



*United States Army*  
**Warrant Officers Association**  
**Northeastern Region Annual Report**  
2011 Annual Meeting of the Members  
Fayetteville, NC



**State of the Region**

October 2011

Mr. President, Vice President, and assembled members, it is indeed a pleasure for me to be with you at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members here in Fayetteville, NC. The Northeastern Region continues to be the second largest Region within the Association, with about 21% of the total membership. It is made up of 14 chapters, one of which, a Sub-Chapter in Kabal Afghanistan, the Phoenix Chapter, sponsored by the Arlington Hall Minuteman Chapter.

The Region took a beating this year with its membership numbers, down 112 from last year. But don't think for one minute this Region is not a viable part of our Association. The Chapters within the Region continue to donate thousands of dollars and volunteer thousands of hours in support of their communities. Here are a few programs they support:

America's Adopt a Soldier

Donated funds to Enlisted Christmas Baskets at National Guard Bureau

Donated 37 laptops to Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed

Santa's Helper Program

Rebuilding Together Petersburg

Habitat for Humanity

Local Scholarship Programs

Chaplains Offerings and Tithes Fund

Perry Point Veterans Hospital

Freestate Challenge

Saint Coleman Children's Home

Mountain Fest

Food Pantry and Jefferson County Children's Home

Thanksgiving gift baskets to military families in need

Komen Global Race for the Cure

Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, Pa

Care Packages to deployed Soldiers

Holiday Tea at Christmas time for senior citizens at the Army War College Carlisle Barracks, PA

The Home of the Brave, a Veteran's home for the Homeless

Community Service Projects for Our Veterans

Delaware Military Heritage and Education Association

Gift cards for Calling Cards for Deployed Soldiers

Unity Day Delaware National Guard

Gold Star Mothers

Family Support Centers

Gerald Solomon Veterans Cemetery

Saratoga Springs Senior Citizens Center

Toys for Tots

Wounded Warrior Project

USAWOA Scholarship and Heritage Foundations

So even though the membership numbers dropped, this Region has caring, professionals that roll up their sleeves and do what is necessary to support their communities. They do this year in and year out. I'm very proud of the support the Chapters in the Northeastern Region provide and I'm honored to be their Director.

Many of you may not know that each Region Director and Chapter President receives a Presidents Package monthly from National. Inside this package is a list of members whose membership is overdue and a list of new members to the Region and/or those that just renewed their membership. I send emails every month to remind those members to renew their membership and to welcome the new members to the Region and/or thank them for renewing their membership.

Below is an email communication I had back in June of this year with a member within the Region, whose membership was up for renewal:

**(My email)**

Good morning everyone,

I received the monthly USAWOA President's Package by email and it contains the overdue renewal list as of June. You all are probably already aware of this, but I'm sending this email simply as a reminder to renew your membership with the Association, if you care to do so of course and being the Northeastern Region Director, I certainly hope you do. Thank you for your support to our Association. Have a great day.

**(Members email response)**

Mr. Gouty,

Honestly speaking I haven't seen a benefit as to why I should renew my membership. I am also a member of the XXX and XXX but there are benefits such as scholarships and learning opportunities that come with being a member. The only thing I got in my renewal letter was to make sure I renewed so I maintained my "ranking" that I really don't care about. So I am wondering is there a real reason to be part of the organization that I'm not aware of.

**(My email response)**

Chief,

Below is my answer to your question. It's lengthy, so please get a cup of coffee, sit down, and please read the whole thing. If after you read this, you don't wish to renew your membership, then I will never ask you again, but please take the time to read this because, you asked me the question "Is there a real reason to be part of the organization that I'm not aware of?"

