

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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## AMM HIGHLIGHTS

*By CW4 (Ret) Jack Du Teil*

*Executive Director*

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM) was conducted between 4 and 7 October 2017. It was a tremendous success, due in large part to the dedication, commitment, and hard work done by national headquarters leaders and staff, Northeastern Region Director CW4 Vickie Carriaga, and many volunteers from Northeastern Region Chapters.

Although a day shorter than past meetings, it contained perhaps the most powerful professional development opportunities offered in USAWOA's history.

On the evening of Wednesday, 4 October 2017, National President CW4 (Ret) Gregory Gouty welcomed Members to the Presidents Reception – the first social event at the meeting. Similar receptions were hosted by National Vice President CW5 Joachim Consiglio and National Executive Director CW4 (Ret) Jack Du Teil on the following evenings, providing a social venue for professional networking (see pictures of these featured on page 22).

### Day One Business

Pictured on the cover of this issue is Vice Chief of Staff of the Army GEN James C. McConville, who gave the welcome address, kicking off this year's AMM on Thursday, 5 October 2017. He began by fondly recalling great Warrant Officers who had impacted his career. He then discussed the Chief of Staff of the Army's top three priorities: Readiness (current fight); Future Army (future fight); and Take Care of the Troops (always).

He also stressed that while terrorism is an immediate, ongoing area of operational concern, the Army predicts future conflicts will be more conventional, large-scale and with near-peer actors. As such, he sees the evolution of our mission from counterinsurgency to encompass a multi-domain battlefield.

In remarks echoed by briefers and panelists later in the week, GEN McConville stressed the importance of Warrant Officers doubling down in their preeminent roles as technical leaders, as we prepare for combat environments likely to preclude the contracted technical support we have counted on in recent years. He then engaged in an informative, robust question-and-answer period with Members in attendance.

The balance of the morning was spent on briefings from USAWOA leaders. CW4 (Ret) Gouty, CW5 Consiglio, and National Treasurer CW5 Debbie Martin-Sharpe briefed Members on our national mission (see their reports in this issue). Then our six Regional Directors discussed the myriad activities and community services performed throughout their respective Regions, at the Chapter level.

Thursday afternoon was entirely devoted to professional development. First, the 45th AMM Financial Planning Panel was conducted, generously sponsored by Veterans United Home Loans. Author and Veterans United's Director of Education Mr. Chris Birk sat on the panel, dispelling misconceptions about – and providing other valuable advice on – VA mortgage benefits. He also made free copies of his book "The Book on VA Loans: An Essential Guide to Maximizing Your Home Loan Benefits."

Joining Mr. Birk on the panel were Shazia Ashraf, of PenFed Credit Union; Darcie LeTendre, of the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program; Peter Radvanyi, of Radvanyi Wealth Management; and Marcellus Boulware, of LegalShield/IDShield.

Following opening remarks, panelists answered numerous questions, ranging from personal banking and family budgeting to retirement planning, insurance, and preparing for long term care requirements as people age. This was the third straight AMM featuring this now popular event (see pictures from this panel on page 12).

Following the panel, COL Gregory Johnson and CW3 Whittaker, from the Department of the Army G1, provided Members with detailed briefing

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on the new Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A). Both engaged Members in an extensive question-and-answer period, discussing everything from system capabilities to projected fielding dates of this major new Army system.

After the IPPS-A briefing, AMM attendees enjoyed their second coffee break of the day. Four of the five coffee breaks during the AMM were sponsored by corporate partner PenFed Credit Union. A fifth break was provided by 45th AMM sponsor IBM, which also generously sponsored the 45th AMM Sustainment Panel, the following day.

The last briefer of the day was Army Senior Warrant Officer Council (ASWOC) Chairman CW5 Richard R. Kunz Jr. He first briefly reviewed the mission and operation of the ASWOC. A prolific contributor to the Newsliner, he covered this subject in detail in his August 2017 article.

CW5 Kunz also discussed initiatives being worked by the ASWOC, including potential implementation of a mandatory removal date at 26 years of Warrant Officer service, with a mechanism facilitating extensions, pursuant to the needs of the Army. Look for more information on this and other ASWOC initiatives in CW5 Kunz's planned January 2018 Newsliner article.

The first day concluded with the Vice President's Reception, hosted by CW5 Consiglio. It was also generously sponsored by Veterans United Home Loans.

## Day Two Business

Prior to the beginning of day two business at the convention center, the 45th AMM Retirees breakfast was conducted, generously sponsored by both USAWOA

corporate partner the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program and the Aberdeen-Edgewood Silver Chapter. The event was well attended, and we were honored to have Mr. Morgan Brown – Chairman of The Military Coalition's (TMC's) Veterans Committee – join us as a guest speaker.

All in attendance enjoyed a delicious plated meal, fellowship, and the opportunity to ask questions of TMC's premier Capitol Hill expert on Veterans legislation. Please also enjoy the picture feature about this event, on page 10.

The second business day of the meeting was kicked off with a speech to the Members by Association of the United States Army (AUSA) President GEN (Ret) Carter F. Ham. AUSA generously made our meeting space at the Washington Convention Center available to us, free of charge.

Recalling the positive impact Warrant Officers had made on his own career, GEN Ham spoke of the important role Warrant Officers play throughout the Army. He also spoke of how pleased he was with the burgeoning relationship between AUSA and USAWOA, noting how natural an organizational partnership it represented.

