

Mid-Northern Region Annual Report

CW5 (Ret) Philip E. (Phil) Tackett

Welcome to our Association's 42nd Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM) here at the Sheraton West-Des Moines, in Des Moines, IA. CW5 (Ret) Marv Peters and the Hawkeye Chapter members have put together a grand event. Marv, along with CW3 Rick Tucker, have done a great job getting everything set up and look forward to highlighting the Mid-Northern Region to the rest of the Association. During the last of April, my wife and I met our National President, Jim White and his wife Terri, in Des Moines to see and walk through the hotel for our AMM. CW5 Peters and crew had already put together a great agenda and only a few things needed to be tweaked. Folks, this is a nice hotel with full accommodations, several restaurants in the area, and is close to highway interchanges. It is an ideal setting and I am really looking forward to the week.

The Mid-Northern Region covers 14 states and its 13 Chapters represent thousands of serving and retired Warrant Officers all in three components of the Army. Many of these highly skilled men and women serve as helicopter pilots, intelligence analysts, armament and equipment repair technicians, personnel managers, logisticians, and other technical fields, which are critical to success on the modern battlefield. All of these Warrant Officers proudly serve daily, either here at home or in many deployed environments. Mid-Northern Region Members number greater than 1,100, from Minnesota to Missouri and from Kentucky to Colorado.

The Chapters in the Region continue to be busy, making increased efforts to get the word out to other Warrant Officers about what we do and who we are. Some are looking at various ways to increase attendance at Chapter meetings by changing the days, times and locations of meetings. The WO1 free membership helps to get us started, but all Region leaders need to ensure the *renewal* of these Members. We are also contacting these same WO1s who have let their memberships expire to request they renew their memberships. This helps tremendously in maintaining our National membership as well as funds to continue to operate. We also explain that there is strength in numbers, and that the USAWOA is an integral, charter member of The Military Coalition ((TMC).

Some Chapters are supporting their local Veterans' Homes and the children in their community by donating to and supporting the Snack-in-a-Pack Program, Feeding America, and Kentucky's Heartland Program. One conducted a chili cook-off and

sponsored a local charity golf tournament. Another one sponsored a “Boot Camp for Heroes,” where children of fallen Soldiers were escorted and shown a day in the life of a Soldier by Chapter Members. Much more is being done by all the Chapters, and will be highlighted as time permits. Quad Cities Chapter participated in the Quad Cities Bix 7 Run/Walk in July. They took part in The Habitat for Humanity event on 21 Jun 14. Those in attendance placed all the plywood on the roof and provided the framing structure for the front porch. The Chapter donated to the Morgan House Fire Fund. Mr. Morgan, a retired Marine with two Vietnam tours and stage IV liver cancer had recently lost everything in a fire. Ft McCoy Chapter presented CW4 Tim Pickerill with the Warrant Officer Mentor of the Year Trophy for the 88th Regional Support Command. They also participated in the Ft. McCoy Retirees Day in Sep.

From the Mid America Chapter, WO1 James Yantis and his Bataan death march team that the Chapter helped support placed fourth overall in the team category

Many of our Warrant Officer Chapters celebrated the Warrant Officer Birthday on 9 July. There were ceremonies with senior leaders taking part and cakes cut, run/walks conducted, and softball games. Our Region Warrants celebrated in grand style. Although there are many Warrant Officers in the Region who do not belong to the Association, the bottom line is the Region represents all Warrant Officers.

Our Warrant Officers are doing great things, both deployed in theater and at home station. Our retirees are helping to keep our Chapters viable and effective. Here is a hearty **thank you** to the Warrant Officers of the Mid-Northern Region, for all your great and heroic efforts to keep us going and charging forward.

FOR THE REGION, FOR THE ASSOCIATION, AND FOR THE CORPS!