



# WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

---

## NEWSLETTER

### **EDITORIAL**

Since the last Edition of our Newsletter, in March 2017, the World Veterans Federation has had three very active months. First of all, we received confirmation that our Member Association in the Republic of China on Taiwan will hold the 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee for Asia and the Pacific. This Meeting will take place from 2 – 6 September this year. This is the second consecutive time that ROC on Taiwan has organised a Meeting of the Standing Committee and I would like to, on behalf of the Executive Board and the WVF Member Associations, thank them for their efforts and their irreproachable hospitality.



The WVF Executive Board also held its 156th Meeting. This Meeting was held “Out of Committee”, mainly because of its Members’ time restraints, as they are based around the world, and also to limit the working costs of the Federation, which is still beset by financial difficulties. In this respect, the Secretariat and the Executive Board are still working in close collaboration on the Veterans Communication Platform, and are finalising the partnership and fundraising opportunities to help the Federation in its mission. A summary of the measures taken during this Meeting of the Executive Board will be distributed among Member Associations in due time, and you will be able to find more information on certain decisions taken in this Newsletter. I would also like to note that the next Meeting of the Executive Board will take place in Taipei, just before the 22nd Meeting of the SCAP, in September 2017.

In coordination with the WVF Headquarters in Paris, I regularly discuss ongoing projects and the current situation of the Federation with our Executive Director, Mrs. Faye Purcell and the secretariat. This gives me the chance to talk about my visits, such as my recent trip to Poland, on 23-24 May, where I was accompanied by Mr. Theo Radford, Administrative Assistant from the WVF Secretariat. We were able to meet with representatives from all of our Member Associations in Poland, the Chairman of the Peace and Security Division, as well as important representatives from the Government and National Security to discuss further cooperation with the WVF. During my visit last time to Paris I also had a chance to meet up with Mr. Laurent Attar Bayrou, President of SPIA, Member of the WVF, to discuss issues surrounding French veterans and International Peacekeepers.

In the hope that I will see the vast majority of you in Taipei in September, I wish you a pleasurable reading of this edition of your Newsletter.

Dan-Viggo Bergtun  
President



### **22ND MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

You can find the provisional Programme, the Registration Form and the Rules of the Standing Committees, for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee for Asia and the Pacific of the World Veterans Federation, which will be held from 2 –6 September 2017 in Taipei, ROC on Taiwan, on the WVF website: <http://wvf-fmac.org/index.php/events-en/22nd-meeting-of-the-standing-committee-for-asia-and-the-pacific>



## **WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION 156TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 7 JUNE 2017, OUT OF COMMITTEE**

The 156th meeting of the WVF Executive Board was held in the first week of June 2017 'out of committee'. It was the first time that the Executive Board has carried out a full meeting in this way, and this new approach will mean that the Board can hold more decision making meetings without increasing WVF spending. Decisions were taken that will be of great importance in shaping the future activities of the WVF, which are outlined below:

### **Establishment of the Standing Committee for the Americas**

It has long been a desire of the WVF to reignite its activities in the Americas, and the WVF Executive Board took the decision at its 156th meeting to pronounce the establishment of the Standing Committee on the Americas. Mr. Saif Kahn of the American Veterans Committee has been appointed as Project Coordinator for the Establishment of the Committee. His task will be to make contact with existing and prospective members of the Standing Committee with a view to ensure participation at its first meeting and to elect a Board for the Standing Committee. The WVF President will follow the progress of the Committee closely and it is hoped that the Committee will hold its first meeting on the occasion of the 29th General Assembly of the WVF, scheduled to be held in 2018, where a Chairman can be elected in accordance with the WVF Constitution and Rules. We wish Mr. Khan the best of luck in this venture and look forward to meeting old and new colleagues from the Americas next year.



Mr. Saif Khan

### **Companions of the WVF**

The Executive Board also approved future cooperation agreements with prospective 'Companions of the WVF', who are interested in supporting the WVF's mission:

**SENSORI AB** is a Stockholm based company that produces innovative products that make life easier for major disease groups worldwide in the ear, nose and throat area. Members may recall a previous Companion agreement with this company under its former name 'AKLOMA AB'. As the conditions of the new agreement are worked out we thank SENSORI for their past generosity and look forward to future cooperation with them.

**The International Project Organization (INTPO)** is an organization set up to run the IGALO rehabilitation centre project which members will be familiar with from past issues.



Col. Bjarne Hesselberg

### **Establishment of an Elections Committee**

The need for a more structured approach to the Election of members of the Executive Board was identified some time ago. At its 156th meeting the WVF Executive Board decided to create an Elections Committee, which will study proposed candidates and identify prospective candidates for posts on the WVF Executive Board. The Committee will provide detailed information to participants at the relevant meetings to ensure that informed decisions can be made when elections take place and that the most capable persons are put forward for positions. Col. Bjarne Hesselberg (Denmark) has been nominated as Chair of the Committee.

A summary of all the decisions taken at the meeting will be distributed in due course.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS

The first International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was celebrated on 29 May 2003, following its inception by the General Assembly of the United Nations, in Resolution 57/129 (11 December 2002). The Day was created to pay homage to "all the men and women who served and continue to serve in UN Peacekeeping operations, as well as honouring the memory the memory of those who lost their life for the cause of peace".

