



United States Army
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National President's Report
36th Annual Meeting of the Members, October 2008

National officers, members of the Board of Directors, Chapter Officials, and my fellow members;

I want to thank you for your service and support over this last year. As you know this is my last AMM report as your president. It has been an honor to have served as your President. With that I would like the Head Table and the entire Board of Directors and Asst VPs to stand. I thank you for your service and support.

Membership: Your association is in good shape and will be getting better. We have seen an increase in membership over this last year and I'm sure that your VP Gary Nisker will elaborate more on those successes.

Finances: Finances is the cornerstone in all successful organizations. Finances affect everything we do from member services to salaries. Our office staff, Herb Rundgren and Terri Casteel definitely deserves and earns their paycheck, the day-to-day operations would be disastrous without them. I wish our finances would enable us to pay more than we currently do. Round of Applause. Increased income will allow us to do many things regarding our website that we currently do not have the funds to pay for. Our current website does not allow us to password protect and thereby not allowing us to provide many of the services that similar types of websites provide for their members. Dave Welsh would be a kid in a candy shop if we could purchase a stand-alone server with the security we need to come into the 21st Century. It all takes money.

Executive Director: The single biggest challenge that faces the USAWOA is the lack of a full-time executive director. That search has proved to be more difficult with the increased cost of living especially in the dc area. This is a direct result of not being able to pay a competitive wage to attract willing candidates. Again this goes back to finances. We are thankful that Don Hess is acting as a part-time Executive Director. In the past we have had folks such as Don Hess and Ray Bell that were definitely not paid according to their value but they did it out of their love for the association and the Warrant Officer corps. Those types of people are harder and harder to find now-a-days. Bob Scott has even filled in as part-time ED on a volunteer basis. Hiring a full-time executive director should remain as a priority with emphasis on increasing Association income to pay a competitive wage. Back to finances again! If you know of a good candidate, please let us know. With the salary that we are currently able to pay, a retired military officer already living in the dc area would be our best bet.

Warrant Officer Division: During the years of the Warrant Officer Division the USAWOA had a very good relationship with the WOD and was able to do allot of good things for the Corps and the Association. As you well know the WOD is no longer. Because of that we have lost that single point of contact and relationship to the Warrant Officer Corps and what was happening in the world of the senior Army leadership. Since then the Senior Warrant Officer Advisory Committee (SWOAC) came into being. When Poyas Haynes was on board and a former leader in the SWOAC, he recognized that we did not have that relationship with the senior Warrant Officer leadership and made efforts to make that relationship happen. Recently Gary Nisker further developed that idea with the SWOAC and we now have a recognized relationship with them. I'm sure Gary will provide more details. This is important for both the SWOAC and the USAWOA as we can partner to provide leverage on issues that affect the Warrant Officer Corps and our Army. I am confident that this will be a successful partnership that will be beneficial to both parties.

TMC: As you know The Military Coalition is the legislative partnership of many military organizations coming together to have a bigger voice on the hill. One of the items in jeopardy without an Executive Director is the TMC participation. Luckily we have been able to keep our membership active and keep our seat warm at these important meetings. Without this partnership many of the issues that USAWOA brings forward would die on the vine. Our membership expects and deserves for us to push issues on their behalf and the TMC is that vehicle to make that happen. We must continue to be an active member of this very important legislative tool.

Foundations: The Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation and the USAWOA Scholarship Foundation have made great strides this past year. The WO Heritage Foundation has launched a new program to recognize donors. Dave Welsh will provide more details. One word/number on the Scholarship Foundation, 11871. For those of you who don't know 11871 is the Combined Federal Campaign number that you use for your CFC donations. Bob Scott will provide more details on that.

Army Transformation: As the Army continues to transform we need to continue to be relevant to the Army, the Warrant Officer Corps, and to our members. That may require us to change the way we do business, both internally and externally. We need continued dialogue with the senior Army leadership, the Warrant Officer Corps and our members. Just because it didn't work before does not mean that it won't work now. We need your good new ideas and re-look old ideas. As the saying goes "two heads are better than one" and I would assume 6,000 are better than 10, the number of members vs. the number on the board of directors. Your thoughts and ideas matter.

Manuals: The AMM last year at San Antonio made us realize that our manuals were in need of a big update. This project was headed up by Bob Scott with input from all members of the board of directors. This was an arduous process with some manuals being relative easy and others with extreme emotional issues. We finally came to an agreement and at the mid-year BOD meeting we approved all the manuals. The latest versions of the manuals are on the website. This was a necessary process in order to improve how we do business and how we support you the membership. My thanks to all for their input in making this happen.

NEWSLINER: The NEWSLINER is in color! The NEWSLINER has come a long way and when I say it is in color, we have published a few issues in color and hope to go 100% color in the near future. Who here remembers the Newspaper format? Much different now! How did we get here and why? Poyas Haynes looked at several options and produced a corporate model for the board of directors to study. Basically the color publications would cost more money but would draw those advertiser dollars that are necessary for our association to grow. He laid out details at last year's AMM that compared publications that were in color and the costs involved. You have to spend money to make money. At a time where we were not financially solvent we looked at this proposal with scrutiny. Not until Don Hess returned as the NEWSLINER editor did we venture into the color world. Advertisers want their ads in color and not until we went color on a few issues did we have a sample to show perspective advertisers. Don has started contacting corporations and other military friendly companies that currently advertise in other military organization's publications. I believe this will be the catalyst that will enable us to reach our financial goals and allow us to hire a full-time Executive Director.

We have challenges ahead of us and we can overcome them. We must focus our energies into increasing our bottom line through our new push for advertisers and corporate sponsorship; the color NEWSLINER will assist in this as well as recruiting more members and keeping the ones we have. It is essential to hire a full-time Executive Director and improve our website capabilities with improved server capabilities with password protection. I know that we can achieve these goals.

In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for attending this week and making a difference in our association. Your attendance is proof positive that you are concerned with the future of the USAWOA and the Warrant Officer Corps. I thank you for your continued support of this great Association and allowing me to serve as your President for the last four years. Have a great warrant officer week!

FOR THE CORPS!

Roy

Roy Valiant
CW4, U.S. Army Retired
National President