

Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, USCG Annual Meeting, held at the Waterfront Hotel, Oakland, California, April 22-24, 2010

The Annual Meeting of the Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, USCG was called to order by the President at 0900, April 22, 2010.

Attendance:

Association Officers Present

CWO2 Brent A. Light - President	CWO4 Robert L. Lewis - Secretary
CWO4 Alan C. Beal - VP Retired Affairs	CWO3 Amy K. Cerino - Treasurer
CWO4 Dianne S. Trawick - VP Reserve Affairs	

Chapter Representatives Present

CWO4 Charles W. Mattoon - Rocky Coast	CWO4 Bill J. Reetz - Suncoast
CWO3 James F. Hammond - Boston	CWO2 James C. Pulse - New Orleans
CWO2 Kimberly R. Smith - Long Island Sound	CWO3 William Giessman - St Louis
CWO4 Wayne E. Zuehls - Cape Island	CWO2 Earl Ryder - Little Club on the Prairie
CWO3 Andy Schock - Philadelphia	CWO4 Joe Howard - Silver State
CWO4 Keith M. Wakefield - Baltimore	CWO2 John M. Seals - Southern California
CWO3 Mitzie A. Robinson - Washington, DC	CWO2 Christopher G. Boykin - Golden Gate
CWO2 Christopher Kensil - Steven Shields	CWO3 Edwin A. Martin - Pacific Northwest
CWO3 Whitney Jones - Yorktown	CWO4 Jay T. Menze - Juneau
CWO4 Mattie Matteson - Norfolk	CWO2 Alfred P. Orth - Mid-Pacific
CWO2 Marty Bridges - Greater Miami	CWO2 David Romero - Emerald Isle

Other Members Present

LCDR Edward B. Swift	CWO3 Horace O. Rawls
CWO4 Greg P. Hunton - Long Island Sound	CWO3 Todd M. Shields - Golden Gate
CWO4 David A. Schuster - Specialty Force Manager	CWO2 Joseph M. Belson - Golden Gate
CWO4 Michael V. Maher - VP Retired-Elect	CWO2 Pete Slanina
CWO3 James D. Hightower - Golden Gate	

Administrative Matters:

The President made an announcement concerning administrative matters. He discussed the reading materials in each member's folders, the procedure on motions (must be made in writing), that member's attendance will be recorded each morning and again after the lunch break, and the travel claim process.

The President lead the members in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence as he read the list of Association members who had Crossed over the Bar since our last Annual Meeting.

The Association President recognized Distinguished Members and Past Presidents CWO Bob Lewis and CWO Bill Mattoon; Distinguished Members CWO Bill Reetz and CWO Wayne Zuehls; and Past President CWO Mike Maher.

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Specialty Force Manager Presentation: CWO4 David A. Schuster made a presentation to the members concerning the current status of the Specialty Force Managers, highlights of their progress since initial establishment in 2004 and current issues and challenges. (A copy of his PowerPoint presentation was received and placed on file.)

Minutes: The minutes of the December 16, 2009 General Membership Meeting were approved and placed on file.

Treasurers Report: The Treasurer's Report for the period 1 July 2009 through 8 April 2010 was received and placed on file.

Membership Report: The Membership Report for the period 1 April 2009 through 31 March 2010 was received and placed on file.

President's Report:

The President read the following letter to the Association from LT Austin, L. Adcock, USCG, Chief CWO Professional Development School:

"I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Chief Warrant Officers Association for supporting the Chief Warrant Officer Professional Development School. The commitment and dedication by the CWOA over the last year has been tremendous. Starting last year with the CWOA's support, the CWOPD School began hosting a "Welcome Reception" for all of our classes. This 2 hour event was held at the Coast Guard Academy Officer's Club from 1730 to 1930 on each of our classes convening dates. At each reception, we purchased trays of appetizers and soft drinks with the generous donation provided by the CWOA.

The feedback from our formal surveys about the receptions has been extremely positive. The receptions have allowed newly reported students, CWOPD Staff and the Leadership Development Center Command Cadre an opportunity to interact, develop professional relationships and begin forging the unique bond that all Warrant Officers share in the wardroom. The CWOPD staff and I use the receptions as "teaching opportunities" to connect to the Wardroom Traditions and Military Etiquette curriculums. I would also like to thank the CWOA for providing coffee mugs to our students. As you might expect, the mugs are one of the most used and appreciated items that we provide our students.

