



United States Army
Warrant Officers Association



Northeast Region Annual Report
2007 Annual Meeting of the Members
San Antonio, Texas

State of the Region

USAWOA Northeast Region

12 September 2007

Mr. President, Vice President, and assembled members, it is indeed a pleasure for me to be back in my home State of Texas. As most of you know, I am from a small town outside of Houston.

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. 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.

As you know the Northeast is the second largest Region with a total of eighteen (18) Chapters, three of which are currently un-numbered, which means they are still in a state of re-organizing. Our membership currently stands at approximately 976 voting members. Our Chapters cover the entire Northeast from Virginia up the coast to Canada. In all we have Chapters in nine states.

My number one goal has been and always will be to share with the members the benefits of joining the Association and building the membership, which in my opinion works hand-in-hand. I do this through my visits to the Chapters to join in on the professional development days, emails, and attending recruiting drives hosted by the various commands. Our Reserve and National Guard folks really have this process down to a science; my hat is off to their hard work and dedication to our Corps. The association has a great presentation posted on the web-site.

As you will soon find out, we will be hosting next year's annual meeting. We look forward to showing our "northern" hospitality to our assembled members.

I will have a presentation later on to show you where we are in the planning process and what we have in store for you when you arrive. We know that you and your spouses will be pleasantly surprised.

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

0601: Hampton Roads Chapter: George Gonsavles: 68 members
No report at this time.

0603: Crater Chapter: Michael Toter: 94 members
No report at this time.

0604: Lord Fairfax "Silver" Chapter: Pat Morris: 155 members

I could write a book on all of the community activities Patrick Morris and his group of stellar warrants officers are doing. Adopt-a-Highway, Food Baskets, and Rebuilding Together Alexandria are just a few. A donation in the amount of over \$1000.00 as well was given back to the community.

0605: Aberdeen-Edgewood "Silver" Chapter: Greg Gouty: 65 members

The Chapter has increased in membership from 55 as of this time last year to 66 members now. This past year, on average we have had 12 members attend our monthly meeting. This equates to 18 percent of our chapter membership, down from 25 percent last year. The chapter has made the following donations: Total donations were \$3,825.00.

1. \$2000.00 to the Aberdeen Proving Ground Chapel Tithes and Offering Fund (CTOF) in Nov 2006. The chapter received a \$2,500.00 donation from a retired CW5 and his wife who wish to remain anonymous. The couple asked that \$2,000.00 of the donation be given to the APG CTOF.
2. \$250.00 to the Family Support Group Dec 2006.
3. \$225.00 to the Military and Civilian Spouses Club Dec 2006.
4. \$250.00 to St. Jude's Dec 2006.
5. \$200.00 to the Ordnance Corps Association.
6. \$100.00 to the VA Hospital Dec 2006.
7. \$50.00 to St. Paul's Lutheran Church as requested by the Grice Family June 2007.
8. \$100.00 to the Northeast Region to off-set the cost of hosting the 2008 AMM June 2007.
9. \$150.00 to support the ACS Family Picnic in July 2007.
10. \$500.00 to the VA Hospital in support of veterans returning from OIF and OEF Aug 2007.

In November, 2006 CW3 (RET) Dave Toomey presented an OPD. Dave is the ILS Manager for the M109 family of vehicles. He spoke about the M109 Paladin System and the logistics associated with it. He spoke of the support chain from ACOM down to the user and what his responsibilities as the PM are to include maintenance, training, research and development. He spoke of the need to develop new systems to support the Paladin and the soldiers on the battlefield. He closed with informing the members of the FMS program and what countries they support. The Chapter made \$93.00 during our Christmas gift wrapping event at the APG PX. We had a very slow day. The proceeds went to HHC 61st ORD BDE. In January, we had two members conferred in The International Society of Logistics (SOLE) as Demonstrated Master Logisticians. We now have three Demonstrated Master Logisticians in our chapter: CW3(P) Paul Thurston, CW4 (RET) Pete Hill, and CW4 (RET) Greg Gouty. In April we received an anonymous donation for \$750.00. This donation was made because we had a NET profit of at least \$750.00 from our Basket Bingo event in March. This Basket Bingo event was the first of its kind for our chapter to host and we had extremely bad weather that evening, yet still were in the black financially. A good time was had by all. We have changed web masters from Jerry Wright to Kurt Schultz. This is the reason the web site has not been updated for awhile. The web site is an important resource for us to connect with other members who are unable to attend meetings and functions. We held our Annual Pig Roast on the 9th of May at the HUT. Unlike the last two years when we were included in the CG's Social. There were well over 100 guests. Everyone had a great time and there was plenty of food. The pig was delicious. As of the 31st of July 2007 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.