I would have to start off this way: Because you are a member of the Warrant Officer Corps, a proud organization that fosters a spirit of patriotism and devotion to duty, an association that recommends programs for the improvement of the Army in coordination with The Military Coalition (TMC), it disseminates professional information, promotes the technical and social welfare of its' members and promotes the spirit of comradeship. The USAWOA was the first to negotiate with the Army regarding inequality with Aircrew Incentive Pay (ACIP)/Flight Pay, the Association worked with The Military Coalition to get CW5 rank approved and the recent commissioning of WO1's, they pushed for higher pay raises and continue to improve warrant officer pay compensation by recommending targeted pay raises, which relieved warrant officer pay compression.

Look at the goodwill and community service our chapters and ultimately the Association gets involved with. Below are just some of the community support Chapter's within our Region get involved with, including your own Chapter. The association has 6 Regions and each Region has many, many chapters who support their communities. First, I'd like you to read my goals for the Northeastern Region:

1. Support the Warrant Officer Association. What I mean by this is "SELL" it in everything you do, your actions and behavior, how you communicate to others and how you present yourselves as Warrant Officers. This alone will pay dividends, because you know, Chief is always being watched. Market the association to increase membership.
2. Support the Heritage Foundation. This Foundation is about keeping the history of the Warrant Officer Corps alive.
3. Support the Scholarship Foundation. This Foundation focuses on providing scholarships to qualified members and family members of warrant officers serving in or retired from the United States Army, the Army Reserve and the National Guard.

4. Support the Wounded Warrior Project. The mission of the Wounded Warrior Project is to honor and empower wounded warriors. To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women.

Below are activities the chapters have been involved in:

The Crater Chapter, Fort Lee, VA continues its support to both Fort Lee and the local surrounding community. The Chapter presented the Garrison Commander with a check for \$500.00 to be given to Fort Lee Army Community Services (ACS) for the Thanksgiving Basket Program. This program provides financially challenged soldiers a means to provide a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner for their families. During the Christmas Season the Crater Chapter participated in the Santa's Helper Program wrapping gifts. The Holiday Helper House invites selected families to pick out toys and stocking stuffers that can be placed under the Christmas tree. Funded and stocked by the community's generous donations, this program is truly a reflection of the community's goodwill. Once a year, the Crater Chapter partners with Rebuilding Together Petersburg. This organization brings volunteers and the community together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners. In the spring of 2010 Members of the Crater Chapter assisted with the remodeling and installation of handicapped accessories of a bathroom for a handicapped widow of a Navy retiree. There was an abundance of volunteers and limited workspace so several members spent time on local area beatification efforts. Over the past eight years, the crater chapter has assisted with the improvement of nine houses in the local area. Owners of these houses include a retired WWII veteran who was a Red Ball Express driver as well as a retired Viet Nam and Korean War veteran. The chapter also assists Tri-Cities Habitat for Humanity, based in Petersburg, on an annual basis. The Crater Chapter has a thriving Scholarship Program for dependents of its membership and others in the local community. This year's recipients were Walker C. Jones and Danielle Burton. They were each presented with a \$1000 scholarship in August 2010. The main source of funding for these scholarships comes from operating a concession stand at the local NASCAR Races in Richmond. Twice a year they operate a concession stand at the Richmond International Raceway (RIR) during the NASCAR races. There is a spring race in early May and another much more important race in September. There is the Nationwide Race on Friday night and the Sprint Cup Race on Saturday night, known as the Race for the Chase under the lights. The Crater Chapter gets a percentage of the profit from the stand that it operates.

The Aberdeen-Edgewood Silver Chapter holds its meetings at the HUT, in building 2041, on APG, Maryland. The Chapter's footprint is about a 150 mile in circumference from the installation with membership consisting of Active duty, Guard, Reserve and Retired Warrant Officers that represent many branches, but primarily ordnance. Over the last year they have supported numerous community activities and organizations. Their contributions for the year totaled approximately \$1,750 to organizations such as Wounded Warrior Project, Chaplains Offerings and Tithes Fund, the Perry Point Veterans Hospital and others.

The Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter has increased its membership by 19 members since last year. During the 1st Quarterly meeting in January, the Chapter held an induction ceremony for the recently elected officials. Brigadier General James J. Grant (NJNG Joint Chief of Staff) and Colonial Steven Ferrari (NJNG CoS Army) participated in the swearing in and joined the Association as Associate Members. The President and Vice President made a USAWOA recruiting pitch at the NJNG Joint Force HQ Officer Association meeting on invitation from BG Grant. On April 6th past Chapter President CW5 (R) Richard Monus passed into life eternal. Chapter members provided a presence at his funeral services, and a \$150 donation to Saint Coleman Children's Home in New York in his honor. A \$250 donation from the Chapter was presented to CW4 (R) Harry McCurdy, Director for the Heritage Foundation. The President attended a Memorial Funeral Service for Colonial John McHugh, killed in Afghanistan, and established contact with his son CW2 Michael J. McHugh of Fort Rucker on behalf of the Doughboy Chapter. Also in June, the Doughboy Chapter awarded two \$300 scholarships to Preston Smith (Rutgers) and Devon Garner (Rowan) from Pemberton High School. The criterion was that the students must be from local military families, and a short essay was requested of what their 'family members' service meant to them. The President made a USAWOA Recruiting Presentation at a NJARNG-WOPDD in June that resulted in 6 on-the-spot membership applications. It is encouraging to see increased attendance at meetings, and a general willingness to participate in various committees and activities, especially among younger members still in uniform. Membership applications were especially brisk this year owing to: Vice President CW2 Nancy Rowbotham's leadership as our

Membership Chair; the addition of NJNG TAG, the Joint Chief, and the Cos Army as Associate Members; and CCWO-NJ's invitation to speak at the WOPDD.

The Thousand Island Chapter participated in the annual Mountain Fest and ran a food stand raising approximately \$1,625.00. They have donated annually to the Food Pantry and Jefferson County Children's Home.

The Arlington Hall Minuteman Chapter has increased its membership by 44 members since last year. In November of 2009 they donated four Thanksgiving gift baskets to military families in need and participated in a fundraiser "Amelia's Night" to raise money for a toddler with serious medical issues. The Chapter finalized and dedicated the "Eagle Rising Room" a conference room dedicated to Warrant Officers. They made a large donation of \$3500 to the Enlisted Association to help military families in need during Christmas. They also donated \$400 to Toys for Tots. The Chapter participated in the Komen Global Race for the Cure; the team was called "Walking Warrants". This sounds appropriate for the event. In June they hosted the Annual Golf Tournament and raised \$4700 for the Chapter. In July and August they donated \$400 in support of the Enlisted Picnic and \$250 to Army 10-Miler "HOOAH" Tent. They have conducted quarterly socials and arranged Warrant Officer Professional Development briefings in March for "Adopt a Soldier" and August "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve" (ESGR).

The Keystone Chapter members prepared and served a charity dinner for 40 adults and children at the Ronald McDonald house in Hershey, Pa. This was very well received by the staff and the Ronald McDonald house along with the parents of the children who were in Hershey medical center. They donated \$50 to the VFW golf tournament and held a Chicken BBQ fund raiser. The Chapter continues to collect items and send Care Packages to deployed Soldiers. The Chapter made its yearly contribution of \$300 for a Holiday Tea at Christmas time for senior citizens at the Army War College Carlisle Barracks, PA. The Chapter sent phone cards to Soldiers in Iraq and has opened their own web site.

The First State Chapter continues to grow in strength with 74 members, an increase of 19 members from last year. This chapter is active in the community assisting various organizations. The Home of the Brave, a Veteran's home for the Homeless is one of these organizations where the Chapter has agreed to buy \$ 400.00 Gift Cards for Christmas this year. A donation was made to Unity Day for the Delaware National Guard. Their largest event is their Annual Golf Tournament, where they raise money to support Community Service Project for Our Veterans, such as Irv Bovis a WW2, Korean and Vietnam Veteran whose house they painted as one of their community projects for 2010 and 4 (\$250.00) Scholarships awarded to the University of Delaware for ROTC Cadets. They are involved with the State Legislator's to work on issues regarding benefits to their members and other State Associations. The chapter is included in the Delaware National Guard Senior Leaders Call; it is during these events the members distribute information about the USAWOA. Donations for the year were:  
\$250.00 to the Delaware Military Heritage and Education Association  
\$250.00 to the USAWOA Scholarship Foundation

