

38th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS MINUTES
November 5, 2010
Huntsville, AL

START TIME: 0905 Hours

CALL TO ORDER – RECONVENE BUSINESS MEETING (CW5 Gary Nisker): CW5 Gary Nisker, President, USAWOA, reconvenes the 38th Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by CW5 (Ret) Russ Brewer

INVOCATION: Led by CW4 (Ret) Don Hess, USAWOA Chaplain

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS (CW4 (Ret) Max Bennett):

- Thanks to Local Sponsors:
 - LogiCore – Silver Member
 - General Dynamics – Gold Member
 - Lockheed-Martin
 - AUSA Huntsville Chapter
- Local Sponsor (LogiCore) Gift Bag raffle awarded to CW5(R) James White.
- Thanks to National Sponsors:
 - Grantham University
 - PenFed
 - Stanley-Vidmar
 - LogiCore
- 38th AMM Website to remain open until 1 DEC 10.
- Thanks to 38th AMM Support Staff:
 - Steve Seamen, AMM Tech
 - Joe Shiver, Transportation
 - Johnie Keeter, “Right-hand Man”
 - Mike Shurbert
 - Johnny Walters, Incoming Redstone Arsenal Chapter President
 - Mr. Art & Judy Wiechert, for the Audio/Visual Equipment support

SECRETARY’S BUSINESS (CW4 David Rocha):

- Recording of Teller Committee’s Report (CW4 (Ret) Johnie Keeter):

- 6,532 total membership (as of 15 OCT 10); 55 members present at AMM, 836 bona-fide proxies submitted – total vote on the floor: 891.
- Confirmation of a quorum: There is a quorum with 10 percent of the total membership present or proxies provided for the occasion of the 38th AMM.
- Review of the 38th AMM Day 1 & 3 Meeting Minutes:

CW3 (Ret) Gene Perrino motions to accept the Day One AMM minutes as presented, subject to administrative corrections, seconded by CW4 (Ret) Roy Valiant. CW5 Nisker called for a vote. Motion unanimously passes to include all proxies for.

CW5 (Ret) Phil Tackett motions to accept the Day Three AMM minutes as presented, subject to administrative corrections, seconded by CW4 (Ret) Greg Gouty. CW5 Nisker called for a vote. Motion unanimously passes to include all proxies for.

PARLIAMENTARIAN (CW5 Artavia Edwards):

- Addressed USAWOA By-laws (500-4) and Roberts Rules of Orders governing motions on the floor by members. When addressing a motion to the floor, the member making the motion must stand and be recognized by the Chair. The member who seconds a motion need not be recognized by the Chair; however, all votes must be captured by the Secretary.
- Addressed Amendments, to motions, not formally recognized by the Chair as still belonging to the motion maker. Once the President acknowledges a motion, then the motion belongs to the general assembly and no longer the motion maker.
- Once motion has been seconded and recognized by the Chair the President will open the floor for discussion. Upon conclusion of discussion the President will call for a vote on the motion. The discussion need not be fully elaborated in the minutes as only the outcome of the vote and any amendments there in are to be formally reported.
- CW5 Nisker asked CW4 (Ret) Johnie Keeter, Chair, Credentials Committee, to hand out all available proxies awarded to the designated members on the floor to ensure a properly tally of votes for each motion was adhered to. CW5 Nisker further explained the process of voting “Yea” “Nay” or abstaining from each vote. Each designated individual is to receive the number of proxies they are to represent. The Secretary will ensure the proper number of votes are recorded. The room will be secured to control votes on the floor. CW4 (Ret) Keeter is the responsible official for controlling centralized access and exit into the assembly

during the voting phase of the AMM. Member badges are to remain in the room to keep track of votes on the floor at any given time.

ASSEMBLY MOTIONS AND VOTES (Assembly Chair, CW5 Gary Nisker, President):

CW3 (Ret) Gene Perrino motions to reverse the voting process to speed the process along. CW5 Nisker acknowledges CW3 (Ret) Perrino's motion and asks for a second. **Seconded by CW4 (Ret) Greg Gouty.**

Discussion: CW5 Nisker explains what CW3 (Ret) Perrino is referring to is voting in the negative first followed by voting in the affirmative. This will help facilitate a quicker assessment of the total votes on the floor for a given vote. The vote would only apply to the conduct of the meeting for today's AMM.

