



United States Army
Warrant Officers Association



Northeast Region Annual Report
2008 Annual Meeting of the Members
Aberdeen, Maryland

State of the Region

USAWOA Northeast Region

7 September 2008

Mr. President, Vice President, and assembled members, it is indeed a pleasure for me to welcome you to the great Northeast Region, and Aberdeen!

For another year the Northeast Region has continued to grow. We, like all of the Regions have had our ups and downs, but in the end, I think we finished on a positive note. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to get out and visit the Chapters during their regular meetings and was privileged to be able to install new officers of existing Chapters and some new Chapters emerge. It is always a pleasure to attend local meetings and see the fine work our fellow warrant officers are doing for their community and the Association. Without our members support, we would be a hollow organization and I thank each and every one of them for their service.

As anyone who has ever hosted an annual meeting can tell you, the better part of my year has been spent planning for this years' AMM. This AMM, in turn has provided me with the opportunity to communicate with the Chapter Presidents on a level that we have not enjoyed in the past. When I called they came out and lent their support to the functions and working groups as well. We hope their hard work and careful planning shows during the week. As you know this will be my last year as your Director. I ask that you provide the incoming Director the support you have provided me over the last four years.

I would like to give you a brief update on the individual Chapter activities.

0601: Hampton Roads Chapter: George Gonsalves: 72/19=91 members

The Chapter continues to conduct its breakfast meeting every third Thursday at the dining facility located on Ft. Eustis. The Chapter members had an opportunity to participate with placing flags prior to Memorial Day at the Phoebus VA Cemetery. The members also are a part of the adopt-a-highway program, albeit, a little out of the ordinary by policing up the new beach on Ft. Monroe. It was with honor that the members were given the opportunity to see the VCSA preside over the retirement ceremony of one of their own, CW5 Carl Jenkins.

Future plans include sponsoring Warrant Officer Room in the Casemate Museum. This will be dedicated next July, 2009 for the 91st birthday of the Corps.

0602: Ft. Meade: Vacant 34/45=79 members

I am hoping now the Patrick Morris has PCS'ed to the Ft. Meade area he can revitalize this Chapter.

0603: Crater Chapter: Vickie Vachon: 100/22= 122 members

The Chapter was very active this past year with the following events. Starting in November of last year the Chapter assisted the community with a Habitat for Humanity project. In December the members donated time to the Santa's workshop to gift wrap presents donated by the many organizations on post for soldiers families. Also in December the members visited a nursing home to hand out socks, toiletries, t-shirts, etc. Most important, the members took the time to visit with the residents. In April of 2008 the members assisted the organization Rebuilding Together Richmond in making repairs to the house of a WWII veteran, and in addition to the labor support the Chapter donated \$500.00 towards building materials. In May the Chapter was recognized for their community work by being presented a Certificate of Appreciation by MG Stevenson, the then CASCOM CG. Two major events took place in May. First the Chapter helped to raise funds at the Richmond Racetrack, these funds will be used for two scholarships. The second event was the dedication of a display case. This case will be used to display those items donated by CW5 (Ret) Bill Mullens. In addition to various community events, chapter member CW5 Matthew Anderson presented the chapter with an OPD to update the members on the items being discussed by the SWOAC.

Donations for the year were:
\$600.00 worth of food vouchers for Thanksgiving meals.
\$250.00 to the JROTC program of the Thomas Dale HS to assist in their Veterans Salute Program.
\$500.00 to the National Scholarship fund.
\$500.00 to the heritage Foundation.
\$100.00 to the Army Birthday celebrations on Ft. Lee.
\$250.00 to the NE Region.
The Chapter raised \$1800.00 at the Richmond racetrack
The Chapter issued one \$1000.00 scholarship to Jenny Cezar.
All totals added up the Chapter donated 1891 volunteer hours and \$5680.00 to the community. Thanks to Michael Toter for his leadership of this Chapter during his tenure.

0604: Lord Fairfax “Silver” Chapter: Patrick Morris: **183/83= 266** members

I could write a book on all of the community activities Patrick Morris and his group of stellar warrants officers are doing. In October, the chapter supported the Fort Meade Post Chapel by volunteering at the Hallelujah Festival and family event which is billed as an alternative to Halloween. The family event featured games, food, candy, and plenty of prizes.

In November, the members participated in two Veteran’s Day ceremonies. They supported the Veteran’s Day ceremony on Fort Meade at the Post Museum and the American Legion Spirit of Democracy Post 145 in Salisbury, MD. A donation of \$100.00 was given to the Fort Belvoir Main Chapel for the Thanksgiving Day Food Voucher Drive.

In December, Christmas gifts were donated to the Fort Belvoir and Fort Myer Army Community Services in support of Operation Sugar Plum also known as the Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program. The program helps support the less fortunate families within the communities.

The chapter also raised over \$1,000.00 via gifts and monetary support for both families. The chapter celebrated the retirement of CW5 Charlie Parker who retired with 40 years of active federal service.