\$500.00 in Gift cards for Calling Cards for Deployed Soldiers

\$100.00 Unity Day Delaware National Guard

\$250.00 Warrant Officer Heritage Foundation

They're also active with attending, by invitation, the (Delaware) State Veterans Affairs meetings, held every month. They're invited (by the Governors' office and or by the state office of Veterans Affairs) to attend numerous state dedication and memorial services throughout the state, which they do attend by the way.

The Uncle Sam Chapter has increased its membership by 79 members since last year. The Chapter donated \$500.00 to the Wounded Warrior Project, \$100.00 to the Gold Star Mothers and \$100.00 to the NYARNG for distribution to needy soldiers for Christmas through the NYARNG Family Support Center. Chapter members continue to volunteer at the Gerald Solomon Veterans Cemetery, the American Legion Posts in the area, the Saratoga Springs Senior Citizens Center, hospitals in the area and the Retired Services Office at the Watervliet Arsenal. The Chapter has put in over 300 volunteer hours so far this year.

We do provide scholarships, about (10) \$1,000.00 scholarships each year to family members, and a 4 year scholarship to both family members and regular members in good standing. Below is an excerpt of the USAWOASF/Grantham University On-Line Scholarship Program:

The USAWOA Scholarship Foundation (USAWOASF) was created in 2003 to assume administration of the USAWOA scholarship program. The Foundation is pleased to offer an additional program for school year 2011-2012.

The goal of this program is to make cost free on-line scholarship awards to the most deserving candidate. Decisions are made by a selection committee and are based on the whole-person concept. Over the years, USAWOA conducted various fund raising events. Substantial portions of the proceeds were set aside for the scholarship program. Your efforts and contributions made the annual award of several scholarships possible, but there were always more applicants than there were funds available. As we worked to find a solution to this problem we teamed up with Grantham University for this program. The funded scholarships were limited in number and were awarded normally only to military dependents seeking an under graduate degree. This school year we will annual award one four year on-line scholarships to a deserving applicant. The Grantham University Catalog is available on the USAWOASF Web site and we encourage all to download and review that document before applying for a scholarship. Both undergraduate and graduate program scholarships are available.

Application packets, utilizing the attached forms and special criteria must be received by May 1 2011 in order to be considered for this year's program. Completed application packets should be mailed directly to: USAWOA Scholarship Foundation, 462 Herndon Pkwy, Suite 207, Herndon, VA 20170-5235.

Applications will be accepted from association regular members in good standing, their spouses and from their children (natural and adopted) and dependent stepchildren, under the age of 23 years (seniors in high school or above). Members must have been a member of the USAWOA for a minimum of six months prior to the date of the application.

So, hopefully I've made you a little more aware of our Association and I'm wondering do you now have a reason to be part of a professional organization that prides itself on community support and supporting its own? Sure would like your support!

**(Members email response)**

Greg,

I did (read the entire email) but only after I grabbed a large cup of coffee. It actually made me smile but I guess I don't ever see any of those things that are going on or hear of anything in my own community. Maybe I am not involved enough. You will see my renewal here soon.

Thanks.

Chief

I respect the honesty from this member and once he found out about the community support and numerous activities the Chapters are involved in he changed his mind and renewed his membership. This led me to write this in my report this year. This warrant officer is not the only one who doesn't know what we do. We must to do a better job of Marketing our Association. I challenge National, each Region, and every Chapter to do a better job of advertizing the good things we do in support of our communities and in taking care of our own!

To The Corps!

CW4 (Ret) Gregory A. Gouty

"The Quiet Professionals"