Additionally, we appreciate the beautiful CWO Gift Set that is awarded to each of our class Distinguished Officer Award recipients. CWO4 Greg Hunton has been a superb CWOA representative and has presented the CWOPD Distinguished Officer Award at nine of our ten class graduations. His professionalism and "not to shabby" presentations are a credit to the CWOA and the Chief Warrant Officer Corps. Lastly, I would like to also thank Ed Swift and the CWOA Long Island Sound Chapter for their continued support. The Long Island Sound Chapter sponsors the CWOPD Physical Fitness Awards by presenting a plaque to the student who accrues the most aerobic points. Again, my staff and I want to express our deepest appreciation

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for the unparalleled support that the CWOA provides to the CWOPD School and our students.”
(The members present gave a round of applause for Greg Hunton and Ed Swift.)

The President reminded the Chapter representatives of the need to notify the Association of their activities of the past year (hours devoted to charitable programs or community projects and funds donated for various causes). That information will be combined and provided to Coast Guard senior leadership. The information helps demonstrate the worth of Coast Guard warrant officers and the Association to the Coast Guard and community.

Ballot Committee Report: The Ballot Committee Report on the 2010 elections was received and placed on file. Successful candidates are CWO2 (ISM) Brent A. Light for President; CWO4 (PERS) Michael V. Maher for Vice President of Retired Affairs; and CWO4 (PERS) Robert L. Lewis for Secretary.

Keller Scholarship Committee Report: The CWO John A. Keller – CWOA Scholarship Committee Report was received and placed on file. The President announced that the instructions of the Committee to eliminate the sponsor’s social security number from the scholarship application will be accomplished prior to distribution of applications for the 2011 grants.

Colona Scholarship Update: The members were presented with a copy of the press release announcing the program, the approved application and instructions to the applicant.

The president announced that he was planning to meet with the Commandant and MCPOCG to advise them of the establishment of the grants. He suggested that the Chapters meet with senior Coast Guard leadership in their area to give the program maximum publicity. CWO Greg Hunton advised that the Coast Guard Foundation maintained a list of scholarships available to Coast Guard dependents. The President advised the members that if the Coast Guard Foundation was not on the list of organizations to receive our press release, they would be added.

There was extensive discussion on eligibility of dependents of reservists for the scholarship program. The members were advised that so far the fund had received \$18,000 in income and that at this time there was sufficient funds to award 4 - \$4,000 scholarships.

The General Membership Meeting recessed at 1106, 22 April 2010.

During the recess the members visited the USCGC WAESCHE (WMSL 751) at Alameda, California. Following the visit to the USCGC WASCHE the members visited the Golden Gate Chapter facility.

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The General Membership Meeting reconvened at 0902, 23 April 2010.

Attendance:

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CWO4 Alan C. Beal - VP Retired Affairs
CWO4 Dianne S. Trawick - VP Reserve Affairs

CWO4 Robert L. Lewis - Secretary
CWO3 Amy K. Cerino - Treasurer

Chapter Representatives Present

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CWO2 David Romero - Emerald Isle

Other Members Present

LCDR Edward B. Swift
CWO4 Joseph F. Burgess, Jr.

CWO4 Michael V. Maher - VP Retired-Elect
CWO3 James D. Hightower - Golden Gate
CWO3 Gerald H. Ryan - Golden Gate

Chapter Reports:

The Rocky Coast Chapter reported that they had 29 members and experienced some difficulty in obtaining willing officers. Bill Mattoon further advised that he had tickets available for their annual Lobster Raffle. Bill advised that the Chapter presented him with his Distinguished Member Certificate at their annual Christmas get together.

The Boston Chapter reported that they have 52 members and most are active duty with 6 retirees and some reservists. For fund raising they held their 7th golf tournament and had a lot of participation. Recently they held a basketball tournament. On June 10 they will hold a hail and farewell luncheon for newly arrived and departing CWOs. The Chapter donated \$200 to the Keller Scholarship Fund and \$100 to the Building Fund. They donated \$200 to the Flying Panda, a local charity.

The Long Island Sound Chapter reported that they have 11 active members. To reach out to the outlying areas they plan to have meetings there. The Chapter volunteers with the American Legion to provide Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners, the Coast Guard Academy for their

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centennial celebration and with the CWOPD welcome reception. They try to have a dinner for enlisted personnel.

The Cape Island Chapter reported that they have 22 members, 15 are members of the association. They hold their annual picnic in September and are famous for clam chowder and steaks.