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote: Votes on the Floor: 55, Votes Yea: 0, Votes Nay: 55 Proxies Yea: 0, Proxies Nay: 836. Total Nay Votes: 0. Total Yea Votes: 891. TOTAL VOTES: 891. Motion passes unanimously.

FOCUS GROUP TOPICS (All Focus Group Briefings and Recommendations shall be incorporated into the DEC 10/JAN 11 NEWSLINER and made available on-line for further member's review):

Focus Group 1 - CW5 Ida Tyree-Hyche, Focus Group Leader):

Focus Group Topic: *Are the established civilian educational levels for Warrant Officers appropriate for current operational environment? Most of our MOS only requires a high school degree (or equivalent). The question is not suggested to change the entry level needs but rather to require higher level of education to continue to the higher ranks. Starting next FY all WO (including WO1s will be commissioned). This is an issue that the VCSA indicated that he felt was needed and that he fully supports.*

Recommendation:

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote: Votes on the Floor: 55, Votes Nay: 4, Votes Yea: 51, Proxies Nay: 3, Proxies Yea: 8. Total Nay Votes: 7. Total Yea Votes: 884. TOTAL VOTES: 891. Vote passes with a majority rule.

Focus Group 2 - CW5 John Purpuro, Focus Group Leader:

Focus Group Topic: *Are the current Professional Military Education opportunities for Warrant Officers timely and appropriate for their operational environment requirements? This is referring to all of our training given by TRADOC. These courses include (but necessarily limited to) WOBC, WOAC, WOSC and WOSSC. Some have suggested that the training that they receive at each of these courses should have been offered 3-5 years earlier.*

Recommendation:

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote: Votes on the Floor: 55, Votes Nay: 0, Votes Yea: 55, Proxies Nay: 836, Proxies Yea: 836. Total Nay Votes: 0. Total Yea Votes: 891. TOTAL VOTES: 891. Vote passes unanimously.

Focus Group 3 & 4 - CW4 (Ret) Don Hess, Focus Group Leader 3 & CW5 Angela Breit, Focus Group Leader 4:

Focus Group 3 Topic: *What actions can Warrant Officers take to facilitate a significant change in the legacy mindset, e.g., senior Warrant Officers must embrace the fact that all Warrant Officers are leaders and must promulgate that understanding? This was a major issue that was brought up in the Warrant Officer Summit at Fort Rucker in early June. Many would like to better define this issue and make significant strides to improve the warrant officer corps farther into the future sooner rather than later.*

Recommendation:

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote: Votes on the Floor: 55, Votes Nay: 0, Votes Yea: 55, Proxies Nay: 0, Proxies Yea: 836. Total Nay Votes: 0. Total Yea Votes: 891. TOTAL VOTES: 891. Vote passes unanimously.

Focus Group 4 Topic: *VCSA has mandated that the WO corps is a part of the Officer corps. Many regulations make a clear and wide separation between the WO grades and "O" grade officers. Others do not make any mention of a difference. What regulations and content need to be updated to accommodate this mandate? Too many times the WO is over looked as we are only 2% of the Army and 17% of the officer corps. Many times issues are addressed without any mention of WO, which then makes them beg the question if they were over looked or left out intentionally.*

Recommendation:

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote: Votes on the Floor: 55, Votes Nay: 0, Votes Yea: 55, Proxies Nay: 0, Proxies Yea: 836. Total Nay Votes: 891. Total Yea Votes: 891. TOTAL VOTES: 891.

Focus Group 5 - CW5 Butch Zirpolo, Focus Group Leader:

Focus Group Topic: *At the most senior levels of our WO corps are many positions that require the CW5s to work at the General Officer Levels. GO themselves are offered numerous courses to better prepare them for these new assignments. What training should the Sr. WO with assignments have to better prepare them for that level of their careers? For example should the WO be required to attend the Brigade Pre-Command course, the Joint Operations Pre-Command Course the National Defense University (NDU) presents three particular courses for Army senior leaders preparing to work at the General Officer level? The CAPSTONE Course is for new flag officers. The KEYSTONE, this course is for senior enlisted leaders serving in a flag officer HQ. Finally, the Joint Forces Staff College offers the Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education course. Although many senior Warrant Officers are assigned to flag officer headquarters around our Army there is no senior schooling available for Warrant Officers at National Defense University. If these type courses are important for new flag officers and senior enlisted leaders, would they not be important for Warrant Officers working at the flag officer level? Considering the number of Warrant Officers working at the GO level (state CCWO, Branch CWOB/ RCWO, branch Proponency warrants, SOF senior warrants, future growth at Division, etc) a case may be made for a change.*

