is a matter that should be fully explored. It will be published for all to see.

I will be getting back to you with a list of those who have these same objectives at a future

look ahead. Perhaps you've spent too much time looking up and down and not enough time looking ahead.]

I support the dissolution of the Ethics and Grievance Committee and a more detailed accounting of the finances of KWVA.
[If you wished to dissolve the E&G Committee, why haven't you sent in a proposed bylaws amendment to that effect? You talk, but I see no action. How much more detail do you want on the KWVA financial reports? Do you want a complete list of every transaction to fill several pages of The Graybeards? Would you understand a transaction report?]

My professional history qualifies me to help guide The Graybeards.
[So, you're a retired publisher, big deal. Art Sharp needs no guidance from you. As The Graybeards' Editor, he does a magnificent job, thank you. I love Art Sharp's promise to accept chapter news any way he gets it, whether by mail, e-mail, or written on a napkin. Art Sharp has kept that promise. He doesn't need a smart aleck ex-publisher telling him how to run The Graybeards.]

I will work for unity and devotion of all our combined skills and energy to secure our National Charter.
[Good grief, what are you saying? Your "unity and devotion...combined skills and energy", tells me nothing. If you support a Federal charter, say so. Note, though, the top of the ticket obviously doesn't support a Federal charter. Ask their campaign manager, Bob Fuoco, who lobbied Members of Congress against Federal charter bills.]

Chapters and individual members can count on me to respond to their communications.

Luther Dappen
Candidate for Director

As a Director, I will do all in my power to ensure that a thorough review is made of the disciplinary actions taken on members with the thought in mind of reinstating all those who have been unjustly accused.
[How do you know members have been unjustly accused? You weren't there during that long tedious process of review and hearings. Do you know Bob Fuoco, for example? As a previous member of my chapter, Fuoco has always been a loose cannon. He brags about bombarding Members of Congress with appeals to kill the KWVA Federal charter bills. For this alone, Bob Fuoco deserved disciplinary action. Yet, you link up with the Dickerson-Doyle ticket which chose Bob Fuoco as its campaign manager. God help us all!]

I will endeavor to see that The Graybeards is never used as a political tool again as it was in the November/December issue and will support the necessary actions to insure this.

[If you only want to read negative stuff about KWVA, read the slime thrown out by Buckley, Fuoco, and Kronenberger. But if you want to be informed about KWVA's accomplishments, read The Graybeards.]

A magazine for members of an organization should never be used to degrade and/or slander another member.

[Specifically, which member has been degraded or slandered in The Graybeards? You might try reading The Graybeards instead of the garbage dispensed by Buckley, Fuoco, and Kronenberger.]

William "Bill" Olson
Candidate for Director

As a Director I will strive to see that every KWVA members' right under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States--Freedom of Speech--is upheld.

[How many times must I explain that the authors wrote the Bill of Rights to protect the people from the government? Nowhere in the U.S. Constitution will you find restrictions on churches, businesses, home owners associations, or veteran's organizations which prevents them from disciplining their own members. You need to think for yourself and quit letting that Brown woman lead you around by the nose.]

I will diligently work with the other members of the Board to work as a team in accomplishing our mission toward this end and other matters. We sincerely thank you for your consideration.

The Dickerson/Doyle Slate for 2008
Sent by Clyde Hooks

The Dickerson-Doyle Hate Slate

1. *The Dickerson-Doyle slate is a recipe for disaster because it:*
2. *Opposes a Federal Charter for KWVA.*
3. *Years for the good old days when weak financial controls resulted in the loss of over \$400,000 under the Pappas Administration.*
4. *Seeks to remake The Graybeards into a tabloid designed to spread gossip, half-truths and untruths about good KWVA members.*
5. *Rejects the improved information system that allows chapters to access chapter information on the KWVA web site.*
6. *Dismisses that every KWVA member can view annual financial reports in the Nov/Dec issue of The Graybeards.*
7. *Ignores that KWVA has had its first ever independent audits, three of them.*
8. *Snubs the vast majority of KWVA and Board members who approved the current bylaws.*
9. *Disregards that KWVA VAVS volunteers, led by J.D. Randolph, saved the VA almost one million dollars in 2007 through volunteer work.*
10. *Revels in spreading misinformation about other candidates through their proxies, Bob "I move to disband KWVA" Fuoco, Ken "This disgusting KWVA" Buckley, and John Kronenberger.*

Since Byron intends to bring these exchanges to a halt, we won't repeat them here. Most importantly, is Byron's call for open exchanges between members and elected officers and appointees. We must have open communication, Byron says. "If questions are asked, then they should be responded to in an open and friendly manner.

