

USAWOA AMM 2006
MidSouth Region Report
CW4 Candis Martin, Region Director

Mr. President, Fellow Board Members, Members –

It's my honor and pleasure to be with all of you this year for our 34th Annual Meeting of Members. Thank you to CW4(R) Bob Lee and the entire South-East Region for hosting this year's AMM. I look forward to a week of work that will continue to bring about positive change and remarkable benefits to all Army Warrant Officers.

As I reflect back on my first tenure as your Mid-South Region Director, I do so with pride. It's been a tough time for any service organization to maintain high numbers – not only with membership, but also with active members. In conversations with fellow members and some of the Mid South Chapter Officers, probably the principal concern I hear is – “we've got members, but we cannot get them involved and come to meetings.” To them I say – “that's OK!” – as long as our members continue their membership. We are a busy populace – trying to find a balance between families, careers, hobbies, and personal time. I encourage chapter leaders to be pleased their members are continuing their membership, although it may continue to be as an inactive chapter member. We need to ensure all Army Warrant Officers are able to answer proudly to the question, “what's in your wallet?” And we expect the answer is “my USAWOA membership card!”

When I took the oath of office as Mid South Region Director two years ago, 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. I want to extend thank you to the 567 members within the Mid-South Region who continued to support USAWOA with their membership this past year. Optempo is high, and with all of the repetitive deployments, it is difficult to balance family, career, and membership commitment to an organization.

The Chapters of the Mid-South Region are on a steady path in support of Army Warrant Officers within the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico. The Lone Star Chapter continues their fund-raiser in conjunction with San Antonio's Fiesta; and was able to reestablish their Chapter Scholarship Program. North Texas Chapter, from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, continued hosting quarterly meetings by way of Video Teleconferences. The Ft Hood Silver Chapter meeting attendance has significantly improved and their community involvement is on the rise. They have record turn-out in support of their highway clean-up project. I now have high hopes for the Razorback Chapter. CW3 Eloise Lopez has offered to dust off what is left of the declining Chapter and ease it back onto the path of recovery. 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. I look forward to working with WO1 Scotty Robin, who has shown an interest in forming a new chapter in the New Orleans area.

A personal thank you to all of you who have taken the time to be in attendance at this year's Annual Meeting. It is an honor to be among my peers, who work hard to make it better for all Army warrant officers in the near and not so near future. I am anxious to see the harvest of this year's Annual Meeting. Good things will happen here! 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 in San Antonio, where Mid South will roll out the red carpet and show you a grand time in the city I now call home – San Antonio.

Respectfully Submitted,

CW4 Candis Martin
Director, Mid-South Region