



CWOA ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES

APRIL 27, 2004

The regular annual meeting of the Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, USCG commenced 0737 Tuesday, April 27, 2004, at the Stardust Resort Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV.

Attendance:

Association Officers

CWO Mike Maher	President
CWO Doug Van Oort	Vice President
CWO George Borlase (Ret)	VP Retired Affairs
CWO Tom Kelly	VP Reserve Affairs
CWO Cindy Luna	Secretary
CWO Jamie Rambo	Treasurer
CWO4 Bob Lewis, (Ret)	Executive Director

Association Officers-Elect

CWO Bill Reetz, (Ret)	VP Retired Affairs
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Chapter Representatives

CWO Don Nuzzolo	Rocky Coast Chapter	CWO Bill Giessman, (Ret)	St Louis Chapter
CWO Jim Hinde	Boston Chapter	CWO Earl Ryder, (Ret)	Little Club on the Prairie
CWO Al Beal, (Ret)	Southern NE Chapter	CHGU Michael Opsitnik, (Ret)	Silver State Chapter
CWO Ric Waechter, (Ret)	Cape Island Chapter	CWO Tony Ball	Golden Gate Chapter
CWO John Pfautz	Baltimore Chapter	CWO Wayne Zuehls	Pac NW Chapter
CWO Darryl Ransom	DC Chapter	LT Duane Gates (Ret)	Juneau Chapter
LCDR Charlotte Broga	Yorktown Chapter	CWO Ken Vanek	Southern Cal Chapter
CWO Dan Tallman	Norfolk Chapter	CWO Frank Hesson	Alexandria Chapter
CWO Dave Daniels, (Ret)	Suncoast Chapter	CWO Bob Sova, (Ret)	Miami Chapter
CWO George Truntich, (Ret)	Space Coast Chapter	CWO Randy Cornell	Philadelphia Chapter
CWO Mike Conroy	Long Island Chapter		

Members and Guests

CWO Arnold Anderson	Southern Cal Chapter
CWO Tom Bender, (Ret)	At large
CWO Don Brauer	Suncoast Chapter
CWO Lorenzo Brown	DC Chapter
CWO Wib Coe, (Ret)	Silver State Chapter
LT Art Colona, (Ret)	Boston Chapter
CWO Thomas Coleman	Southern Cal Chapter
CWO Nick DiGiaccio, (Ret)	Silver State Chapter
CWO Mary Jane Doster Gates	Juneau Chapter
CWO John Gillis, (Ret)	At Large
CWO Mike Jenkins	DC Chapter
CWO Jerome Koenig	At Large
CWO Robert Larson	Miami Chapter
CWO Peter R. Lerma	Southern Cal Chapter
CWO Jerry Lewis, (Ret)	Rocky Coast Chapter
CWO Fred Mawanay, (Ret)	Silver State Chapter
CWO Mattie Matteson, (Ret)	Norfolk Chapter
CWO Dan Parker	Boston Chapter
CWO Teresa Ripley	DC Chapter
CWO Carl Seale, (Ret)	Suncoast Chapter
LCDR Gil Shaw, (Ret)	Silver State Chapter
CWO Jeffrey Shaw, (Ret)	Pacific NW Chapter
CWO Helen Smith	Southern NE Chapter
CWO Betty Splaine, (Ret)	At large
CWO Bill Stacey	Southern Cal Chapter
CWO Wayne Thompson, (Ret)	At Large

HONORS:

- The President led the association in the pledge of allegiance
- The President read the names of those members who have passed over the bar since the last annual meeting
- The President recognized:

Distinguished Members and Past Presidents:

CWO Bob Lewis (Ret.), CWO George Borlase, (Ret), CWO Carl Seale (Ret), and CWO David Daniels (Ret).

Distinguished Members - CWO Mattie Matteson, (Ret), CWO Bill Reetz, (Ret.), CWO Michael Opsitnik (Ret), and LCDR Charlotte Broga.

Past President - CWO Randy Cornell.

- Chapter Representatives and general members in attendance introduced themselves.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- The minutes of the 10 Dec 2003 meeting was received. No further questions. The minutes were approved as read and placed on file.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: (CWO Doug Van Oort)

- The membership report for the period 1 Apr 03 through 31 Mar 04 was received.
- Superior Achievement Membership Improvement Award (SAMI). This award is incentive for Chapters to go out and get new members. Golden Gate Chapter won the SAMI award for 2004.
- With no further questions, the report was placed on file.

