

2009 NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
MID-NORTHERN REGION
US ARMY WARRANT OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

Mr. National President, Head Table, Fellow Region Directors, distinguished guests and members of the US Army Warrant Officer's Association. I am Phil Tackett, Director of the Mid-Northern Region.

Well, it's beginning to look a lot like fall for most of us in the region. The weather is turning cooler. The grass is turning brown and the trees have begun to break out into all colors of the rainbow. As nature keeps it optempo going, so goes the optempo of all the hard working warrant officers of the USAWOA chapters within the Mid-Northern Region. It is truly a pleasure to be here with you as we begin a week of professional hard work and rededication to being the superb Warrant Officers we are in the US Army as well as to the Association. I am glad to see many Mid-Northern warrant officers here. Thanks to each of you for what you do at your respective chapters and for making the trip to this annual meeting of the members

All of us in the Region want to wish all Mid-Northern warrant officers, and all warrants, who are deployed, continued success, to stay safe, and for all to return to the region and their respective home stations together. We are all proud of the hard work they are doing and wish them all a safe return.

The Region represents thousands of warrant officers of the Active Army, The Army Guard, The Army Reserve and retirees from all the components. Many of these highly skilled men and women serve as helicopter pilots, intelligence analysts, armament and equipment repair technicians, personnel managers, equipment repair technicians, logisticians, and other technical fields, which are critical to success of the modern battlefield. All of these warrant officers proudly serve daily either here at home or in many of deployed environments. We have approximately 1098 members in 14 chapters within the Mid-Northern Region stretching from Minnesota to Missouri, from Kentucky to Colorado.

Concerning Recruitment and Retention, we continue our efforts to increase our marketing/publicity of events. We are making increased efforts to get the word out to other warrants of what we do and who we are. Some of our chapters are looking at various ways to increase attendance at chapter meetings by changing the days/times/locations of the meetings. Some hold breakfast meetings, some lunch, some meet in Warrant Officer Huts, some in dining facilities. Chapters are taking the lead in getting people to attend the meetings. The WO1 free membership helps to get us started, but all region leaders needs to ensure renewal of these members. This helps tremendously in maintaining our National membership as well as funds to continue to operate. A few chapters are using raffles to assist in getting people to the meetings. Although there are many Warrant Officers in Mid-North who do not belong to the Association, the bottom line is that the Region represents all Warrant Officers.

Under professional and community support, some chapters conduct Warrant Officer Candidate Boards to assist the WO applicant in preparing a more professional packet as well as to better prepare them for the candidate course. Other chapters contribute to their communities by participating in all types of community events and in some cases, sponsoring those community events. A good portion of the proceeds are being donated back to their respective communities in the form of monetary donations to Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts/sports teams/other private organizations.

Talking about getting out and about, how about CW5 Dave Conrad who has established a provisional USAWOA chapter in Kandahar, Afghanistan. This effort was sponsored by the Ft McCoy Chapter. He conducted a Warrant Officer Professional Day on the Warrant Officer 91st birthday, had the senior commander provide the key-note address and put on a Warrant Officer Professional Development session. And he created a Warrant Officer coin and mug to commemorate the event and held a BBQ for all to enjoy. What a day that must have been. CW4 Paul Lafferty has volunteered to assist National at this year's AMM. Or what about CW5 Darren "Pops" Lester, who recently established the Heart of America Chapter at Ft Leavenworth, KS. The Screaming Eagle Chapter just conducted a WOPD day. Or CW5 Mark Grapin, Longrifle Chapter, who has found time to work with the National Board.

As we have seen, our deployed folks are working, so too are the warrants here in the region. Regardless of whether we are Active Component, Reserve or National Guard, we are all working to address various Warrant Officer issues and to leverage the tremendous capability within the Warrant Officer Corps.

In closing, we see OPTEMPO, at all levels, continues to be high but still our warrant officers are doing some great things, both in the deployed theater and at home station. Our retirees are helping to keep our chapters viable and effective. Here is a hearty THANK YOU to our QUIET PROFESSIONALS who are all members of the Mid-Northern Region -- for all your great and heroic efforts to keep us going and charging forward.

FOR THE REGION, FOR THE ASSOCIATION, AND FOR THE CORPS.

Thank you

PHILIP E. TACKETT
CW5(R), President
Mid-Northern Region