The chapter still continues to conduct their quarterly highway cleanups in Alexandria and Fort Belvoir surrounding areas.

In April, the members participated in the annual Alexandria Rebuilding Together Program. They assisted in renovating an old style English home in Alexandria, VA. Front porch steps were replaced, bathroom fixtures installed, electrical work done and fire detectors installed. A donation of \$250.00 was given towards the purchasing of building materials.

In July, the chapter led the way by co-sponsoring Casino Night at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC. A donation of \$300.00 was given towards this extravagant event.

The chapter also supported the Warrant Officer Heritage Foundation by donating \$250.00 which will go towards the Fallen Warrant Officer Memorial. The chapter also conducted four car washes during the summer months which amounted in excess of over two-thousand dollars.

605: Aberdeen-Edgewood "Silver" Chapter: Greg Gouty: 63/14= 77 members

In August, the National President, Mr. Roy Valiant, presented the Chapter with the "Silver" Chapter streamer and then placed it on the Chapter's flag. The Aberdeen-Edgewood Chapter will forever be known as the Aberdeen-Edgewood "Silver" Chapter. This recognition came as a result of the Chapter maintaining an "active" status for 30 continuous years. He then proceeded to award national level Certificates of Appreciation to departing members Brian Stevens and Jose Marrero for their dedication and support of the chapter. We had two guest speakers: Roy Valiant spoke about the upcoming AMM. Roy provided insight and guidance to the membership on the meaning and many events that happen during the AMM, which was extremely important considering we will be the hosting chapter supporting the Northeast Region this year in Aberdeen. The second guest speaker was, Harold DeBerry, the Ordnance Regimental Chief Warrant Officer, who spoke about the warrant officer display in the museum, describing the background/history and how it got started.

In November the chapter supported the OCMWC (Officer, Civilian, Military Wives Club) during APG's 90th year celebration held at the Ripken Stadium that was held on the 10th of November.

Our chapter was extremely proud to donate \$2,500.00 to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Chapel Tithes and Offering Fund (CTOF) in December. This was made possible by a CW5 and his wife who wished to donate through us, to an organization supporting soldiers and their families in

the Aberdeen area. We also were able to donate tables to the Community of Love Lutheran Church in December.

The chapter supported the following organizations/programs this year: Warrant Officer Heritage Foundation, Ordnance Corps Association, Saint Jude's Hospital, and VA Hospital out of Perryville, Maryland.

Our total donations to the community this year was \$4,509.00

We held our Annual Pig Roast on the 9th of May at the HUT. There were well over 130 guests. Everyone had a great time and there was plenty of food. The pig was delicious. We raffled off a Stiver's Print, donated by the Ordnance Corps Association. Thanks Ordnance Corps!

In July, CW4 Dan Singh provided an excellent OPD on the Thrift Savings Plan. Everyone present commented on Dan's knowledge about TSP and asked him to return at a later date and give it again. Excellent OPD.

Donations for the year were:

\$500.00 to the VA Hospital in support of veterans returning from OIF and OEF Aug 2007

\$113.00 was given to the MCOWC to support programs.

\$2500.00 to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Chapel Tithes and Offering Fund (CTOF) in December 2007.

\$250.00 to the Heritage Foundation Feb 2008.

\$200.00 to the Ordnance Corps Association Feb 2008.

\$250.00 to St. Jude's April 2008.

\$100.00 to the Northeast Region to off-set the cost of hosting the 2008 AMM June 2007.

\$445.00 individual membership donations in support of the 2008 AMM.

\$300.00 donation to CW4 Acevedo's family.

0606: Ft. Dix, Doughboy Chapter: Albert Curving: 89/17= 106 members

We had a great start to the New Year with a luncheon and installation ceremony for the new officers. In April, the EXCOM met to finalize the open issues from the previous administration and to conduct an inventory of the items the Chapter sells. May saw the laying of a wreath. This event was conducted by the President and Vice-President, assisted by Governor Corzine and MG Rieth, the NJ TAG. A major event that affected the Chapter was the largest deployment of National Guard soldiers since WWII. This has affected of attendance at the

quarterly meeting but we still are able to keep the members informed via email.

Donations:

The Chapter was able to donate two \$100.00 scholarships to a male and female graduate (military families) of the Pemberton Township HS.

The Chapter also donated \$100.00 to the NE Region.

0607: Thousands Islands Chapter: Mauro Echeverri: 56/24= 90 members. I am happy to report that the Chapter has had its by-laws approved and is now a fully functioning Chapter. I know that in the not too distant future we will start seeing great things come out of Ft. Drum and the fine folks we have up there.

0608: Ocean State Chapter: 33/5= 38 members

The Ocean State Chapter donated gift certificates for food and gasoline to the Rhode Island Family Program to assist Families of Military Personnel in Rhode Island. The gift certificates were available the Army and Air National Guard, Army Reserves, Navy, Marines and Air Force. Any military Family was eligible to receive them.

Our chapter also ran a booth at the annual Open House Air Show, selling ice cream, soda, lemonade and other assorted frozen products to help us be able to assist our Military Family in other ways.