0606: Ft. Dix, Doughboy Chapter: Sam Smith: 94 members

Sam Smith and his crew continue to do wonderful things for Ft. Dix and the surrounding community. During this past year the Chapter made a donation to the Fisher House Foundation directed to the facility at Walter Reed Army Medical Facility. In addition, the Chapter continued with the annual donation to the National Guard Association of New Jersey for the 2007 Ad Book. Finally, the Chapter has approved a change of meeting location in order to support the local American Legion Post. Locally the Chapter increased its normal scholarship for the Pemberton Township High School from a single \$200 scholarship to two scholarships of \$250.

0607: Thousands Islands Chapter: POC Kimberly Martin-Farmer: 45 members.

This Chapter is still struggling from the deployment of their membership base and I am confident they will be back stronger than ever soon.

0608: Ocean State Chapter: Robert Ward: 27 members

Robert Ward and the Ocean State Chapter contributed to the Rhode Island Family Assistance Program last Thanksgiving by donating gift certificates for turkeys to families of Soldiers killed in action in Iraq. In June of this year, the chapter operated a booth at our annual Rhode Island National Guard Open House and Air Show selling ice cream, lemonade and other assorted food items. The weather was hot and a wonderful day was had by all. With the additional funds received from the Air Show and Open House, we will again this year distribute more gift certificates to deployed families that are in need during this holiday season.

0609: Arlington Hall Minuteman: Jack Duteil: 59 members

The Chapter welcomed five new members this year. This past year, on average we have had 12 members attend our monthly meetings. The chapter has made the following donations: Total Chapter donations were \$1,802.00.

1. \$1,502.00 to aid the families of junior enlisted Soldiers at the Army National Guard Readiness Center (ARNGRC) at Christmas time.
2. \$300.00 to buy a table at the 2007 Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen of the Year Banquet. I attended the event and four of the awardees expressed an interest in becoming Warrant Officers. Also, I attended the awards ceremony and gave Chapter Coins to the awardees. CW5 Mike Pickens also presented coins, on behalf of the ARNG CCWO.
3. Most of our Chapter Members participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure (breast cancer fundraiser). This was in support of WO1 Tammy Brooks, a Chapter Member and breast cancer survivor. Members contributed heavily, and hundreds of dollars were raised in the name of the Tammy Brooks Family Strong Team.

The chapter conducted the following fundraising events:

1. Chapter conducted our annual Golf Tournament on 7 June 2007, at Andrews AF Base. A good time was had by all, and the chapter raised \$1,910.67.
2. Chapter conducted a bake sale at the ARNGRC on 28 February 2007 and raised \$173.17.
3. Chapter is currently raffling-off a framed "Let Go" Print. So far we have raised \$92.00. Total money raised so far this year is \$2,175.84.

In January, I contributed an article to the Newsliner to discuss the importance of strengthening our ties with the NCO Corps, as our source of new Warrant Officers. In August we re-established the practice of conducting a program (i.e. WOPD), by inviting one of our golf sponsors to conduct the first in a series of financial planning classes. His name is Peter Radvanyi, owner of Radvanyi Wealth Management. Peter was quite a hit at our golf tournament, where he won one of our biggest prizes (an expensive putter), then refused to keep it, opting instead to give it to one of our combat veterans in attendance. He gave a good class, then offered to talk with anyone interested in personal financial advice offline, free of charge.

Chapter obtained approval from the Facilities Manager of the ARNGRC to officially name one of the building conference rooms the "WOA Minuteman Chapter Eagle Rising Conference Room," and to re-decorate it with chapter memorabilia, to include a Vietnam-era flight suit, the "Quiet Professional" print, and the "Let Go" print. We are awaiting a date to begin construction. We will hold a two-day bake sale during the Annual Warrant Officer Senior Leader Seminar in September, attended by warrant officers from all 54 States and Territories.

0611: Keystone Chapter: Paul Gutekunst: 62 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.