The Philadelphia Chapter reported that they have 19 members, all active duty. During the year they helped the CPOs form a local chapter and are mentoring junior officers.

The Baltimore Chapter reported that they have 40 members, mostly active duty with 4-5 retirees. They are very active. They donated over \$3000 for gifts for the angel tree, provided holiday meals, assisted in the CPOA winter coat project, softball tournaments, Christmas and Easter egg hunt. They held a Turkey raffle and gave away 12 turkeys. They held a Big Hot Dog Sale for 3 days, Chapter members manned grills and sold hot dogs and burgers. The Chapter donated \$100 to the Building Fund, \$200 to the Colona Scholarship Fund and \$100 to the Keller Scholarship Fund. They also donated \$50 to the Golden Gate Chapter.

The Washington, DC Chapter donated \$1,000 for food baskets for enlisted members in the area. They are involved in Tom's Run, running a dunk tank at the Coast Guard Picnic. Their Annual Breakfast where RADM Hewitt provided a view of where they see the CWO in the future was their big function of the year. They held a food drive and clothing drive. The snow storm prevented them from doing the food drive in February. Armed Forces Retirement Home projects included building ramps, cleaning swimming pool or just going out and sitting and talking to residents. They have more than enough volunteers to provide honors at burials of CWOs at Arlington National Cemetery. They participated in an Honor flight for WWII veterans. The Chapter donated \$400 to the Keller Scholarship Fund.

The Steven Shields-Alexandria Chapter submitted a written report and made an oral report. They reported that they have 37 members, with 19 of them belonging to the Association. The Chapter raised about \$2,000. They bought a Wii for the Armed Forces Retirement Home. They spent about \$150 for CWO retirements. They participated in the winter coat drive, Shoe Box charity drive (Collected shoe boxes filled with gifts). They participated in the Angel Tree with the Salvation Army by purchasing new clothing and toys for children. Their biggest picnic of year is their Lobster Fest, raffling two major prizes at that event. They also participated in Taste of the World, a multi-cultural event that showcases diversity. They also participated in the spring cleanup of TISCOM.

The Yorktown Chapter reported that they are planning to have food and clothing drives and turkey type raffles. They support the new CWOs by giving OER training sessions. They provide awards to the Sailor of the Quarter.

The Norfolk Chapter reported that they have 80 – 100 members. They have a problem getting the active duty to attend although they have one of the largest concentrations of Coast Guard

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personnel. They have four meetings a year and the other months have a social of some type. They usually have 30 to 50 people attend their socials.

The Greater Miami Chapter reported that they have 25 dues paying members and hold monthly meetings. They man the beer booth at the Coast Guard picnic. Their 2nd annual bowling tournament is coming up. They provide holiday gift cards for junior enlisted. Once a quarter they make a donation to a charity.

The Emerald Isle Chapter reported that it have 18 members. They are partnering with the CPOA to get two wounded warriors to Kodiak for fishing.

The Mid-Pacific Chapter reported that it has members in Guam and Singapore. They have 41 members on the books, but some have departed on PCS. They are planning to purchase coins, T-shirts and beer glasses for fund raisers. They have a good relationship with the CPOA. They participated in the Coast Guard Ball and Enlisted Person of the Year program. They participated in several fund raisers to support the Coast Guard Ball.

The Juneau Chapter submitted a written report and made an oral report. They reported that they have 31 members and that was up 7. They meet once a month. The first two months of the quarter they meet for lunch and the third month they hold an evening function with spouses. They support the Enlisted Person of the Quarter, give prizes for the Coast Guard Day fishing derby. They are involved in a Christmas stocking program for needy children with the spouses group. They supported Ketchikan CWOs by bringing up a holocaust survivor from Seattle to speak. They partner with CPOs in welcoming cutters that come through Juneau. They put on an annual senior citizen dinner with the Chiefs. Usually 500-600 seniors attend. They also participate in the Blood Drive, Sea Scout support and the Annual Wong Tyner Dinner – 35th year. They presented a check for \$200 for the Keller Scholarship.

The Pacific Northwest Chapter reported that it has 240 members. Approximately 10-30 members routinely attend meetings. ISC Seattle has authorized a CWO mess. The Chapter worked extensively with the enlisted association. They placed a wreath at the Douglas Munro Memorial. They purchased a Coast Guard plaque for the Tahoma National Cemetery. They provided Holiday stocking stuffers for kids in homeless shelters. They provided 3,500 stockings this year in conjunction with other associations. The Chapter donated \$500 for the Keller Scholarship Fund.

