



United States Army

Warrant Officers Association

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USAWOA Online <http://www.usawoa.org> – Interactive Portal <https://usawoa.net>

WEBMASTERS REPORT – 39TH AMM – OCTOBER 2011

Revamping the USAWOA Web Presence

The current configuration and amount of content plus features on both USAWOA Online and the Interactive Portal have turned upkeep into an almost a fulltime job impacting on family life and other commitments. Efforts to recruit additional help with website duties have not been successful. It is suspected that the magnitude of material on the sites may have been scaring off potential candidates.

Reorganization of Web Presence Underway

USAWOA Online (www.usawoa.org) as our public-face will be phased over to tell our story to the general public and promote USAWOA to Warrant Officers who are not members, plus to potential Corporate and Small Business Members.

Features such as Pay, Entitlements & Insurance, TRICARE, MEDICARE, & VA Benefits, Army, Defense & Government News, Family Member News, Guard & Reserve News, Commissary & Exchange News, Veterans & Retiree News, Recruiting & Retention, USAWOA Job Bank, and possibly more will either be segregated and accessible to dues paying members only via links on the page on the Interactive Portal that comes up after Login; OR will be considered to be dropped from the web entirely. The USAWOA Scholarship and Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation will be maintained as public sites in as much they are both “Public Charities.”

Point of contact - Dave Welsh at usawoa-online@verizon.net.

The USAWOA Interactive Portal (<https://usawoa.net>) is a secure intranet site with two faces.

The first face is an introduction with important notices for the viewer. It also provides access to the Online Store where individuals can join, renew, rejoin, purchase memorabilia, make donations, and register for events without logging in.

The second face is Members-Only face where one must login in order to access features such as the NEWSLINER, make changes to their member records (i.e. change address, rank, phone numbers & email addresses, etc.). Over time members logged-in will be able to access features that are transferred from public view to members-only view.

Points of contacts:

Interactive Portal - Frank Meeks at usawoa-portal@verizon.net

Member database & Chapter Information – Herb Rundgren at usawoamdb@verizon.net

Online Store – Terri Casteel at usawoafinance@verizon.net

In Summary: The addition of the USAWOA Interactive Portal has helped bring USAWOA into the 21st Century as many of you have advocated. We cannot afford some of the bells and whistles that the big associations with many more members have. However we have added a secure site with secure online store, and provided you secure access to your membership record to which you can make changes to many data elements. You can also access many items such as the NEWSLINER and other features that are not available to the general public including non-member warrant officers.

We are also striving to make it totally transparent and seamless as to which site you are on at any given time. What we mean by this is that, in most cases, you can visit either our public site or the portal and some of the links take you to another site without you realizing it. We receive evidence of success with transparency every day when a question or comment is received by the USAWOA Online and the Interactive Portal web editors about content that is on the Portal and vice versa. We are working to convert all feedback links to create an email addressed to both usawoa-online@verizon.net and usawoa-portal@verizon.net.

Volunteer Needed - We are in need of a Web Editor to assist the webmasters in maintaining the several websites supporting our members and telling the USAWOA story. If you have some knowledge or skills with websites and would like to learn more about this opportunity please contact us by email at usawoa-online@verizon.net and usawoa-portal@verizon.net. We will talk about what is involved.

Region and Chapter Web Sites

A document is being prepared for distribution after the conclusion of the 39th AMM that will discuss a few rules pertaining to Region and Chapter websites. It will also discuss what constitutes a good web site and explain the categories in which Chapter websites were rated to select the Annual Best Chapter Website. The document will be available as a download link on the November Chapter Presidents Online Package.

Respectfully submitted,

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