0612: Statue of Liberty Chapter: Jose Soto: 56 members

The Statue of Liberty Chapter is currently headed by Chapter President, CW2 Jose L. Soto. The Chapter meets quarterly as required in the NYC metropolitan area. Our chapter meetings have been predominantly held in the borough of Queens and the Bronx because of its central location and relative commuting distance from member's residence. Our average attendance at our meetings is 16 members. Many of our young, affiliated Warrant Officers are not attending our meetings despite our constant email and invitation letters to their residence. Our leadership has attempted to solicit feedback from our members but non are offered. We enjoy the company we have and that is where the comfort level ceases. During my tenure in office, I have had to appoint two secretaries due to deployments and or moving out of state. CW2 Mills moved on the Maryland to accept an AGR position as a mobility warrant. Current Secretary, CW2 Jeffrey Blake was activated for duty in Iraq on July 8, 2007. I am now looking to fill that vacancy next quarterly meeting. Congratulations and special thanks go out to WO1 Gene Schuller, newly minted WO1 for selecting the meeting site. The membership enjoyed the location and the ambiance of food as well.

We announced the departure of CW5 Thomas Elder as the Command Chief Warrant Officer for the 77th RRC. CW5 Elder moves on to become the Assistant Commandant at the Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Best of luck in your new assignment Chief and thank you for your leadership and guidance throughout your tenure as Command Chief. CW5 Elder is being replaced by CW5 Nguyen.

0613: First State Chapter: Bill Buss: 53 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. With growth comes fund raisers, with that in mind the chapter has submitted a request for change in the tax-exempt status. When this occurs, it will allow corporate members to make tax-exempt donations. The chapter recently conducted a Texas Hold-em tournament to establish a scholarship fund. Our golf tournament was held on the 10th of September as well. The chapter has made a commitment to the newly opened Delaware Veterans Home, located in Milford, DE. Our goal is to provide the home with two large gazebos. The chapter is also supporting the community by assisting the veterans being housed by the organization, The Home of the Brave. We are also on the planning committee for the 2008 AMM.

0614: Iron City Chapter: Tom Cannon: 17 members

Tom is doing yeomen's work throughout his area to support the many deployments.

0615: New England Chapter: Pat Nelligan: 69 members

The Chapter saw another year of membership increase as well as consistent renewals. Our Membership is comprised of Active, Reserve, and National Guard from the six New England states.

The New England Chapter participated in Memorial Day Activities in Bristol CT. President Pat Nelligan attended both Connecticut and Massachusetts RTI WOCS classes and solicited candidates on joining the WOA upon graduation. The New England Chapter donated twice to the Devens AER, once for Thanksgiving and the other at Christmas totaling \$250.00. All candidates in the 94th TTHS Warrant Officer program were solicited to become members by the Command Mentor Warrant Officer. The New England Chapter helped the Warrant Officer Accessions NCO with achieving 100% mission goal by having members talk to potential candidates. Pat Nelligan visited the Pre WOCS course at Ft Indiantown Gap to speak about the Warrant Officer Association and encourage membership when eligible. Pat Nelligan attended Health Services Maintenance Technician conference in San Antonio in June and spoke about membership in the organization.

0618: Monticello Chapter: Vacant: 16 members

We recently lost the Chapter President due to a PCS however I have been contacted by Jim Bertolli who informed me he would re-energize the Chapter.

0619: Uncle Sam Chapter: Scott Turner: members 36

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.

0600: New York

0600: Ft. Meade

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

0600: Capitol Guardians

Members-at-Large: 355, up from 299 last year

Total Membership: 1325, up from 1213 last year

Regional Goals:

Our primary goal is always increasing our membership. In doing so we become a stronger force. There is always strength in numbers. My number two goal is getting our "active" Chapters active again. We all know what this war has done to our membership base. What a great day it will be when we have completed our mission. My third goal is getting those Chapters that are struggling to get re-activated going again. Thank God for those individuals my good friend Joe Gil calls "spark plugs" for without them many of these Chapters would not continue to exist.

I look forward to serving another year, growing, learning, and discovering new ways to support the Associations goals and plans.

It has been an honor for me to serve as your Director and I look forward to seeing you in the field!

In closing, the Northeast Region remains on course, thanks to the hard work and dedication of those professional officers who can be counted on even in thin times. As I stated in last years report, we may not be the largest Region in numbers, but we will always try to be the largest contributors to our Association.

May God Bless all of our Brothers and Sisters deployed defending this great Nation of ours!
Please keep them in your thoughts until they return to their families.

For The Corps!

CW4 (Ret) Kenneth B. N. "Pete" Hill
Northeast Region Director