

Board of Directors, Members, Spouses and Guests: It is a pleasure to address you today.

Since we last met in Salt Lake City, we have continued to be a self-managed and self-directed association under the watchful eye of your volunteer Board of Directors (BOD). After many years and a series of unbelievably talented officers acting as our Executive Directors (ED) we have been without someone to manage the day to day control of our affairs for a hand full of years. As a result the Executive Committee has also charged with running the inner workings of our Association. We have actively looked for applicants for the position of Executive Director. We were able to survive without an ED because of the outstanding work of our two person home office staff. When you write or call the national office please thank Herb Rundgren and Terri Casteel for their dedication in support of our members.

I would like to announce to you that we have found the right man for the job as our Executive Directors in a man that most of us fully engaged with the warrant officer corps knows very well. He is no stranger to our Corps and I will look forward to see the vast improvements in our great association with his skilled hands. He is here with us today. He has served our Association over the years in numerous elected positions as well. So without any farther a due I would love to announce to you today our next ED who will start in January 2011 after he retires from a very successful 40 years of Active Federal Service, The former Deputy Commandant of the USA Warrant Officer Career College for the past 5 years! CW5 Charles T. Wigglesworth!

I would like to thank each member of your volunteer Board of Directors, Assistant Vice Presidents and our National Committee Chairs for their devotion to our Corps by "stepping up to the plate" and serving the Association over the past several years. These jobs come without pay and demand significant challenges. Please join me in thanking them. This year is an election year and I would like to thank both those that are leaving office and those that chose to run for office. You will hear from most of them later in the program and their reports will be in future editions of the NEWSLINER and on our website.

This fall we introduced the new and improved interactive portal on our web site. Now you can update your own records on-line, update your membership on-line, shop for your memorabilia on-line, get your full color NEWSLINER on-line, update your rank on-line and next year you will be able to even sign up for attending the annual meeting of the members at Fort Bragg on-line. I would like to encourage you, if you have not had an opportunity to do so, go on-line and update your records and "poke around" and see all that your new web site can do for you. I want to encourage you to go ahead and stop the paper copy of the NEWSLINER from coming to your house and now view it instantly in full color, on-line. This was made possible by CW4 Jack DuTeil, CW5 (Ret) Dave Welsh, CW5 (Ret) Frank Meeks and our home office staff; Terri and Herb.

Over the past couple of years your USAWOA leadership has worked tirelessly revamping our own operating manuals to align us with the electronic era in preparation of going fully digital. Your manuals are now much smaller and easier to read on-line. They now refer to receiving your reports as email transmissions rather than by US Mail as they were described. And now if you are looking for a particular manual or a form that you may need, if you are reading it online all you have to do is click on the link and it will take you there.

The Chapter Presidents work where the "rubber truly meets the road" and the lion share of the individually focused work is accomplished. These individuals are too numerous to name but their wise council is appreciated by the BOD and the EXCOM and they deserve our recognition as well. Reading of the chapter minutes clearly indicates that some of our chapters are struggling with how to attract a crowd to attend their meetings. You need to offer your members a reason to come. Your members need to feel like you are giving them more value by coming to your meeting than whatever else that they would be doing by not coming. Therefore, as an elected top official of your chapter it is your duty to conduct your business portion of your meeting and then reward your members with a professional developing or networking/social opportunity. To find out what that is many times it is as simple as asking them what they would like to be exposed to. Retirement services, promotion requirements, military and civilian education requirements, resume building, job networking, career management, etc. As the week progresses I would like to invite you to discuss with me what would best suit the needs of your chapter and your members.

Our NEWLINER articles have resulted in many fascinating materials from all over the country and our new format has received favorable responses. In addition, we have observed significant strides by the two major spin off organizational structures in both the WO Heritage Foundation headed by Dave Welsh, who has secured a place in the Army Museum at Fort Belvoir for us. The Scholarship Foundation headed by Bob Scott has been no less remarkable by providing much needed scholarship money to the many well deserving members and their dependants in our association. The center piece of the Scholarship funding has been from contributions made directly by you, through the Combined Federal Campaigns (CFC). I encourage you all to join me and support both of these extremely worthy causes.