I should also note that there was a leadership change in this Chapter as well, Robert Ward has done an outstanding job of holding this Chapter together and I am sure he will pass along his knowledge to the new officers as well.

0609: Arlington Hall Minuteman: Jack Duteil: 54/7= 61 members

No report at this time.

0611: Keystone Chapter: Daun Arsenberger: 74/20= 94 members

The Keystone Chapter meets on a quarterly basis, twice a year at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA., and a dinner meeting for the other two meetings, held at the Commissioned Officer's Mess, Naval Inventory

Supply Point, Mechanicsburg, PA. Their membership consists of: National Guard, Army Reserve and Retired Warrant Officers comprise almost the entire membership of the chapter, spread out over 75 percent of the State of Pennsylvania. The Chapter does one large fundraiser each year selling raffle tickets for the Big 33 Interscholastic Football Game. The raffle raises one dollar for each two dollar ticket, and is only available for not-for profits within the State of Pennsylvania. The Chapter sells black long sleeve mock turtleneck shirts with WO emblem and these have proven to be very popular and also available through several other chapters. The Chapter makes a yearly contribution for a Holiday Tea for senior citizens at the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA., and contributed to the Northeast Region's Scholarship donation. We as a Chapter will actively assist the Northeast Region in fulfilling all priorities including hosting the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Members at Aberdeen, Maryland. I must also pass along thanks to Past President Paul Gutekunst, whose steady hand leads this Chapter for four years. Paul has acted as our Treasurer for this AMM as well.

0612: Statue of Liberty Chapter: Jose Soto: 66/17= 83 members

Recruitment remains a challenge as our full time civilian government workers (GS types) continue to spread to word to our newest Warrant Officers about our chapter. Unfortunately, many get the emails and never respond or for that matter show up. The 77th RRC inactivates next month and with that, many of our full time AGR Warrants will be relocating and leaving our chapter area. We just recently gained a new Warrant to the Fort Totten area and hope he will consider assembling a new Chapter Office staff and take over the presidency.

0613: First State Chapter: John Dill: 60/5= 65 members

The First State Chapter continues to grow in strength with 70 plus members. This includes our long list of associate members as well as active members. We are actively recruiting new members, with the emphasis of attracting the army reserve population in the state. While it may come from a small state, this chapter is in the community assisting various organizations. The Delaware Veterans Home in Milford is one

of these organizations where the Chapter has agreed to build 2 gazebos for its residents. A donation of \$400.00 was made to Boots on the Ground, which supplies gift cards to deployed soldiers. These gift cards can be used while they are deployed. Another such organization the chapter supports is Home of the Brave. This organization supports homeless veterans. The chapter is included in the Delaware National Guard Senior Leaders Call; it is during these events the members distribute information about the USAWOA.

Donations for the year were:

\$250.00 to the Heritage Foundation.

\$150.00 to the Scholarship Foundation

\$150.00 in phone cards.

\$500.00 to the NE Region.

\$400.00 Boots on the Ground.

Fund raisers included a Texas Hold-um which raised \$950.00 and a golf tournament which raised \$3500.00.

This Chapter saw the change of leadership as well, Bill Buss, the first President provided the Chapter with a strong foundation to build on.

Thanks Bill, Ben, and your staff.

0614: Iron City: Tom Cannon: 12/8= 20 members

Tom is doing yeomen's work throughout his area to support the many deployments. Unfortunately this chapter is soon to deactivate. On a positive note, there have been discussions about merging this Chapter with the Keystone Chapter.

0615: New England Chapter: Gerald Sciamacco 85/38= 123 members

No report at this time.

0618: Monticello Chapter: James Betotti: 13/4= 17 members

Jim Bertolli who informed me he would re-energize the Chapter. Because of the location of their members, their meetings are conducted using the internet.

0619: Uncle Sam Chapter: Scott Turner: 39/3= 42 members

This Chapter just got restarted but I am confident as times goes on they will go all out to support the Association and the community.

0620: Capitol Guardians Organizing 10/10 = 20 members

Jeannette Otero is organizing this Chapter. I know they have elected a President and Vice-President pro-term. They are CW4 David and CW2 Wiggins. This Chapter is working closely with Gary Nisker to get up and running. We have been watching this action for quite some time now and it's refreshing to have a "Spark Plug" in place pushing for membership and meetings.

Members-at-Large: 332, down from 356 last year (-24)

Total Membership: 1370, up from 1325 last year (+ 45)

Regional Goals:

Although I may be leaving a position that I have held for four years I do so knowing that we, working together have made a positive impact on our Association. No one Director can do anything without the support of the Chapters. I leave knowing you will provide that same level of support to the next Director. As I have always said, we are but like the sand on a beach. When one scoop is picked up to make a hole, the next wave will refill the hole and the beach continues to progress. So it goes with mankind and military. I thank each and every member and I can only hope to continue to serve this Association at the next level. With your support, we can move mountains.
To The Corps!

CW4(Ret) Kenneth B.N. "Pete" Hill