The Golden Gate Chapter reported that they have 121 members. They donated funds for the Enlisted Person of the Quarter and the Enlisted Person of the Year. They held their 2nd Junior Officer Development Training and 50 JOs attended. VADM Breckenridge is encouraging the JO program for the whole Coast Guard in her Diversity Plan.

They held a Casino Night and raised \$1,500. The BOUTWELL FS's set up the food. The Golden Gate Chapter served on the Keller Scholarship Committee with the Silver State Chapter. They have an A's game tailgate party coming up for the 11th straight year. For the upcoming

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Coast Guard Day picnic they will have the dunk booth and beer garden with beer brewing along with the chiefs. They collected shoes for victims of the Haiti earthquake.

The Oakland Raiders and Oakland A's sells the Chapter tickets at a discount and the Chapter sells them to raise funds. They considered joining the Chamber of Commerce. This has opened doors, even if they decide not to join.

They sell snacks at the Banner Club. They have lots of training in the facility and have vending machines and set that up. This is the 3rd year the Chapter has run the haunted hayride during the fall festival on Coast Guard Island. They are also mentoring the CGEA by giving them a fund raising opportunity with the Golden State Warriors. The CGEA raised over \$200 for one game last season. They will be putting on a ceremony for the June CWO appointees. The chapter donated manpower and \$500 to support the "Sailors helping Sailors" holiday dinner program that provides a complete dinner for junior enlisted in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Chapter organized an association breakfast with VADM Breckenridge. They brought together the CWOA, CPOA, CGA, Alameda Chamber of Commerce and the Travis AFB commissary. They brief the VADM on the contributions of each group to the Coast Guard community and talked about how they could all partner together in future events. As a result, the Chapter is working with the Travis Commissary to bring a temporary store to CG Island for a two day period. That will provide a great opportunity for military families in the bay area to take advantage of the hugely discounted commissary grocery prices.

They are hosting the Annual Meeting this year. The Chapter donated \$100 to the Building Fund and \$100 for the Keller Scholarship fund.

The General Membership Meeting recessed at 1000, 23 April 2010.

The General Membership Meeting reconvened at 1023, 23 April 2010.

Permanent Finance Committee: The Permanent Finance Committee Report was received and placed on file. There were several questions concerning the investments and the members were reminded about the limitations imposed by the Bylaws on timing for changing investments.

Financial Review Committee Report: The Financial Review Committee Report was received and placed on file. Additionally, the Board of Directors comments concerning the findings of the committee were received and placed on file.

Record Preservation Project: Bob Lewis reported on the status of the Records Preservation Project. Approximately 19,454 pages have been scanned at a cost of approximately \$10,887 for labor, equipment and supplies. Each Chapter received a CD containing copies of their records which are on file at the Association office as of 1 August 2009. During the discussion it was suggested that some of the documents be placed on the web site. The members were advised that the Board of Directors was considering doing this.

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Chapter Reports (Continued):

The Southern California Chapter reported that their Bylaws have been revised to change the term of office from two years to one. The Chapter has 25 members. They are considering a new chapter in San Diego. They are volunteering with the Special Olympics.

The Silver State Chapter reported that they have 22 members with their first active duty member who lives in Dan Diego. They are not involved in fund raisers because only eight members live in the Las Vegas area. A new member presented the Chapter with \$5,000 to be used for the benefit of the local community. They have members from Arizona and the Philippines. The Chapter donated \$100 to the Keller Scholarship Fund with \$50 from Joe Howard and Fred Mawany in memory of CHGUN Michael Opsitnik.

The Little Club on the Prairie reported that they have 20 members, 2 active duty and 2 from out of state. They cook at the Coast Guard Day picnic each year. They raffled off 50 turkeys for their fund raiser. They donated \$75 for the Keller Scholarship fund and \$75 for the Building Fund.

The St Louis Chapter reported that they have 35 members. They have a monthly luncheon meeting and 6 or 7 retirees and 1 active duty (Chapter president) show up. Their Bylaws require the president to be active duty. They donated \$100 to the Keller Scholarship Fund.

The New Orleans Chapter submitted a written report and made an oral report. They reported that they have 24 members. They changed their meetings from Wednesday to Tuesday because the Credit Union board of directors meets on Tuesday and with two 2 chapter members on the board, attendance at chapters meetings has increased. They are working on a rewrite of their Chapter Bylaws and plan to have it complete later in the year. They donated \$100 to the Building Fund.