TREASURERS REPORT: (CWO Jamie Rambo)

- The treasurer's report as of 17 Apr 04 was received.
- The following questions were raised about the treasurer's report:
 1. Why is the Insurance so high?
 2. YTD Dues?
 3. Miscellaneous Donations? FAA/Lt Ritcher/CGWLP
 4. Miscellaneous Other? Incorporation Fee/Christmas Party/Interest Fees
 5. Printing and Publications amount incorrect?
 6. Audit not paid for yet?
- It was requested that a correct copy be sent to all Chapters after all corrections made.
- No further questions and the treasurer's report was tabled for later.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT: (CWO Wayne Zuehls)

- Chair gave brief on LRPC dated 24 Feb 04.
- *Membership:*
 1. Discussion was held on Shoulder Boards.

A motion was made on the shoulder boards as written in the LRPC report:
”Shoulder boards should not be given to the newly graduated warrants, since they are appointed prior to attending the Professional Development course and have them before they arrive.” Motion was seconded. Discussion held.

Roll call vote taken on Shoulder Boards as written in LRPC report. Motion Carried.

0915 Recess General Membership

0933 Reconvene General Membership

A motion was made to recall the question of providing shoulder boards to new warrants and to correct the previous called motion. Motion was seconded. Roll call vote taken. Motion Carried.

An amended motion was made that once current supply of shoulder boards are exhausted, shoulder boards should not be given to newly appointed warrants. Roll call vote taken. Motion Carried. Discussion held.

A motion was made to amend the previous motion. Motion as amended: Once current supply of shoulder boards have been exhausted shoulder boards shall not be given to newly appointed warrants. Motion Seconded. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried.

2. Discussion held on Coffee mugs.

A motion was made on the coffee mugs as written in the LRPC report:
”Coffee mugs should be continued at the school and made available for purchase by all members from the Association.” Motion Seconded. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried.
3. Discussion held on BOD attending Professional Development Course graduations.

A motion was made as written in the LRPC report that “the B.O.D. should continue to attend Professional Development graduations at the Academy since this appears to have a very positive impact on new warrants and memberships.” Motion Seconded. Roll call vote taken. Motion Carried.

Recess General Membership convene Executive Committee

Reconvene General Membership

- *Financial Status*

1. Discussion held on employee position description.

A motion was made as written in the LRPC report that “an employee position description should be developed and compensation directly related to it. As previously stated, employee contracts, bonuses, and 100% employer funded retirement plan should be reviewed and reconsidered. Motion Seconded. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried.

Recess General Membership convene Executive Committee

Reconvene General Membership

- LRPC Report concluded. With no further questions the LRPC Report was placed on file.

1041 Recess General Membership

1052 Reconvene General Membership

TIME IN GRADE COMMITTEE REPORT (CWO Jamie Rambo):

- CWO Rambo presented the TIG Committee report, which concluded that it is not in the best interest of the Coast Guard to pursue TIG reduction at this time.
- With no further questions the report was placed on file.

ART AND ELEANOR COLONA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (CWO Mike Maher):

- CWO Maher gave a brief on the draft scholarship for LT Art Colonna.
- The President will get together with LT Colona and legal representation to finalize the document as soon as practical.
- With no further questions the report was placed on file.

BALLOT COMMITTEE REPORT (CWO Mike Maher):

- The Ballot Committee report dated 2 Mar 04 was provided to all.
- With no further questions, the report was placed on file.

KELLER CWOA SCHOLARSHIP REPORT (CWO Mike Maher):

- CWO Maher presented the report and stated there were 27 applications and the committee selected 10 applicants.
- Cape Island Chapter volunteered to chair next year’s scholarship committee.
- With no further questions, the report was placed on file.

1136 Recess General Membership

1305 Reconvene General Membership

AUDIT REPORT (CWO Jamie Rambo)

- CWO Rambo gave a brief overview of the Audit Report dated 30 Jun 03.

- With no further questions, the report was placed on file.