Stop censorship, especially in Graybeards, the official organ of the KWVA., is another top goal. Byron believes that an open Letters To The Editor column should be initiated.

He would also call for an examination of "Return Trip Tours," with no closed deals.

Open the books to all, he says, and let's have more emphasis on strictly social events, and focus more on the chapters.

Byron wants an open organization with no one answerable to one man.

K-Vet Dickerson won the 1st VP post with more votes than those collected by Louis Dechert, who retained his presidency for a second and final term."

Please note that the posting is still up on the internet, on April 11, 2008.

On that website, you (or Buckley) say you want to:

1. *Abolish the Ethics & Grievance Committee*
2. *Abolish the Return Trip Tours*
3. *Stop censorship in the Graybeards*
4. *Add a Letters To The Editor column*
5. *Open the books*
6. *Focus more on chapters*
7. *Have an 'open' organization, with "no one answerable to one man."*

Mr. Dickerson, If you would refer to the November-December 2007 issue of The Graybeards, you will find an editorial by Art Sharp that clearly refutes your allegations about The Graybeards and its editorial standards.

As for the Ethics & Grievance Committee, it and the Bylaws and Standard Procedure Manual that put it in place were established by a duly elected Board of Directors. The process that expelled members, (there have been 6, not the 14 that you claim), and whatever you or someone else might say, it was done in accordance with the KWVA Bylaws and the Standard Procedure Manual, both established with due process, by the KWVA Board of Directors. Please note that the Ethics & Grievance Committee was approved, by vote, by the entire KWVA Membership.

of August 1948. I arrived in Korea on the 5th day of January 1951. I was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division. I participated in several battles the last one being Heartbreak Ridge. I rotated from Korea on the 25th day of November 1951. I tried to put Korea out of my mind for the next 50 years. When I learned of the KWVA I joined. I served in Chapter 215 as the founding Judge Advocate. My personal awards are, CIB, Good Conduct, And National Defense. Korean Service with four battle stars, U.S. Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citations and Others. I am a life member of KWVA, LR 22282, VFW, DAV, American Legion, CIA, 2nd Division Alliance, 2nd Division Association and the 23rd Inf. Regt. Assoc. I was discharged from the Army May 22, 1952;

I am 76 years old in good health married to the same wife for 55 years.

I retired from the U.S. Postal Service with 37 years service. I consider it an Honor and Privilege to be a candidate for President and I solicit your vote and I promise that I will attend all called meetings and I understand that two unexcused absences could be used for removal from office. I am a life member therefore my dues will be current for the term 2008-2010. I have enclosed a separate signed official membership application showing eligible service and this statement releasing it for verification by the Nominating Committee."

Second, your Candidate Profile in The Graybeards does not appear to reflect the views posted on Ken Buckley's website <http://k-vetsunite.blogspot.com/> and attributed to you.

This is the way Buckley's Home Page looks today, just as it did on December 18th. The following was posted on December 18, on Ken Buckley' Home Page, at <http://k-vetsunite.blogspot.com/>:

*"Tuesday, December 18, 2007
Byron's Goals
Walking Tall*

*THERE'S A LOT TO BE done once elected.
And, for Byron one of the first orders of business will be to reinstate those 14 members who were kicked out by Louis Dechert, president.*

He also would move to abolish the Ethics & Grievance Committee which served this current administration's wishes to get rid of anyone who questioned the authoritarian rule.

The current division has worsened through the easily accessible E-Mail possibilities. Unfortunately, much of the bad mouthing contrary to the opinion of the executives, was by the executives themselves.

Members taking the opposite side of an issue have been repelled by some of the most caustic language imaginable.

OK, Which Candidates Should I Vote For?

You can safely vote for any of the candidates listed below, except those marked Not Recommended. You can go to the Code of Conduct link below to make your own decision about that. When reading candidate resumes (Candidate Profiles) in The Graybeards March-April Issue, look for positive statements about the KWVA, and how they compare with those you read here or elsewhere.