Recommendation:

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote: Votes on the Floor: 55, Votes Nay: 33, Votes Yea: 22, Proxies Nay: 787, Proxies Yea: 49. Total Nay Votes: 820. Total Yea Votes: 71. TOTAL VOTES: 891. Motion fails.

Focus Group 6 – CW4 (Ret) Bob Scott, Focus Group Leader:

Focus Group Topic: USAWOA Regional Boundary Re-designs. Proposal is to incorporate European Region, given its continual decrease in membership becoming an Associate Region to either the Northeast or Southeast Regions. A thorough study of the demographic of Warrant Officers, both members and non-members show increases in certain regions and decreases in others. Attempt is to re-align the regions to have an equitable share of members and potential members within designated region.

Discussion centered around lack of representation, at the National-level, should the European Region become an Associate Region to a subordinate Region. Focus Group 6 recommends realigning the regions based upon number of potential members with a total of five regions from the current six regions. This would allow approximately 20k members/potential members per region. Review realignment every five years.

CW3 (Ret) Gene Perrino motions to amend Focus Group 6 issue by sending the issue to the Board of Directors for further study, seconded by CW4(P) Ida Tyree-Hyche.

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote on the amended motion: Votes on the Floor: 55, Votes Nay: 21, Votes Yea: 34, Proxies Nay: 62, Proxies Yea: 774. Total Nay Votes: 83. Total Yea Votes: 808. TOTAL VOTES: 891. Motion passes by majority vote.

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote on Focus Group 6 Topic: Votes on the Floor: 55, Votes Nay: 33, Votes Yea: 22, Proxies Nay: 787, Proxies Yea: 49. Total Nay Votes: 820. Total Yea Votes: 71. TOTAL VOTES: 891. Motion fails.

Addendum to Amended Motion: Original Focus Group topic motion fails on the floor; therefore, the amended motion, while recorded on the minutes, does not advance the Focus Group topic to the BOD.

Installation of New Elected Officials for Redstone Arsenal Chapter (CW3 (Ret) Gene Perrino): CW3 (Ret) Gene Perrino rendered the Oath of Office for following individuals: CW4 (Ret) Johnnie L. Walters, President; CW5 Michael E. Weist, Vice-President, Active Duty; CW3 (Ret) Vinita Hughes, Vice-President, Retirees, CW4 (Ret) Johnnie M. Keeter Sr., Secretary; CW4 (Ret) Richard E. Christian, Treasurer.

Proposed 2012 40th Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM) Venue (New Orleans, LA): CW4 James Davis, Mid-South Region President, proposes hosting the 40th AMM in New Orleans, LA. Provides a brief overview of activities within New Orleans for the members to consider.

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote: Votes on the Floor: 51; Votes Nay: 37, Votes Yea: 14, Proxies Nay: 720, Proxies Yea: 107. Total Nay Votes: 757. Total Yea Votes: 121. TOTAL VOTES: 878.

Proposed 2012 40th Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM) Venue (Hersey, PA): CW5 (Ret) James and Mrs. Terri White provide a presentation on hosting the 2012 AMM in Hersey, PA on behalf of the Northeast Region. Event to be held at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA. Highlights of surrounding activities and events highlighted for the member's benefit.

CW5 Nisker calls for a vote: Votes on the Floor: 51; Votes Nay: 13, Votes Yea: 38, Proxies Nay: 713, Proxies Yea: 713. Total Nay Votes: 127. Total Yea Votes: 751. TOTAL VOTES: 878.