PERMANENT FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (CWO Rambo):

- CWO Rambo read the Permanent Finance committee report dated 31 Mar 04.
- With no questions, the report was placed on file.

*Recess General Membership convene Executive Committee
Reconvene General Membership*

1730 Recess General Membership

Wednesday - 28 April 2004

0827 General Membership Reconvene.

Morning Announcements:

Announcement was made about an active duty member who was killed in the Persian Gulf. Member assigned to Taclet South.

The President announced that a Special Committee met earlier this morning to consider two nominees for Distinguished Membership. CWO Dan Parker was approved for Distinguished Membership.

*Recess General Membership convene Executive Committee
Reconvene General Membership*

*0900 Recess General Membership
0910 Reconvene General Membership.*

CWOA 2004 CHAPTER REPORTS:

ALEXANDRIA CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO3 Frank Hesson
Vice: CWO2 Elvie Ray
Secretary: CWO3 Richard Greenfield
Treasurer: CWO2 Robert (Doug) Green

Membership

Active Duty – 36
Retired - 6
Honorary Members - 2
Reserve - 0

The chapter meets on a quarterly or as needed basis, normally on a Thursday afternoon at the USCG TISCOM Anchorage Club. As with all of our meetings, we invite both the Commanding Officers and Executive Officers from both TISCOM and USCG Navigation Center. We serve Pizza, soda and beer.

A regular attendee of the meeting is the CO of TISCOM, Captain Michael Grimes. He truly embraces the chapter, the membership and he is happy to be included in our meetings. This

gives the CO a unique opportunity to talk with the Warrants and get a feel for how things are progressing at our level.

Chapter events over the past year:

- Began coin sales (400+ as of this date)
- June 2003 – Sent a birthday gift to Whitney Shields turned 15
- July 2003 - Catered CWO Laddie Novak’s retirement ceremony.
- July 2003 – Catered CWO Knaub’s retirement ceremony
- Aug 2003 – CG Day Picnic dunk tank
- Nov 2003 – Catered CWO Glenn’s retirement ceremony
- Nov 2003 – Sponsored Thanksgiving Turkey raffle (Prizes 2 \$50.00 food gift cert)
- Dec 2003 – Donation to Southern CA – Fire fund
- Dec 2003 – Provided Financial assist to junior members at TISCOM/Navcen
- Dec 2003 – Provided financial assist to CGPC member who’s father passed
- Dec 2003 – Provided funding for children’s holiday party
- Dec 2003 – Savings bonds to Steven Shields children for holidays
- Jan 2004 – Donation in memory of Mrs. Grimes who passed away
- Feb 2004 – Donation to HG ball

The CWO Steven Shields Alexandria Chapter is happy to donate \$100.00 to the scholarship fund and \$50.00 to the building fund.

Additionally, the chapter would like to thank the chapters that stepped up and donated to the Honor Guard Ball. The young Coast Guard men and women really appreciate it. It is there annual event that belongs to them.

On May 1, 2004, CWO Elvie Ray, the VP will be assuming the duties of President for the chapter.

BALTIMORE CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO2 Richard W. Belcher
Vice: CWO2 Phillip K. Hand
Secretary: CWO3 Richard P. Biagiotti
Treasurer: CWO2 John R. Pfautz

Membership

Active Duty – 34
Retired - 5
Reserve - 1

LT Art Colona became member of Baltimore Chapter.

\$350 was donated to enlisted member who suffered apartment fire.

Chapter does a lot of work with base chaplin

Baltimore Chapter is donating \$100 to Scholarship Fund.

BOSTON CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO4 James P. Hinde

Vice: CWO3 Scott Buettner

Secretary: CWO3 Mark Dupont

Treasurer: CWO3 John Hulslander

Membership

Active Duty - 16

Retired - 4

Reserve -

Meetings and General Chapter Info

CWOA Boston Chapter meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at ISC Boston. We typically have 10-12 warrants attending each meeting, but some meetings are combined with other activities that draw more. The Boston Chapter has a total of 20 members, 18 of which are members of the national. (Membership in the national is not a prerequisite for membership in the Boston Chapter, though we do encourage it.) Two of our members are retirees and the rest are active duty personnel (some are reserves on orders). Dues are \$20/Qtr and are optional.

