

National Vice President

By CW4 Louise C. Lingenfelter

CANDIDATE FOR USAWOA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

I seek re-election as the United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) national vice president. I am a Pennsylvania Army National Guard member, currently working out of National Guard Bureau in Arlington, VA. Accepting a T10 ADOS tour as an ARNG-G1 HRF-P Incentive Resource Manager. This new to me position, will allow me to continue growing as a leader and the ability to support a greater number of Soldiers.

Two years after becoming a Warrant Officer I became a member of the USAWOA in November 2010, and transitioned to a lifetime member in December 2019.

Four short years after becoming a member, I accepted an appointment as the Keystone Silver Chapter's secretary from January 2014 – December 2018. In recognition of my support to the USAWOA Keystone Silver Chapter, I was awarded the USAWOA Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising (HOER), bronze level.

While serving as the Keystone Silver Chapter president from January 2019 – September 2022 we received multiple awards. In 2020 we received the USAWOA Community Service Awards for Services to the Community as well as the USAWOA Outstanding Region (Northeastern) streamers. Keystone Silver Chapter supported the selection of the 2021 USAWOA Outstanding Region (Northeastern) streamer.

In addition to being the Keystone Silver Chapter president, I was approached to fill a recent vacancy at the National Headquarters. I continued to serve as a chapter president and accepted appointment as the USAWOA national treasurer April 2020 – September 2022. I was awarded the USAWOA CW4 Albert M. Holcombe Memorial Award, 2021 Warrant Officer of the Year. Over the last two years I have served as the USAWOA National Vice President.

I feel holding multiple key positions within the organization has allowed me to strive for the best, supporting both our local community and national-level initiatives.

In addition to being a USAWOA lifetime Member, since 2019 I have also been a life member of multiple other organizations including the Association of Quartermasters, National Guard Association of the United States (in 2024 I was awarded the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin); and the 1918 Society of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association.

Over the years, as a Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) member, I have worked in a few key positions that have impacted thousands of personnel.

For ten years, I served as a federal technician in the Directorate of Logistics (DOL) - G4, as the Pennsylvania National Guard Food Service Program Manager (FSPM), allowing me the opportunity to work directly with United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO), key leadership, and vendors. From overhauling the outdated state standard operating procedure (SOP), to ensuring the state maintained a quality 14-Day menu, along with coordinating preparing and presenting multiple annual training events to enhance the skills of our culinary personnel.

Over the last seven years, I have been working for the Homeland Response Force (HRF) as their budget officer in charge (OIC), and had the opportunity to directly support the J3, with additional duties as the J38 Budget Analyst. The new hire boarded for the technician position started with no previous military financial background. I was able to completely train her and ensured she was confident in the position as I was leading up to a deployment. Over the last three years we have continued to have a positive working relationship as we navigate issues and concerns. I was able to successfully manage multiple accounts and personnel, ensuring we all met mission requirements in a fiscally responsible manner.

There are several challenges that face the **Warrant Officer cohort**. I think the most significant are:

1. Maintaining Expertise
2. Managing Mission Creep

We must ensure our Warrant Officers remain relevant – which is at the heart of being technically and tactically proficient in their craft – as well as mentoring our junior Warrant Officers, and potential Warrant Officers. Also important is aligning our educational training to ensure we are keeping up with changes.

Managing mission creep must be factored into time, as ensuring we are meeting the commander's intent – while balancing requirements in the Guard, Reserve, and active components – continues to be more challenging.

I think the most significant challenges facing the **USAWOA** are:

1. Membership
2. Work-life balance

Regarding membership, finding the “why” to join, as well as inspiring our members to be volunteers at the National, Regional, and Chapter levels is crucial. Technology is constantly at our fingertips, and often viewed through our cell phones. Continuing to synchronize and update our platforms will allow our current and future members to know we are current and relevant.

Currently many of our members who are actively involved in the USAWOA are also high-achievers and many with family and children or are in a single-family home. These strains along with family priorates. As we continue to evolve the USAWOA, starting with the recent transition to the new portal and streamlining our business practices it will be imperative to maintaining quality leaders and their desire to continue balancing USAWOA with all their other life commitments. The process for our chapters and their leadership to communicate, store files, and update national headquarters is continuing to be evaluated to ensure we are supporting the Cohort and their families as efficiently as possible.

In closing, if re-elected as the national vice president I will do everything in my ability to support the USAWOA, its members, and the cohort, to continue traditions and ensure the success of USAWOA long into the future.