CW4 (Ret) Du Teil then briefed Members on USAWOA National Headquarters operations and ongoing legislative initiatives, and introduced the 2018 slate of USAWOA resolutions. The balance of the morning was devoted to reports from the USAWOA Scholarship Foundation, Warrant Officer Historical Foundation, and USAWOA Social Media Outreach Committee.

The afternoon began with Senior Warrant Officer leader briefings from USAR CCWO CW5

Russell Smith and ARNG WOSAC Vice Chairman CW5 Christopher Rau. They discussed recruiting and retention initiatives in their components, emphasizing the importance of attracting separating regular Army Warrant Officers (and potential candidates) for further service in the ARNG and USAR.

Both praised the organizationally cohesive leadership employed by CW5 Kunz as ASWOC Chairman, mirroring his emphasis on providing Warrant Officers with ongoing professional development, and prioritizing a deepening of training to ensure their characteristic technical expertise is brought to both the fight and the leadership table.

The final event of the afternoon was the 45th AMM Sustainment Panel, generously sponsored by IBM. The distinguished panelists included TACOM Commanding General MG Clark W. LeMasters, Jr.; Quartermaster General BG (P) Rodney D. Fogg; LTG (Ret) Mitchell H. Stevenson; Quartermaster RCWO CW5 Jonathan O. Yerby; PEO GCS Senior Warrant Officer CW5 Adam S. Hagenston; IBM's Charles E. Waters; and Thomas W. McNally, Vice President, ChemFree Corporation.

Moderated by CW5 Consiglio, the panel focused on the Warrant Officer's crucial role in the future force. The panelists echoed assertions made earlier – by speakers such as GEN McConville and CW5 Kunz – about the broader, multi-domain conflicts the Army must prepare for in the immediate future. In so doing, they emphatically agreed that Warrant Officers must reclaim the logistics footprint they ceded in contracted sustainment plans over the past decade.

Specific concerns addressed by

panelists included cyber security, supply chain management, and the development of usable analytics from enterprise-level data to inform decision makers. During a full-some question and answer period, seasoned Warrant Officers engaged the panel in a discussion of potential changes that would enhance the value of our cohort to the future force. Read more about this important panel on page 13.

All in attendance agreed that the panel was highly productive, and discussion of issues raised earlier continued at the Executive Director's reception that evening, generously sponsored by ChemFree Corporation (whose Vice President had sat on the panel earlier). It was the perfect end to a very successful day.

### Day Three Business

The final day of the 45th AMM began with a wonderful speech by LTG (Ret) Patricia E. McQuiston, AUSA Vice President for Membership and Meetings. A former senior Army leader from the Sustainment community, LTG McQuiston spoke of the dozens of Warrant Officers whose counsel she cherished throughout her career. In so doing, she recognized immediate Past National President CW2 (Ret) Gerald

Wentworth, evidently one of the first she encountered as a young lieutenant.

Echoing GEN Ham's observations the previous day, she lauded the strengthening relationship between AUSA and USAWOA, citing the recent agreement extending Warrant Officer memberships in both organizations (largely due to her engagement with CW4 [Ret] Du Teil earlier this year, and the hard work done by their staffs). As a result, virtually all in attendance were members of both organizations, and she encouraged all to familiarize themselves with the expanded suite of benefits now available to them, and of course to attend AUSA's meeting the following week.

Next, the 45th AMM Aviation Panel was conducted, generously sponsored by Northrup Grumman. Distinguished panelists included Aviation CWOB CW5 Joseph B. Roland; ARSOAC CCWO CW5 Mark A. Meyer; CW5 Frank G. Volpe, Jr., Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Officer, DA G3/5/7; Aviation Branch Proponent CW4 David J. Stock; and CW5 (Ret) David Cooper, the first Army Special Operations Aviation Command (ARSOAC) CCWO.

Following a branch update from CW5 Roland, each panelist

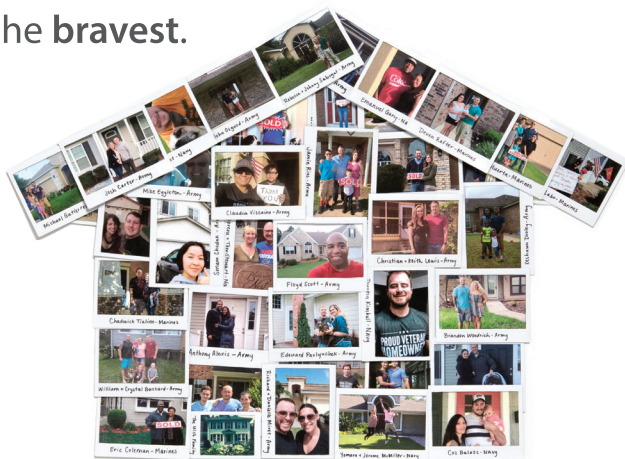
provided opening remarks, focusing on their specific areas of influence. CW5 (Ret) Cooper shared his perspectives as both a retired senior Warrant Officer leader and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for extreme gallantry in aerial combat in 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Discussion topics included recruiting and retention, equipment modernization, and future utilization of UAS on the battlefield (for more on this great event, see page 14).

The balance of the 45th AMM was spent wrapping up association business and presenting well-deserved Chapter and Region awards. Please read about these beginning on page 18.

### 45th AMM Banquet and Ball

The USAWOA 45th Annual Banquet and Ball was a gala event, conducted at the Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport. Generously sponsored by Lockheed Martin, it featured a keynote speech by LTG Aundre F. Piggee, the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4; and a moving video tribute to USAWOA Founder and President Emeritus CW4 (Ret) Don Hess (see the feature pictorial, beginning on page 20).

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