Fund-Raising Activities

- a. The 3rd Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament was held in March to coincide with the NCAA's March Madness. This was the 3rd year for this event, and it has proven to be very popular. This year we drew teams from tenant commands at ISC Boston, as well as outlying units. T-shirts were given to each participant, and trophies awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Expenses were offset by the entry fees, and by the sale of T-shirts and beverages.
- b. The 4th Annual Deep-Sea Fishing Trip was held in April. This was the 4th year for this event.
- c. The 1st Annual Golf Tournament was held in late May. Trophies and door prizes were awarded. This event was a huge success except that the Warrants took home the Integrity Trophy for high score (Ouch!).

Membership Drive

2003 CWOA Boston Membership was held in June. The event was basically a Hail & Farewell BBQ luncheon held at the ISC Boston All Hands Club. New members who attended have since become regulars at monthly chapter meetings.

Charitable Activities/Events

- a. The 6th Annual Clothing Drive was held from mid-September through November. The drive collected over 500 pounds of cold-weather clothing that was distributed to appreciative residents at local veterans homeless shelter.
- b. The Boston Chapter has "adopted" a ward to support at the Bedford, MA VA Hospital. The first event was a Christmas Party for residents held December 11, 2003. Pizza, brownies, Christmas cookies and sodas were served. Approximately 10 warrants attended the party and spent a couple of very rewarding hours talking with veterans about their times in the service and offering encouragement in their desire to improve their lives.
- c. The Boston Chapter will be presenting a donation of \$100 for the Keller Scholarship Fund at the April 2004 national meeting.

CAPE ISLAND CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO4 Richard G. Waechter
Vice:
Secretary/Treasurer:

Membership

Active Duty – 11
Retired - 17
Reserve - 1

Chapter hosted 2 spouse outings per year.

Cohost pig roast on July 16th in conjunction with the dedication of the Vietnam Vet Monument in Cape May.

\$100 donated to the Scholarship Fund in memory of LCDR John Cutright.

GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO2 Hazel L. Wilbanks
Vice: CWO Tony Ball
Secretary/Treasurer:

Membership

Active Duty –
Retired -
Reserve -

GREATER MIAMI CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO4 Bob Sova (Ret)
Vice: CWO4 Bruce Ullmer (Ret)
Secretary: CWO4 Bob Larson (Ret)
Treasurer: CWO4 Dave Patlak (Ret)

Membership

Active Members - 28
Retired -
Reserve -

Meetings and General Chapter Info:

- Due to the location of various major commands in the Miami area we rotate our meetings between D7 (Miami), ISC Miami (Miami Beach), and Air Station Miami (Opa Locka). Meetings are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We primarily meet at a local restaurant or in the case of the Air Station, try and meet on steak and lobster day. Our meetings usually draw between 8 and 12 people. Our meeting notes are passed to all CWO's in the local area whether or not they participate.
- We currently have 23 paid members.
- Members of our association participate in many community events during the year...Habitat for Humanity, Harvest Fest, Neighbors for Neighbors, United Way/CFC events, beach clean ups and other events as they come up, including manning of the beer tent during CG Day picnic. Several members are also involved in the Miami Area Retiree Council.

Noteworthy events:

- May 2003 – held an evening meeting attended by seven members and spouses/significant others.
- September 2003 - hosted an "Invite Your Boss to Lunch" which drew over 50 people. District Commander was guest speaker and we presented him a CWOA Shirt and coin.

- November 2003 - Turkey Raffle. With the proceeds we gave away 20 turkeys and bought Gift Certificates to give to deserving junior enlisted personnel over the holiday season.
- Dec 03/Jan 04 - bought and presented seven local grocery store gift certificates to present to deserving junior enlisted personnel attached to local commands. This brought additional attention to several commands that we were there to support them in any way we could. This single event bought us a lot of good will.
- January 2004 - hosted a "Bring Your Chief" to lunch with over 20 people in attendance. Bob Sova elected President, replacing Deb Turner. Presented Deb a letter of appreciation from National for her service as President during 2003.
- March 2004 - our meeting day landed on St. Patrick's Day so of course we had our meeting at an Irish Pub and were honored by the presence of LCDR Charlotte Broga, a Distinguished CWOA member, who was down in Miami TAD to support Operation Able Sentry.

Donating \$20 for the Hospitality Room.

