

National President's Annual Report 2016

By CW4 (Ret) Greg Gouty
National President, USAWOA



It was truly a pleasure to join our USAWOA board of directors (BOD), Members, spouses, and friends at the 44th Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) in Austin, TX. I sincerely thank the spouses who joined us, our Mid-Southern Region hosts, and the staff of the DoubleTree Hotel for working with us to make this a successful and memorable event.

Anyone present who didn't think our association is busy working on behalf of its members and surrounding communities learned differently from the reports given at the meeting. We have been active from the chapter level to the national level.

Region Directors reported on the thousands of dollars donated and thousands of hours volunteered by Chapters in support of their surrounding communities and other worthwhile organizations. National officials reported on very important topics such as membership, the financial status of the association, and what we do on Capitol Hill in coordination with The Military Coalition (TMC). Also briefed was the work of the United States Army Warrant Officer 100th Anniversary Observance Committee (USAWO100).

We've grown from last year at this time from approximately 5,800 to 6,400 members. The National Vice President developed a three-point plan that he implemented, helping with recruiting and retention, and keeping Members from hitting the dropped member list. It is a simple plan:

- 1) Sign up non-Member attendees at Chapter Meetings.
- 2) Ensure "about to expire" Members renew their memberships.
- 3) Follow up on dropped Members, if they have fallen through the cracks.

It takes the involvement of Region Directors and Chapter Leadership to make contact with members who need to renew their membership. Tracking new WO1s as they PCS to their first duty station is an especially hard nut to crack. The Association must welcome them and each Chapter close to a major installation should reach out and make contact with our new WO1s when they first arrive.

We want our Members to be involved with what we do on Capitol Hill and with TMC, so we crafted 14 legislative resolutions which were debated, amended, and voted on at this year's AMM (see page 8). These will form the basis of next year's USAWOA mission with TMC, the Pentagon, Congress, and the White House:

- End Sequestration
- Properly Fund Our Nation's Armed Services
- Survival of the All-Volunteer Force
- Support the Army Staff Senior Warrant Officer and Army Senior Warrant Officer Council
- Fair Uniformed Service Member Pay Increases
- Oppose Reductions to Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)
- Adequately Fund Retirements of the Future Force
- Provide Complete Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement and VA Disability Compensation
- Oppose TRICARE Beneficiary Cost Increases

- Oppose TRICARE Pharmaceutical Cost Increases
- Adequate Funding and Appropriate Management Flexibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Unified Medical Recordkeeping System for All Uniformed Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act Reform
- Recognize All Retired Guardsmen And Reservists As Veterans

The USAWO100 Committee continues to work hard with planning for this historical event. To date they've raised over \$25,000. Great job!

Incoming National Vice President CW5 Joachim Consiglio presented the concept drawing for the Warrant Officer 100th year anniversary painting, by renowned military artist Todd A. Krasovetz. The third painting in the USAWOA collection (together with "The Quiet Professional" and "Let Go!"), it focuses on a century of our proud heritage.

In the February 2016 *Newsliner*, we provided a rough draft of the painting, soliciting input from our Members. Thank you to those who took the time to provide us with their suggestions. We felt that since this print will depict 100 years of service, we wanted to afford our Members the opportunity to have some say about how it should look.

We held our USAWOA Annual Fundraiser again this year and had four \$500 winners, one \$1,000 winner, a \$2,500 winner, and a \$5,000 winner. It is always a pleasure to notify the winners!

The USAWOA Scholarship Foundation (USAWOASF) Selection Committee spent a long afternoon and evening working on 22 June 2016, and completed the review of the applications we received for scholarships this year. We are able to fund 16 \$1,500 scholarships and one Grantham University four-year on-line scholarship. I would like to thank the following benefactors of the Scholarship Foundation: Corporate Partner PenFed, the anonymous donor who set up the RAO Freedom Scholarship, the Jack B. Sacks Foundation, and the Above the Best Silver Chapter, for their generosity this year. I would also like to thank our Corporate Partner Peter Radvanyi, of Radvanyi Wealth Management, for his investment advice and assistance with USAWOASF donated funds.

Our National Treasurer, CW4 Vickie Carriaga, has done an outstanding job in preparing our annual budget for the operation and maintenance of the Association. We couldn't ask for a better Treasurer. Thanks Vickie!

Thank you to those Warrant Officers who have gotten new Members to join our association. Our National Vice President, CW2 (Ret) Gerry Wentworth, works hard every month with membership. Thanks Gerry, for all the hard work you do! But this isn't a one man/woman show. We need your help. Membership is everyone's responsibility. I challenge each Region Director and every Member of the Association to push for membership this coming year. If **WE** put forth the effort together, the Association will grow!

God bless each and every one of you! 🇺🇸