

Mr. President, Fellow Board Members, Members –

Please accept my regrets for not being able to be with you during our 33rd Annual Meeting of Members. I am currently deployed with the 143rd TRANSCOM, serving in Kuwait. Thank you to the Western Region for hosting this year's AMM. I'm confident that all of the hours labored by the Fort Lowell-Apache Chapter and the Western Region will prove to be very rewarding and enjoyable for all in attendance. CW5(R) Joe Diaz, please accept my thanks and gratitude for volunteering to serve as Deputy Director for Mid-South Region during my deployment.

As I reflect back on my first year as your Mid-South Region Director, I do so with a mixture of pride and disappointment. I'm proud that our North Texas Chapter broke new ground by hosting the first Video Teleconference Meeting with three separate Chapters from the Region on line at once. I'm proud that the Fort Hood Silver Chapter got back on their feet again, after experiencing a slump in holding active meetings. I'm disappointed that membership has dropped in my Region.

When I took the oath of office at last year's AMM, my personal goal and agenda was to help improve membership within my Region. Each month, President Valiant sends out his President's Letter to all the Elected Officers of the Regions and Chapters. Along with his letter, we are furnished rosters of names whose memberships are about to lapse, and names of those who have recently renewed their membership. I've attempted to contact each person and remind them to resubmit their membership information or to thank them for continuing their membership and encourage them to sponsor a potential member. It's no secret that membership has continued to drop this past year. You're going to hear and see the statistics presented this week. Membership is dropping among all military-related organizations. It's the card-carrying members that are stepping up to the plate and doing more than they normally do. We are a busy bunch. Optempo is high, and with all of the repetitive deployments, it is difficult to balance family, career, and membership commitment to an organization. Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to be in attendance at this year's Annual Meeting. A huge thank you to the 498 members of the Mid-South Region who by renewing their membership this past year, believe that membership in the USAWOA is vital!

Most of the Chapters within the Mid-South Region continue to remain strong. The Lone Star Chapter held a fund-raiser in conjunction with San Antonio's Fiesta. The Chapter did well, and is in hopes of making it a yearly event to re-establish their Scholarship Program. North Texas Chapter, from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, took the lead and with the dream of a local Warrant Officer Retention NCO hosted the first of many Video Teleconferences. The VTC's are now held quarterly. During the January 2006 VTC, we have hopes of connecting with Region members who are deployed in the Theatre of Operations. The Ft Hood Silver Chapter has suffered greatly from the perpetual deployments; however, I was able to attend an organizational meeting and they have a strong and willing nucleus to get them back on track. The Razorback Chapter is in need of our help now. Due to deployments and PCS of key leaders, the Chapter is struggling to regain the momentum they once experienced. The Acadiana Chapter, Sooner Plains

Chapter, and the Sun City Chapter are holding their heads above water and continuing to hold together amid the high optempo we are currently experiencing.

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to be in attendance at this year's Annual Meeting. I salute you! I am anxious to see the products and reap the rewards of this year's Annual Meeting that you as a body will provide for our Association. The Annual Meeting is not only a good time, but a great deal of hard work. I look forward to seeing all of you at next year's Annual Meeting of Members, when we all meet again in the South East Region.

Respectfully Submitted,

CW4 Candis Martin
Director, Mid-South Region