



United States Army
Warrant Officers Association
The Quiet Professionals

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Dear Chapter Presidents:

Welcome to 2024 and what I hope promises to be an exciting and fulfilling year for the Association and all our members. I ask all Chapter Presidents to share this monthly President's letter with all your chapter members to ensure widest dissemination of information.

I'm pleased to report that our overall USAWOA membership numbers now exceed 6,330. Looking back, in January 2022 we had 4,810 members. This is an increase of over 1,500 members in a 2-year span, the majority being newly appointed Warrant Officer Ones (WO1). Kudos and thanks to the Above the Best Silver Chapter for helping lead the effort to inform the newest members of our cohort about USAWOA and encouraging them to join our association. The challenge going forward, as it has been for several years, is engaging these WO1s at their first duty station and encouraging them to renew their memberships.

Our headquarters staff stands ready to assist any chapter president in their efforts to identify USAWOA members residing in their areas, it's as simple as an email to director@usawoa.org and requesting the information. More specifically, for those chapters co-located at our Centers of Excellence that conduct warrant officer professional military education, HQ can identify any newly arriving WO1s based on the initial information provided on the initial registration form. For chapters looking to use the member portal to look for or check the status of a member, know that not all USAWOA members are listed in the directory. The reason is that all members have the right to choose if their information is published, so using it as a reference to confirm the membership status of a specific member may not be accurate. Again, the best and simplest solution is to contact our Executive Director, Ms. Cara Rinkoff, who can provide you with the latest membership data.

Regarding our membership portal, I'm very excited to announce that our national headquarters migration to a new Association Management System (AMS) is still fully on track. Ms. Rinkoff has been working diligently with our new AMS provider, known as YourMembership, to develop, design and ultimately implement the new member portal and online experience. We anticipate the new system will come online on Monday, 22 January 2024. All current USAWOA members will still access the member portal via our www.usawoa.org website but will immediately notice the layout of information is different and ideally, the portal will be a bit easier to navigate. Initially, we chose to focus on the membership portion, renewals and new memberships and the online store, but other functions will also be developed in the future.

Once the new system goes live, every USAWOA member with a valid email address will receive an email asking them to update their personal contact information. This transition to a new system, the first update in nearly 15 years, also serves as an excellent opportunity to ensure every member's

information is correct. We ask that when you receive this email, take a few minutes to review and if necessary, update your information. Additionally, while we hope for a seamless transition, we recognize and expect there will be a few issues as we progress. Please communicate your issues and concerns to Ms. Rinkoff while exercising a bit of patience to allow her to make any necessary corrections. We currently do not have a membership manager, so she is doing multiple duties, overseeing the transition to the new AMS, designing the new content, and performing her normal duties as the Executive Director. Finally, Ms. Rinkoff will provide one-on-one training with chapter presidents to show them how to navigate and use the resources and tools available in this new system, to help manage chapter memberships. She will also provide additional information in an upcoming Newsliner article that will best explain the features of the new system.

With the good news comes the bad news. I and the Executive Committee (EXCOM) grow increasingly concerned with the number of Chapters in Jeopardy (of being closed) and Chapters up for closure by the Board of Directors (BOD). Every month, the EXCOM reviews a comprehensive listing of chapters who fail to submit required minutes for their chapter meetings. As of this report (January 2024), we have six chapters up for closure by the BOD because minutes have not been submitted going back as far as September 2021. Also, we have 13 chapters in jeopardy as none submitted meeting minutes in the last year. In accordance with our national bylaws, and further codified in every chapter's bylaws: "Chapters shall normally conduct monthly meetings at a date and place determined by the chapter membership as promulgated in the Chapter's Bylaws. At least one (1) chapter business meeting must be held each quarter. Failure to do so will result in that chapter being declared suspended. Four (4) consecutive instances of such delinquent quarters shall subject the Chapter to one of the following: possible closure; complete reset of Chapter start date; or – at a minimum – shall result in the Chapter's loss of continuous service credit for such four (4) or more quarters (a partial reset of Chapter start date). Such determination of action shall be made pursuant to a vote by the BOD, and the affected Chapter may appeal this decision."

We truly do not want to have to close any of our chapters but in some instances, the BOD has no other option but to do so, as clearly specified in the association's national bylaws and operations manual. Additionally, as an IRS recognized non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Virginia, we and by extension all our chapters, must comply with the state's legal requirements to maintain our legal presence and status. Chapter minutes along with our own EXCOM minutes meet the necessary requirements to maintain our status. We ask that all chapters submit the required meeting minutes to remain active, or the BOD must vote to close these chapters in accordance with our established bylaws.

In closing, I firmly believe we are making strides regarding membership and the technology we use to communicate and share information with the members. Our Region Directors and National Vice President continue to work together on membership issues, but they can't do it alone. Please continue to help and in doing so, we fulfill our mantra of **Warrant Officers Taking Care of Warrant Officers**.

Sincerely,

CW5 Michael Dye
National President, USAWOA
The Quiet Professionals ®