

The Western Region
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CANDIDATE FOR USAWOA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

I am your current Western Region 2 Director. I have held this position for the past two years. Prior to that I was, and still am, the Secretary for the NW Silver Chapter. I have held that position since Dec 2008. I joined the USAWOA in 1984.

I am seeking a second 2-year term to further assist the 17 Chapters in the Region. This Region covers 12 states to include both Alaska and Hawaii. While I have not been able to visit either of those two states, I have been able to visit 6 chapters in 5 states. The young warrant officers stepping up to take on the job of Chapter President impress me. They are dedicated fellow officers who care about the future of this Association.

For the first time in over 10 years, the Annual Meeting of the Members for next year, 2025, will be held in the Western Region, October 20-25, in Tacoma, WA. The Northwest Silver Chapter has stepped up to host this major event. As Region Director, I will be asking every chapter in the region to support this AMM in two major ways. The first and most important will be to greatly encourage their chapter members to attend the AMM. Possibly many chapters can work to partially reimburse a number of their chapter members to attend the AMM. My second effort will be to ask every Chapter to provide financial support for the AMM. It is estimated that a regular AMM costs between \$30,000 and \$45,000. Financial support from every Region 2 will greatly increase the value of the AMM and also make every Chapter fee and know rightly that they assisted in making it the best AMM in years.

It is at the chapter level where the most significant challenge for both the Warrant Officer cohort and the USAWOA is found. That is the challenge of recruiting and retaining warrant officers in local chapters. It was only with the strong support of the USAWOA and The Military Coalition that the warrant officer rank was maintained in all but the US Air Force. This current generation of Americans are geared to social media. They live and die by their phone. If they can't do it on the phone, they don't have the time for it. Worse, they don't believe their time is worth the "extra" effort. This is where National Office is currently working to bring the USAWOA into the 21st/22nd century with technology that will grab the new, young warrant officers and talk their lingo to have them understand the importance of being a member of an organization that is there for their benefits. Yes, this will cost a pretty penny. However, the alternative is the USAWOA would become obsolete in today's quickly moving multi-levels of communication. You don't keep up with the latest and greatest in your own MOS, you are passed over for promotion and worse, shown the door.

There is a deep feeling of camaraderie among warrant officers when we gather for a large social event. I have felt it every time I have attended a warrant officer ball, a warrant officer birthday celebration or at a military class made up solely of warrant officers. Face it – we are a minority in the US Army. But by that same token, really great leaders, mentors and trainers are few and far between. To quote from my two MOS, each of us needs to be "Always Out Front" and "Do What Has to Be Done" to bring in the new warrant officers. That means a personal effort to talk up the USAWOA to every warrant you know. That will make a better warrant officer cohort and also a better US Army.