Motion to accept Hersey, Pennsylvania's nomination, as the USAWOA's 2012 venue, to host the 40th Annual Meeting of the Members approved by a majority.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS (Awards announced by CW4 (Ret) Pete Hill on behalf of CW3 (Ret) Laurie Shamblin, Awards Committee Chair – Presented by CW5 Gary Nisker):

38th AMM Planning Committee Individual Awards:

- CW4 Judy Weikert
- CW4 (Ret) Arthur Weikert
- Mrs. Kathy Jo Williams
- Mr. Robert Williams
- CW2 (Ret) Alan Ruzukla
- CW3 Alan Reed
- CW4 (Ret) Steve Seamen
- CW4 (Ret) Johnie Keeter
- CW4 (Ret) Max Bennet
- CW5 Julia Mosman
- Ms. Alicia King
- Mrs. Kathy Perrino

Chapter Charters:

- **Hafa Ada Chapter** – Received by CW5 (Ret) Russ Brewer, Western Region Director
- **Audie L. Murphy Chapter** – Received by CW4 James Davis, Mid-South Region Director
- **Arcadia Chapter** – Received by CW4 James Davis, Mid-South Region Director

Best Individual/Chapter/Region Awards:

- Best Individual Recruiting Award: CW5 (Ret) Al Curving.

- Best Chapter Website: Rhein-Necker “Silver” Chapter
- Best Chapter Recruiting: Rising Eagle Chapter, presented to CW3 (Ret) Jacqueline Gaddis.
- Best Chapter Retention: Arlington Hall Minuteman Chapter, presented to CW2 Wesley Viens, Treasurer, Arlington Hall Minuteman Chapter.
- Overall Best Chapter for Recruiting and Retention: Uncle Sam Chapter, presented to CW4(R) Greg Gouty, Northeast Region Director.
- Overall Best Region for Recruiting and Retention: Northeast Region, presented to CW4 (Ret) Greg Gouty.
- Best Officer Professional Development Day: Florida Sunshine Chapter, presented to CW3 (Ret) Gene Perrino, Southeast Region Director.
- Community Affairs for Sustaining Programs: Arizona “Silver” Chapter, presented to CW5 (Ret) Russ Brewer, Western Region Director.
- Community Affairs for Services: Hawkeye Chapter, presented to CW5 (Ret) Phil Tackett, Mid-North Region Director.
- Community Affairs for Donations: FT Bragg “Silver” Chapter, presented to CW3 (Ret) Gene Perrino, Southeast Region Director.
- Outstanding Chapter: Arlington Hall Minuteman Chapter, presented to CW2 Wesley Viens, Treasurer, Arlington Hall Minuteman Chapter.
- Outstanding Region: Northeast Region, presented to CW4 (Ret) Greg Gouty.

National President’s Awardees (Presented by CW5 Gary Nisker):

- CW4 (Ret) Harry Wilson, Western Region Deputy Director, presented to CW5(R) Russ Brewer, Western Region Director.
- COL Mark Jones, Former Commandant Warrant Officer Career College – to be mailed.
- CW4 (Ret) Max Bennett, President, Redstone Arsenal Chapter – to be presented at the Award’s Banquet.

Oath of Office and Installation of Redstone Arsenal Chapter Officials (CW3 (Ret) Gene Perrino)

CALL FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, OR ITEMS “FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.”

- CW5 Gary Nisker presented, on behalf of the Board of Directors, with an engraved gravel and block in a show of appreciation for having selflessly served as the USAWOA President over the past two years.
- Tennessee Volunteer Chapter presented CW5 Gary Nisker with a pair of “sippy” cups and stated, “To ensure during future AMMs CW5 Nisker’s drinks would be securely contained.”

- Motion to refer unfinished business of the 38th AMM to the USAWOA BOD made by CW4 (Ret) Bob Scott and seconded by CW4 (Ret) Greg Gouty. President Nisker calls for a vote. **Votes on the Floor: 51, Proxies on the Floor: 827. Votes Yea: 51. Votes Nay: 0, Proxies Yea: 827, Proxies Nay: 0, Total Votes 878. Motion passes unanimously.**

BENEDICTION: Led by CW5(H) Don Hess, USAWOA Chaplain.

MOTION OF ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by CW4 Dave Rocha and seconded by CW4 Jack Du Teil. President Nisker calls for a vote. **Votes on the Floor: 51, Proxies on the Floor: 827. Votes Yea: 51. Votes Nay: 0, Proxies Yea: 827, Proxies Nay: 0, Total Votes 878. Motion passes unanimously.**

The 38th AMM adjourned in Peace and Harmony at 1400 hours.

Gary Nisker
President

E. David Rocha
Secretary