

**2007 Annual Meeting of the Members Report
By CW4(R) Roy A. Valiant, President**

National officers, board of Directors, chapter presidents, and members, what a great turnout for this year's Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM). I guess San Antonio is a great place to hold an AMM! I want to thank all of you for your attendance and continued support for the association. Candy and her crew have a great week planned so make sure you involve yourself with the activities that are available, during the evening of course.

This last year has been a roller coaster ride for the headquarters. Although we thought we had someone to take over as a part time ED/Legislative Affairs, this did not work out so we again started another year without that person. We continued to look at possible candidates but we had no takers; very difficult to hire someone in that area for the \$40,000 we were able to pay. We finally hired Poyas Haynes in February as the Director, Legislative Affairs and Business Development. Ray Bell took him under his wing and mentored him about the ways of the TMC and the committees that he should be involved with. Since then our representation with the TMC has not decreased or faltered and if anything may have increased a little. Poyas will elaborate in his report.

As some of you may know we will be changing email provider from Cavtel to Verizon effective 1 Nov 07. This will enable us to have more flexibility at less cost. With Verizon we will be able to have 10 email boxes with easier access from remote locations. More to follow.

One thing that occurred this last year that has affected every warrant officer in a very positive way. Yes, the targeted pay raise. Although the USAWOA has been working this for years we would be remiss in not mentioning the individual that had a great deal to actually making it happen. That would be LTC Tillotson. He kept it visible and pushing it through the right knotholes at the Army Headquarters to make it possible. Let's give him a round of applause. Enjoy your pay raise and I'm just jealous it didn't happen years ago.

Membership: Your Vice President Gary Nisker will talk in more detail about membership but I want to point out that we have had an increase in membership over last year, from 5,369 in Sep 06 up to 5,939 in Sep 07. That is an increase of 570. Good job!

Annual Awards: Our awards year is from 1 July to 30 June. Your minutes are very important and need to reflect what your chapter is doing. All National, Region and Chapter awards are described in USAWOAM 900-1, National Awards Manual. The awards manual is a topic on one of the focus groups for this year.

USAWOA Scholarship Foundation: The foundation is starting its fourth year as part of the Combined Federal Campaign. CW4 (RET) Bob Scott will bring you up to date on the important work of the foundation.

USAWOA Heritage Foundation: CW5 (RET) Dave Welsh will fill us in on the work on the foundation and the Army museum effort.

One area that we need to look at during this AMM is a plan!!!! There is a strategy focus group that will facilitate getting a short range and long range plan. Last year we did not have a plan,

we had a direction but no plan to get there. I am optimistic that we will have a workable plan by the time we recess on Friday.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support during the past three years. I particularly want to express my sincere appreciation to the Headquarters Staff (Herb and Terri), the Vice President (Gary Nisker), the Secretary (Gerry Wentworth), the Treasurer (Natasha Veillard), and all the rest of the Board of Directors for their dedication and devotion to the USAWOA during this present term. We have achieved successes but there are allot more that need to be achieved. We have a strong organization and our future is bright. I look forward to our organization continuing to grow and prosper.

FOR THE CORPS!