CANDIDATES FOR 2008 KWVA ELECTION

- Candidates are listed in alphabetical Order
- Those with (CC) beside their name have signed the KWVA Code Of Conduct

To read it, go to:

http://www.kwva.org/update/i_update_060818_code_of_conduct.asp#CodeOfConduct

President

Byron Dickerson LR22282 (Not Recommended - see above)
William Mac Swain LR26546 (CC)
Christ Yanacos LR11094 (CC)

1st Vice President

Mike Doyle LR33526 (Not Recommended - see above)
James Ferris LC00436 (CC)

2nd Vice President

Robert S. Banker R028382 (CC)
Glenn E. Berry R010780 (Not Recommended - see above)

Directors

Leo D. Agnew LR36218 (CC)
Jeff Brodeur LR35528 (CC)
Luther Dappen LR27827 (Not Recommended - see above)
Clyde Hooks LR29987 (CC) (Not Recommended - see above)
George E. Lawhon LR18750 (CC)
Tine Martin R030530 (CC)
David A McDonald LR28247 (Not Recommended - see above)
Wilmer "Bill" R Olson R038556 (Not Recommended - see above)
Mellant Palo LR37115 (CC)
Luther Rice LR19674 (CC) (Not Recommended - see above)

QUESTIONS FOR 'BYRON DICKERSON'

The purpose of this open letter to Byron Dickerson is to better inform the voters who will receive ballots in their March-April Issue of The Graybeards. While it may seem at times lengthy, we sincerely believe it is information that is not only useful, but necessary. Please feel free to check what you read here for yourself, via the links supplied, and going on the internet to <http://www.kwva.org/> - the official Korean War Veterans Association website.

For some time now, since before the KWVA 2008 National Election officially began, we have watched from California as a group of people, operating under the name 'Byron Dickerson,' have sent emails and made website postings that support him and under the name 'Byron's Slate for 2008.'

Catchy, but in a serious sense, what was, and is, and obviously will be said in those venues requires an answer. To this date, we haven't seen Byron Dickerson or his proxies say anything different; it is always in language that is hostile to the KWVA Administration; its accomplishments and goals; and the intent seems to be to tear down what has been built; and restore expelled members to an accepted status, without any formal review, bing, bang, just like that.

Whether it is in an email or on a website, it always is expressed in the Second Person, in someone else's voice, with his name at the end. Never straight from Byron Dickerson. The email or web posting may have his name on its bottom line, but the sender is someone else and the CC distribution is to *'undisclosed recipients.'*

Now we have heard from Byron Dickerson in his own words, as submitted to the Nominating & Election Committee, and published in the March-April Issue of the official KWVA Magazine, The Graybeards.

As you will see from the letter below, his Candidacy Profile in The Graybeards has a distinctly different, a more moderate tone and flavor than that of the emails and website postings.

We ask you to consider two facts:

1. **Byron Dickerson is presently the First VP of the KWVA.**
2. **There is no record of either he or the KWVA Director Doyle, both on the 'Byron's Slate for 2008' ever entering anything on the KWVA Board of Director's meeting agenda, including what you will see in the email and website language, in his name (See below).**

So to be fair to the other two candidates running for President, Bill Mac Swain & Christ Yanacos, who have not resorted to the tactics mentioned here, which one of the Byron Dickersons should we consider when we cast our vote?

We believe that any reasonable, fair person would select someone other than Byron Dickerson.

The decision which direction the KWVA takes, an important one, is rightfully yours, the member with the vote.

WHICH BYRON DICKERSON SHOULD WE VOTE FOR?

TO:

Byron Dickerson LR22282

First Vice President

Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

Sir:

This letter is to address a serious question that has come up in the 2008 KWVA National Election: That question is, which version should we, the voting membership, consider as your actual view(s) regarding your intent of performance, were you to be elected President?

It is a significant problem for the voting membership. There are three (3) candidates for the Office of President; the other two clearly make their case for why they should be elected, and wherever & whenever they do, their own statements agree with each other. Not so in yours.

OBSERVATIONS

First, as a basis for discussion, there is your most recent version, the Candidate's Profile you have published in the current March-April issue of The Graybeards. It bears little resemblance and a distinctly different tone and flavor than your views posted on the internet, and sent via email, bearing your name, together with what you and your 'Slate' plan to do if you are elected President of the KWVA.

From the 2008 March-April Issue, The Graybeards
From President Candidates - Byron W. Dickerson

"This is to announce my intent to run for the position of President of the Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. I presently serve as The First Vice President. Previously I served as the Second Vice President. I also serve on the Board of another non profit. Some of the things I would like to see in the KWVA.

1. *Continue seeking a National Charter.*
2. *A profit and loss statement in each issue of the Graybeards.*
3. *A letter to the Editor for complaints, etc.*
4. *Restoration and Peace*
5. *Cease Fire on all of the name calling and accusations, etc.*
6. *Open door policy, if you have a question it will be answered with respect.*
7. *Accountability on all issues.*
8. *Continue helping Veterans to receive their benefits.*

I was born raised and attended school in Girard, Texas. I enlisted in the Army on the 3rd