The date, 29 May, was chosen because, on this day, in 1948, the first Peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), started its operations with a group of non-military observers in Palestine. We would like to recall in this regard the Security Council's establishment of the Dag Hammarskjöld, a medal that posthumously recognises UN Peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the service of peace.



Wreath laying ceremony in Warsaw on 29 May 2017

On 25 May 2017, a conference was held at the University of Warsaw entitled "Review of UN Peacekeeping Missions", organised by the International Relations Institute of the University of Warsaw, the Warsaw Peace Research Institute and the UN Peacekeeping Missions Veterans Association. Amongst the speakers, there were diplomats, Blue Berets, as well as students at the University. The conference was divided into two panels. The first panel, called "The state of UN Peacekeeping missions—successes and failures" was an examination and attempted evaluation of Peacekeeping Missions. The second panel, entitled "The Perspective of UN Missions in the 21st Century—a case study of the new Mission", was an evaluation of problems in missions. The participants looked to formulate recommendations that could improve the efficiency of Peacekeeping Missions.

On 29 May 2017, a wreath laying ceremony was held under the obelisk "In homage to Polish soldiers, fallen during peace, humanitarian and stabilisation Missions". Close by, one could find urns filled with the soil from all places where Polish soldiers died during these missions. The ceremony was organised by the UN Peacekeeping Missions Veterans Association. Various veterans from the Polish Association and a group representing the Polish youth participated in the ceremony. Finally, the Third Blue UN Peace March passed through the streets of Warsaw on 10 June 2017. The march, which had the slogan of "I want peace in the world", was organised by the UN Information Centre of Warsaw.



Blue UN Peace March in Warsaw on 10 June 2017

In the United Kingdom, to mark International UN Peacekeepers Day, a commemorative ceremony and a conference were held by the United Nations Association—UK (UNA-UK), in partnership with UNA-Westminster and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). The event was the biggest of its kind in Europe this year and attendance attained a record level. The ceremony took place on Friday 24 May 2017 and was the first event in Whitehall after the terrorist attack in Manchester a few days before. The commemorative ceremony was part of a day long conference on the means of improving the work of Peacekeeping, in the presence of about 180 experts and practitioners.



Wreath laying ceremony on 24 May 2017 at Whitehall

Numerous Member Associations also celebrated this day, notably in Ukraine, Finland and Sweden. By celebrating the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, we must remember that the most costly Peacekeeping Mission costs far less than the least expensive war. It is an investment that is well worth making.





*As part of the appreciation of the WVF's rich history, the Secretariat has plunged into the archives to let you re-live the greatest, sometimes forgotten, moments of the Federation.*

## LASKER AWARD FOR WVF

**Extract from 'World Veteran', the magazine of the World Veterans Federation published in September 1957.**

The World Veterans Federation was selected as one of the three winners of the (then triennial) Albert Lasker Awards for outstanding achievement in developing services for the disabled. The other winners were Professor Fabien W. G. Langenskiold, President of the Council of the Invalid Foundation in Finland and Dr. Howard A. Rusk, Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the New York University Bellevue Medical Centre.

The Awards Committee praised the World Veterans Federation for its "technical assistance and positive support to the planning and development of modern rehabilitation services in more than 30 nations", adding that the Federation had "conscientiously exercised its collective influence to promote the employment of the physically handicapped everywhere and to arouse heightened universal interest in the economic and social value of rehabilitation". Particular mention was made of the Solo Rehabilitation Centre in Indonesia as "a major joint pilot project which has served to bring to the people of Southeast Asia living proof that the disabled can be given a useful, integrated role in society".



Mr. Curtis Campaigne with the Lasker Prize

The Albert Lasker Awards are provided by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, established in 1942 for philanthropic purposes, in the fields of medicine, public health and various other aspects of social care. At the time, winners received the sum of \$ 2 000 and a silver statuette of the Winged Victory.

WVF Secretary General Curtis Campaigne accepted the award on behalf of the Federation during the World Congress of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples (ISWC), held in London that July. He announced that WVF would use its prize in a forthcoming rehabilitation project, to be carried out jointly with the ISWC.

The Lasker Foundation is still in existence today and its prizes are still considered as prestigious, sometimes referred to as the "American Nobels", as 86 Lasker Prizewinners have gone on to win Nobel prizes, 32 of whom won their prizes in the last 20 years.

## CONDOLENCES

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Col. EDF Prah, former Executive Director of the Veterans Administration Ghana, from 1990 to 2010. He passed away on 8 April 2017. We will remember him for his tireless work for veterans in Ghana, and around the world. We would like to pass on our most sincere condolences to his Association, his close ones, and his family.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Since our last edition, one of our Member Associations has changed President. We would like to congratulate Gen. Volodymyr Popovych (All-Ukrainian Union of War Veterans). The WVF President and Executive Board are looking forward to continuing working in cooperation with him and his Member Association in the future.

**Keep in mind that whenever you would like to keep up with the WVF's activities, you can find us online at <http://www.wvf-fmac.org/> as well as on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/worldveteransfederation/>**