The Suncoast Chapter submitted a written report and made an oral report. They have 52 members, including 6 active duty CWOs. They hosted the Annual Meeting in 2009. They continue to support the BLACKTHORN Memorial Ceremony each year. Their next project is to raise sufficient funds to place a USCG plaque at the Florida National Veterans Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida. They donated \$100 to the John Keller Scholarship fund.

The General Membership Meeting recessed at 1140, 23 April 2010.

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The General Membership Meeting reconvened at 1240, 24 April 2010.

Attendance:

Association Officers Present

CWO2 Brent A. Light - President
CWO4 Alan C. Beal - VP Retired Affairs
CWO4 Dianne S. Trawick - VP Reserve Affairs

CWO4 Robert L. Lewis - Secretary
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Chapter Representatives Present

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CWO2 Alfred P. Orth - Mid-Pacific
CWO2 David Romero - Emerald Isle

Other Members Present

LCDR Edward B. Swift

CWO4 Michael V. Maher - VP Retired-Elect

Warrant Officer Management Act (WOMA): CWO Bob Lewis advised the members of the background on WOMA and advised the members of the 14 April 1989 policy established by the Association that unless W-5 was available to all CWO specialties, the Association was opposed to implementation.

There was a discussion that the Association membership were opposed to WOMA because the two pieces that provided an advantage to Coast Guard CWOs either did not apply to the Coast Guard or were not going to be implemented by the Coast Guard. Coast Guard CWOS have long desired to be allowed to serve in excess of 30 years of total service and the WOMA provision for service for 24-30 years of "warrant officer" service only applied to the Army. Additionally, the Coast Guard did not plan to implement the pay grade W-5.

CWO Mike Maher provided a handout on the results of a survey of active duty warrant officers conducted by CG-1 in the fall of 2007. The members asked questions to clarify the handout in their own minds. A copy of the handout was placed on file. [The basic result of the survey was that a majority of CWOs favored W-5, but only a minority was in favor if it affected assignments.]

CWO Bill Mattoon stated that back in 95-96 one of our concerns was deep selection and early retirement. When he met with the Chief of Personnel, with Barry Boisevere they expressed concern that deep selection and early retirement would throw people out. The Coast Guard

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guaranteed them that that would not happen. Also the CWOs did not want to see structured billets. The Coast Guard stated that they would keep them as all W-4 billets.

Health Care Update: CWO Bob Lewis advised the members that Tricare was not affected by the recently passed health care reform legislation. The bad news about that is that the provision providing coverage for children until age 26 does not apply to Tricare beneficiaries. However, there are several pieces of legislation which will cover dependent children until they reach age 25. As of departure for the Annual Meeting the legislation had not passed both houses of Congress. All indications are that this legislation will pass.

Chapter Non-profit Status Update: CWO Bob Lewis advised those present that the Association had notified the Chapters on 2 February 2010 that the Association would file for a group exemption letter so that the Chapters would be recognized as tax-exempt under IRS section 501(c) (19) as war veterans.

As of the date of the meeting 10 Chapter have notified the Association that they are interested in being included. We have received signed letters from five Chapters authorizing the Association to include their Chapter in the Group Exemption Letter.

The Chapters were advised that the Association will file for a Group Exemption on 4 June 2010 and that unless the signed authorization with the Chapter Employer Identification Number (EIN) is received by 31 May 2010 their Chapter will not be included.

CWO James Pulse advised the Chapters that their EIN must be an active number.

The General Membership meeting recessed at 1400, 24 April 2010.

The General Membership Meeting reconvened at 1411, 24 April 2010.

Good of the Order

All of the members present provided a short statement of when they were appointed as CWO, duty stations and information about their involvement with the Association.

LCDR Ed Swift thanked the Golden Gate Chapter for their help in the logistics for the meeting.


The General Membership Meeting recessed at 1502, 24 April 2010.

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The General Membership Meeting reconvened at 1800, 24 April 2010.

The meeting reconvened for No-Host Cocktails and the Annual Installation Dinner. Mattie Matteson read the Association Preamble to those present. The President advised those present of the reason for each of the items on the table set for the "Missing Coastguardsman". Following dinner Captain Charley L. Diaz, USCG, Chief of Staff, USCG Pacific Area, USCG Defense Forces West, served as our Guest Speaker. This was followed by the administration of the oath of office to CWO Mike Maher as Vice President for Retired Affairs by Captain Diaz. The installation was followed by remarks by the Association President.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2045, 24 April 2010.


Robert L. Lewis
Secretary