Donating \$100 to building and \$100 to scholarship fund.

JUNEAU CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO4 Marc S. Osborne

Vice: LCDR Duane Gates (Ret)

Secretary/Treasurer:

Membership

Active Duty – 15

Retired -

Reserve -

Fund Raisers: Won Tyner Dinner

Charitable: Adopt a Highway/Host visiting ships/Senior Citizen Dinner/SOQ.

Social Dinner

Meet 2nd Friday of every month at the Buoy Deck.

Chapter is donating \$100 to Scholarship Fund and \$100 to Building Fund.

LONG ISLAND SOUND CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CDR Richard Matters (Ret)

Vice: CWO Ron Millsbaugh

Secretary: CWO Greg Huntoon

Treasurer: CWO Cindy Gustin

Membership

Active Duty – 26

Retired -

Reserve -

Chapter was chartered on March 27, 2003. We currently have 26 members. We also have a golf outing planned to help raise money for the new chapter.

NORFOLK CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO3 Daniel A. Tallman

Vice: CWO Ray Bryant

Secretary: CWO Jerry Crooks

Membership

Active Duty – 18

Retired, Special, Honorary - 112

Treasurer: CWO Harry Huggins

Donated \$200 dollars to CG Angel Fund and \$150 dollars and volunteers to feed the homeless. Donating \$100 to building and \$100 to scholarship fund.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO2 Tracy Zuehls

Vice:

Secretary/Treasurer:

Membership - 232

Active Duty –

Retired – 60%

Reserve -

Chapter hosted an Installation dinner.

Gave \$250 to PACAREA EPOY.

Had welcome home for local PSU and gave 250 American flags to the dependents.

Participated in Veterans Day ceremony and also attend local Veteran Funeral Services.

Chapter is donating \$600 to the Scholarship fund.

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO3 Thomas M. Casey

Vice: CWO2 James Guerette

Secretary: CWO2 Christopher J. Anderson

Treasurer: CWO2 Thad King

Membership

Active Duty – 12

Retired -

Reserve -

ROCKY COAST CLUB

Chapter Officers

President: CWO3 Robert F. Dudley (Ret)

Vice: LT Wes Splettstoesser (Ret)

Secretary/Treasurer: CWO4 Don Nuzzolo

Membership

Active Duty –

Retired -

Reserve -

As a chapter, we will donate \$100 to scholarship fund.

Most of our members donate through their "dues" to the National.

Our annual fund raiser, the Lobster Raffle, runs from April to August 4th. It has been very successful in the past and we are raising the award from a single "Baker's Dozen" to three "Baker's Dozen" awards, with the lobster shipped to the winners anywhere! (Two years ago, they were shipped to England!) The money raised is used to support local needs of the community. It has been used to help out local little league ball players, a local library, a South Portland Boys Club, and our latest interest, the Maine Veterans Home, Scarborough, Maine.

The Rocky Coast Club has "adopted" the Maine Veterans Home for direct support. Plans are in development to provide day trips to local ball games and events, and visits by us with the Vets.

Our club also presents a certificate and a check for \$25.00 to the Group's Sailor of the Quarter.

Ever mindful of our CWOA Preamble, the Rocky Coast Club has what we call Warrants Night Out, where once a quarter or more, we gather as a club socially with our wives to just have fun and enjoy each other's company.

CWO4 Don Nuzzolo, Secretary/Treasurer for the Rocky Coast Club, will be our representative in Las Vegas. Another member of our chapter, Jerry Lewis, is also planning on attending.

SILVER STATE CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO4 Michael Opsitnik (Ret)
Vice: CWO4 Eusebio (Fred) Mawanay (Ret)
Secretary/Treasurer: CWO4 Nicholas G. DiGiaccio (Ret)

Membership - 13

Active Duty –
Retired - - 13
Reserve -

Meetings are held every three months.

Officers are elected bi-annually which results in the entire membership of 13 will have the honor of serving as the President.

We normally hold our meeting, in one of the member's home (pot luck dinner) and occasionally hold the meeting at one of the casinos or the American Legion Hall. We always hold one of our meetings on Coast Guard Day. Because half of our members are still employed, resulting on the meeting day is always on Saturday or Sunday.