We have spent countless exhausting hours rewriting our association's operating manuals to bring our association into the current electronic age-to better describe how we [really] function day to day. These rewritten manuals were all approved by your BOD at our mid-year meeting this past April. They can be easily found and used on our web site. They were also necessary to allow us to make the major move to the web based interactive portal.

Over the year I have personally gone to the Warrant Officer Career College (WOCC) on numerous occasions to present you at the first every warrant officer summit, the change of command for our new Commandant COL Stan Smith (who will be addressing you at our OPD Seminar) and witnessed the most deserving WO1s with the Class Honor Graduate and Class Leadership Awards. - These trips have been documented in past editions of our NEWLINER. Several members and I have attended functions with the United States Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officers Association (USCGWOA) to better develop a firm relationship with them. They are very receptive and look forward to exploiting areas where we might share a common good.

Several times this year, I was able represent you at the Senior Warrant Officer Advisory Council (SWOAC) as a voting member. While there, we were successful in cementing a formal relationship between SWOAC and USAWOA. As a result I was given an opportunity to assure them that we are dedicated to support them as a unified front for a better representation to DOD and HQDA leadership. Their new Chairman, CW5 Wade Lovorn will address you at our Professional Development Seminar about what this group of Army senior leaders does for our Corps.

Additionally, I have been offered the opportunity to attend the all Warrant Officer Senior Advisory Council (WOSAC) meetings and serve as a member of the executive council. I am proud to announce for those that may not know that their new Chairperson is CW5 Rhea Pruett, our former AVP –ARNG Affairs. I have been invited to be a key note speaker by CW5 James Thompson; CCWO at the USAR Senior War Council and interact with many of their key leaders to learn the current issues that affect their day to day lives. Jim will be here to address us at our OPD Seminar tomorrow.

The WO Net is another means of communication with our Corps to stay in touch with their needs and desires to recommend improvements for the United States Army our Corps and our Association. They has been very supportive in allowing us to canvas the warrant officer population through another venue of communication to better serve their needs and support the war fight throughout our ranks. He has also offered to develop for us a private forum, to better enhance communications in our Association. Their organizer, CW5 (Ret) Bob Huffman will address our OPD Seminar.

Over the past year your USAWOA leadership has spoken at other Associations gathers including warrant officer birthday celebrations in Iraq as well as OPD Seminars at Fort Hood, Fort Bragg and Fort Campbell. We have worked very hard staying engaged with the warrant officer population so that we are on the cutting edge of the needs of our warrant officers and their families.

Our relationship with The Military Coalition (TMC) continues to grow and with the additional support of our new ED it can only become better, stronger and closer as we work toward our common good together. As a founding member we have an equal vote with 35 very powerful military associations that now number over 5.5 million voters.

Membership numbers over the past year have grown a little and I will let our Vice President, Mr. Pete Hill, address that in greater detail; however, we still need each one of you to help us in our efforts of a common good! An effort to increase this has been initiated as the Simultaneous Membership or Dual Membership Program. Executive leaders of several other military associations' such as AUSA, AAAA, NAUS, NGAUS and MOAA have received this very favorably. This program allows members to affiliate with several military organizations at a reduced cost. We see this as a win-win opportunity for you, our members, and for the other associations that you might like to affiliate with. We have attracted several hundred new members for those organizations/associations. We need more members

I would be very remiss if I did not thank CW3R Gene Perrino, Director Southeastern Region and CW4R Max Bennett, President of the Redstone Arsenal Chapter and all the gang in the region for hosting us here in this beautiful area.

Finally, I trust that you will have a productive and enjoyable week here as we endeavor to conduct the work of our Corps! We have much work to do but I trust that you will accomplish the task at hand.

Our next Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled for Fort Bragg, NC and I hope that "all yawls" have made plans to attend.

Thank you.  
Your humble servant....Respectfully submitted,  
For the Corps!

CW5 Gary Nisker  
National President  
USAWOA