

Greetings from European Region,

As most of you have read, we are facing some challenging times in the ER. The numbers of chapters we have, as well as the number of Warrant Officers, are demising, but our spirits and resolve remains high. As we look towards the future, we find our association reduced to five possible chapters. Unlike the association over thirty years ago, when we had a large number of Warrants with no organization to represent our interest, we now have that single focus point and an ever-reducing number of Warrants. Like our Corps then, our members are finding new and innovative ways to get the business of WOA done.

It is our intent, to locate and re-energize some of the retired Warrants, as well as the young ones, in theater and look to them for support in the community activities in their local chapters. Understanding the enormous demand on our soldiers' lives and the minimum time they now have with family, we are going to start making our functions more family oriented. Some of our chapters have already begun to incorporate the spouses in their chapter meetings by appointing them committees within the chapter.

Some of the activities our chapters have done this year include Heidelberg successfully carrying out their annual Boat rides while supporting the Wounded Warrior program. During this endeavor, they sponsored over 100 of our brave young men and women to a cook out and ride down the Rhein Neckar River for the Heidelberg castle illumination. We conducted a brunch get-together of the membership in the Ramstein Officer's Club, which was open to all warrants in the Heidelberg, Mannheim, and Kaiserslautern area. With the money raised by their two boat rides, they were able to donate \$1,000.00 to the Fisher House in Landstuhl. They have also allocated \$250 to the Salvation Army in support of Hurricane relief. Some of their future initiatives will be to begin sending "care packages" to deployed Warrants (both members and non-members) from the area and conducting a WOA recruitment booth at the upcoming USAREUR Retiree appreciation day, as well as a monthly promotion recognition program within the community.

Another one of our chapters, Rhein-Neckar Silver, has successfully conducted a fundraiser earning \$2,000.00 for MWR and the community. They also ran the taco booth at Mannheim's summer fest, working jointly with the Heidelberg chapter.

Rheinland-Pfalz, Kaiserslautern, has been success in their fundraiser and have been able to donate over \$1000 to numerous activities within their community. They also served as the host the ER AMM and the Warrant Officer Corps Ball.

Wiesbaden has sprung back to life and has an energized group of Warrant Officers that are determined to keep that chapter alive despite the current transformation of the theater and the deployment from that community.

Despite deployments, we have two chapters that refuse to give up, south of the Alps - Italy, and Oberpfalz-Franken - Grafenwohr. The Warrants in these areas are

continuously finding ways to come together and work for the betterment of their communities.

As the European theater continues to transform into Army Europe for the 21st Century, our members continue to prove their dedication to our Corps and our association. We will continue to embrace the ideals of our association and represent our corps with pride and professionalism.

Thank you and God bless our military and our country.

J. E. Wilson
ER President