You are all invited to move to Las Vegas and become a member of our chapter.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO3 Kenneth A. Vanek
Vice:
Secretary/Treasurer:

Membership

Active Duty –
Retired -
Reserve -

ST LOUIS CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO2 James Koehler
Vice:
Secretary/Treasurer:

Membership

Active Duty –
Retired -
Reserve -

Chapter very involved with SOQ. Bring boss or CPO to Lunch.

Chapter is donating \$100 to Scholarship in memory of Neil McCoy.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO4 Alan C. Beal (Ret)
Vice: CWO4 Stan Wilczynski
Secretary: CWO4 Bill Wilbur
Treasurer: CWO4 Ron Wilbur

Membership - 15

Active Duty –
Retired -
Reserve -

Report to be presented by President CWO4 Al Beal (ret)

We meet on the second Thursday of most months, usually at 1900 in the Wardroom of Air Station Cape Cod. This is a change from last year when we used to meet in the Wheelhouse or the Chiefs club, as it was known. We moved because it was getting too noisy and busy to have a meeting, and it wasn't our "Home." Our current Secretary, Bill Wilbur, asked the obvious question: "We're Officers, why are we meeting in the Chief's Club and not the Wardroom?" As none of us had a good response other than: "Duh!", we started meeting there and it has worked out very well. About every third meeting or so, we will vary our schedule by having a luncheon in the Wardroom. These are usually well attended, although, a shortened meeting as everyone has to return to work. We do not have as good a showing from some of our retirees at the luncheon. We also have several social dinners out with the spouses at a local restaurant. One in Nov for an installation of the new Officers. We invite one of the three Captains as our guest to do the swearing in honors. We usually have a dinner in the late winter or spring; sort of a hail and farewell if any are leaving or arriving. We also have a Christmas get together, which has not been very well attended of late.

We have about 15 members on our roster, split about even between Active and retired with one Reservist. We average about a 1/2 dozen at a meeting. We are actively recruiting, arm twisting, what ever works to get them in the door.

The Southern New England Club has three unique members in its ranks. We have the Senior Warrant on active duty, Dan Parker (joint claim with the Boston Club). Dan is nominated for distinguished member this year. We have one of the oldest W-1's in 88-year-old Milt Steele. Milt made warrant during WWII. Milt's alert and sharp as a tack. He drives himself all over town (although his wife, Peg, wouldn't let him drive south this year for a visit with the kids, they flew). And we lay claim to the longest, continuous Club President, Me. Notice I said longest serving not oldest.

We continue to look for ideas to get new members, to get the membership we have to come and take an active part in the Club and for an activity we can do to help with that, such as some of the service projects done by other, larger clubs.

I have a check for the scholarship fund for \$150.00

SPACE COAST CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO3 George W. Truntich (Ret)

Vice:

Secretary/Treasurer:

Membership

Active Duty –

Retired -

Reserve -

SUNCOAST CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO4 Bill Reetz (Ret)

Vice: CWO4 David Daniels (Ret)

Secretary/Treasurer: CW04 John Trombitas (Ret)

Membership 13 (all national)

Active Duty –

Retired -

Reserve -

Greetings, one and all to our 75th anniversary meeting. Our chapter was originally formed on 14 December 1971 as the Tampa St Petersburg Chapter; on 25 April 1992 we obtained a new charter as the Sun Coast Chapter. In 1970 we had 36 charter members, and in 1980 we had 22 charter members. As of today our membership includes 1 of our original charter members from

1970 and 12 from 1992. We currently have 53 members. Our membership includes 2 past presidents of the National Association, and 3 distinguished members. Our current officers are: President, CWO4 William (Bill) Reetz, F&S USCG, ret, Vice President David T. Daniels, CWO4, F&S, USCG ret, and CWO4 John Trombitas, CWO4, F&S, USCG ret.

We meet on a monthly basis, normally from September through May, rotating our meetings between the Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater and various restaurants in the area. Our meetings normally consist of a covered dish dinner shared with our families followed by a short business meeting or just an evening of great conversation when we're out and about the town.

Our annual dues of \$5 per year are supplemented with a 50/50 raffle (provided our President remembers the tickets) plus the sale of our Custom CWOA License Plates (available here in the rear of the room for only \$5 each or by mail for only \$6). We've achieved the break-even point on the plates, having sold enough to pay for all of our stock so it's really starting to help our treasury now.

