

UNITED STATES ARMY WARRANT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Webmasters 2008 Report for the 36th Annual Meeting of the Members

Mr. President, Presidents Emeritus, National Officials, AMM Attendees, and all Members,

It has been a pleasure to serve as the National Webmaster during the four-years of Roy Valiant's Presidency. With the able assistance of Frank Meeks, Assistant Webmaster, we have tackled the ever evolving hardware, software, protocols, and a total revamping of the USAWOA Online, USAWOA Scholarship, WO Heritage Net, and USAWOA-Portal web sites.

None of this could have been accomplished without the hard work and support of Rafael Bueno, Jenni Kirkruff, and all the folks at Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PFCU). We extend our grateful thanks to them! Our web sites have been sponsored by PFCU and resided on their web servers since September 1996. The value of their sponsorship and technical assistance is beyond measurement and ensures that we are able to reach our members and Warrant Officers throughout the world.

Because the web sites reside on the PFCU server bank the loading or running of executable files is blocked for security reasons. Prohibited file types include .doc, .xls, .ppt, .pps, .rtf, .zip, .exe, .com, and video files. As a work-around, USAWOA has contracted for a commercial web site, at a very reasonable cost, which stores these types of documents for download. The links to this web site and these files is transparent to USAWOA Online visitors. The types of documents that the commercial web site make available are fill-in Rich Text Format (RTF) versions of the General Purpose Membership Forms, AAAA-USAWOA Dual Membership Form, AMM Registration Form, Memorabilia Order Form, Ballots & Proxies, and some forms used by National Officers.

I have the lead on maintaining the USAWOA and Foundation sites with the assistance and back-up of Frank Meeks. Frank also has created and maintains site for Regions and Chapters requesting assistance in those cases where no one is locally available to learn or is web savvy to build and maintain a site.

Early in 2008 we became aware that the web sites were slow to load for those with dial-up or low bandwidth connections. The use of too many graphics was causing the pages to load slowly. Also, with the increase of viewers using laptops or wide flat screens we resized the pages to decrease the need for left & right scrolling on laptops and distortion on wide screen monitors.

In the process of this upgrade we also redesigned the page top banners. We also delete the Aviation and Legislative News pages due to the lack of subject matter experts to provide material on these subjects. Coverage was not eliminated but rather the limited information we receive is incorporated into the Hot Topics page.

There are over 1,000 files (including graphics and subdirectories) thus the upgrade took almost six months while we also continued to maintain and add new material to the site.

During the past year we were blessed with feedback, articles, and pictures. Please do keep them coming as our members enjoy seeing their names and pictures on the site. This also gives them the opportunity to share the pictures with family and friends.

As always your comments, suggestions, articles, and pictures are welcomed. Send them to us at usawoa-online@verizon.net.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Welsh
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National Webmaster,
"The Electronic Voice of USAWOA"