

## **2006 Annual Meeting, Mid-North Region Report By Howard Lundin, Director, Mid-North Region**

President Valiant, Members of the Board of Directors, Chapter Officials, fellow warrant officers and guests. It is with sincere regrets that I inform you that I will not be able to attend the 34th Annual Meeting of the Members of USAWOA. However, the Mid-North Region will not be without representation. I have asked the Region's Deputy Director, CW5 Phil Tackett, to be the Mid-North Region Representative for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Members of USAWOA. As a past Chapter Official and Region President, he is very qualified to be our region representative. I have complete confidence in his judgment and capabilities. The Mid-North Region is composed of our Association's Members who reside in, or are members of, one of the Chapters in the Region's 14 States.

The Mid-North Region stretches from Colorado in the West to Ohio in the East and from North Dakota, Minnesota and Michigan in the north to Kansas, Missouri and Kentucky in the South and includes all the other States within this area. While certainly not the largest Region in the Association by geography or number of members, it is an integral, active and viable part of the USAWOA. The Region's membership and Chapters are composed of and represent more than 800 regular voting members from all three components, the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve. It includes those still serving in an active status as well as those who have retired.

I am extremely proud of the Region's Warrant Officers and especially those who, in these trying times, have stepped up to the plate and accepted a leadership role in the association and region by becoming a Chapter Officer. That is certainly a key part of what makes this association great. This region's Chapters and members faced the challenges associated with trying to maintain active Chapters and meetings even though they continually lose members and chapter officials because these individuals are mobilized and/or deployment to support the Global War on Terrorism. While this is no different than what has occurred through out the other regions, it has made it more difficult for many Chapter's to continue to function in an active capacity.

In spite of these challenges, most of the Chapters within the region have continued to look for innovative ways to increase membership and attendance at Chapter meetings and functions. Many are involved in activities and events at their installation or within their local communities. Some Chapters have sponsored or co-sponsored events such as golf tournaments and road races. Others have set up booths at local community and command events. The Fort McCoy Chapter has continued its initiative to recognize at least one Warrant Officer annually for his or her mentoring skills and contributions by presenting them with the Chapter Mentor of the Year Award.

At the 2005 Annual Meeting I reported that the Region had 437 members in active Chapters. This was a decline from the previous year and a trend I said we needed to reverse. I am happy to report that the region has achieved this goal and will close out the year with a modest increase of 40 members in active Chapters. As of the end of September we had 477 members in active Chapters. We also have 375 Association Members in the Region who have not affiliated with a Region Chapter. I feel certain that if the Chapters contact each of these individuals and invite them to join in Chapter activities; several will affiliate with that local Chapter. For the Region and the United States Army Warrant Officers Association to remain a strong voice for Warrant Officers and a viable member of the Military Coalition, we must continue this trend and increase the number of our active members. We must retain our current members and seek out new members. Chapter Officers, we need to contact those who have not renewed their membership to find out why they did not renew. Address their concerns and ask them to rejoin. Even though I will not be your Region Director next year, I plan to take an active role in my local Chapter and will actively seek out new members and encourage all current members to renew. I challenge each and every member of the region to do the same. Renew your current membership and help our Association and Chapter Officers to increase our region strength by at least 100 additional members before the 2007 annual meeting.

We are all aware that USAWOA must compete with other larger associations for the same individuals to become a member or renew their current membership in our association. However, I think USAWOA has something very unique to offer Warrant Officers that the other associations do not. If you feel the same way and know someone who did not renew their membership in our association, ask them why they did not renew and encourage them to reconsider. Ask every Warrant Officer you come in contact with, if they are a member of USAWOA and if they are not, ask them to join. I will do the same. I will also review the monthly membership reports for my Chapter that identifies those who did not renew and send each of them a personal letter. Ladies and Gentlemen this concludes my Region Directors Report and I close by saying that I am proud to be a member of this outstanding association and to be affiliated with some of the hardest working and most dedicated professionals that can be found anywhere. I also ask that you remember our deployment members. Keep them in your thoughts and daily prayers, that they will remain safe and have a speedy return.

*Howard Lundin*