We have a monthly newsletter to let everyone know we're still alive and kicking complete with the best joke we can dig up. Of our 53 members 32 have computers with email saving us a lot of postage. A copy is also forwarded to the National and every chapter that has an email address.

Our most important annual function is the CGC Blackthorn memorial ceremony on January 28th when we present a wreath from the CWOA to honor our lost shipmates. If you're ever in the area head out to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (I-275) over Tampa Bay and visit the memorial at Blackthorn Park located in the rest area at the North end of the bridge. Even after 24 years we'll see a crowd of 100+ at the ceremony.

In closing, I would like to present the Jon A Keller Scholarship Fund with this \$50 check from our chapter.

TOPEKA CHAPTER

Chapter Officers:

President- CWO Kevin Baker
Vice-President- CWO Earl Ryder (ret)
Secretary/Treasurer- CWO Dawn Zabel (ret)

Membership

Active Duty - 8
Retired - 6
Reserve - 0

Donations to National Building/Scholarship Fund

CWO Ryder will be our representative to this year's National Convention and will be handing a check to the National committee for both the Building and Scholarship Fund.

Significant Events sponsored since the last meeting:

CWO's Annual Hot Dog Feed for the Federal Building employees. A moral event paid and sponsored by the Chief Warrant Officer's local chapter.

CWOA volunteer to cook for the Coast Guard Day picnic.

CWOA Sponsored the Combined Federal Campaign Hot Dog Feed. Our association cooked approximately 400 hot dogs and handed out chips and soda.

November Turkey Raffle- raffled 50 turkeys

Donated \$100 to the Christmas Party raffle.

Chapter is donating \$50 to Scholarship fund and \$50 to Building fund.

YORKTOWN CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO3 Joseph Myers
Vice: CWO3 Robert Steves
Secretary: CWO2 John Crisano
Treasurer: CWO2 Dennis Sprouse

Membership - 27

Active Duty - 18

Retired - 1

Reserve - 0

Significant events sponsored or any noteworthy items since the last meeting.

- Bluegrass Festival Sponsor

Any money being donated to the building fund or scholarship fund.

- Moneys donated to local TRACEN Yorktown Sailor of the qtr/year recipients

- Moneys donated to various local emergency situations throughout 2003-2004

Donating \$50 to Scholarship fund and \$50 to Building Fund.

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

Chapter Officers

President: CWO3 Darryl Ransom
Vice:
Secretary/Treasurer:

Membership - 40

Active Duty –

Retired -

Reserve -

Chapter donating \$100 to Scholarship fund.

1027 Recess General Membership

1036 Reconvene General Membership

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Recess General Membership convene Executive Committee

Reconvene General Membership

- Agenda Item #2 – Independent Review of all Association accounts.
 1. Agenda Item #2 was completed through the Fall 2003 Audit.
- Agenda Item #3 – Armed Forces Retirement Home
 1. CWO Bob Sova volunteered to head this query.
- Agenda Item #4 – CWOA Newsletter.
 1. CWO Bill Reetz, LCDR Charlotte Broga and CWO Cindy Luna volunteered to be on this committee.
 2. A motion was made that the Association provide a report by 31 July 2004. Motion Seconded. General membership vote taken. Motion carried.

- Agenda Item #5 – Reduce CWO Time in Grade.
 1. Agenda Item #5 was satisfied through the 2004 TIG Report.
 2. The BOD will send a response to Philadelphia Chapter to answer their original TIG letter.

- Agenda Item #6 – Part Time Assistant
 1. Agenda Item #6 completed.
 2. BOD will be reviewing the current operating guide to validate the future need of part time assistance.

- Agenda Item #7 – TIG reduction for CWOs from 4yrs to 3 yrs.
 1. See Agenda Item #5 above.

- Agenda Item #8 – Reinstatement of the Warrant Officer Selection Battery.
 1. Interested CWOs should submit recommendations to CWO Specialty Review Team, who will be looking at the CWO accession process.

*Recess General Membership convene Executive Committee
Reconvene General Membership*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Agenda Items 11 thru 15 submitted by CWO Tom Kelly are not ready to be discussed at this meeting.
 1. A committee will be established to work on these agenda items with appropriate Coast Guard Reserve Program Managers. CWO Randy Cornell volunteered to be on this committee.

1130 Recess General Membership

Thursday - 29 April 2004

0737 General Membership Reconvene.

*Recess General Membership convene Executive Committee
Reconvene General Membership*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Deceased member from Taclet South – DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal.
 1. A motion was made for the CWOA to donate \$1000 to the DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal Memorial Fund. Motion Seconded. General membership vote taken. Motion Carried.

0825 Recess General Membership

0838 Reconvene General Membership

CWO SPECIALTY REVIEW:

- The CWO Specialty Review Team (CDR Shores, CDR Bruce, CDR Rodriguez, CWO Ripley and CWO Brown) gave an overview of the results of the Chief Warrant Officer Specialty.
- Results were well received. A final report will be provided to the CWOA leadership and its membership once the Commandant has made his final decisions on the recommendations currently on his desk.

1011 Recess General Membership

1020 Reconvene General Membership

NEW BUSINESS:

- CWO Mike Opsitnik read a letter he wrote to several congressmen about SBP being lowered from 55% to 35% at age 62. He encourages others to write their congressmen if this current law also concerns them. He would also like to see more info in the Newsletter about SBP.
- Mr. Jerry Koenig stated how important it was to keep your medical records up to date, this is most important when trying to claim a disability and veteran's benefits. Document everything.
- A motion was made that the CWOA coin with a letter of congratulations be presented or mailed to all CWO selectees as soon as practicable after selection or appointment, after the supply of shoulder boards have been exhausted. Motion seconded.

A motion was made to amend above motion. Motion seconded.

Motion as amended "that the CWOA coin with a letter of congratulations be presented or mailed to all CWO selectees as soon as practicable after appointment, after the supply of shoulder boards have been exhausted. Motion seconded. Roll call vote taken. Amended motion carried.

- A motion was made that the CWOA operating manual shall be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee at each annual meeting. Motion Seconded. Discussion held. Roll call vote taken. Motion failed.

Recess General Membership convene Executive Committee

Reconvene General Membership

- A motion was made that the President appoint a special committee to study the financial, logistical, and operational implications of opening up eligibility for President and Vice President to any active duty member in good standing, regardless of where stationed. The committee shall submit a report to the Executive Committee at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Motion was seconded. General membership vote taken. Motion carried.
- A motion was made that the B.O.D., along with the Executive Director establish written guidelines including a checklist for the local chapters to submit a written proposal with required facilities & equipment needed for the Annual Meeting. Motion was not

seconded. Discussion held. B.O.D. will look into ways of making the proposal/selection process as smooth as possible, for both the Chapters and the B.O.D.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- CWO Bill Reetz - Gave information on funeral scripts. Read poem titled “Warriors Farewell.”
- CWO Randy Cornell – Armed Forces Insurance Exchange (Leavenworth Kansas). They would like to advertise in our Newsletter.
- LT Art Colonna – Spoke about the CWOA Visa card.
- CWO Don Nuzzolo – Reminder about Lobster Raffle.
- CWO George Borlase – Recognized CWO Bob Lewis for setting up & organizing Annual Meeting.
- Bob Lewis – A reminder to chapters that he can provide Retirement Certificates if he knows in advance. Otherwise the member would get his/her certificate after retirement. Bob stated he could also provide lists of Association Members, Certificates of Appreciation, and Certificates of Achievement to the Chapters if they are interested.
- CWO Randy Cornell – Gave reminder about 50 year certificates.
- CWO Dan Tallman – Recognized the golf tourney winners.
- LCDR Charlotte Broga – Thanked Silver State for hosting and also stated she’s retiring in November.
- CWO Mattie Matteson – Stated meeting was well run. Time was put in on issues and that we’re on track. Get newsletter out and keep everyone informed.
- CWO Bill Giesman – Welcomed all to St. Louis for next year’s meeting.
- CWO Mike Opsitnik – Stated Happy Hour was on until 1000.
- CWO Mike Maher – Gave closing statement.
- LCDR Charlotte Broga - Moved to adjourn Annual Meeting. Motion Seconded.

General Membership Meeting adjourned 1659

Cynthia Luna
Secretary