

*United States Army*  
*Warrant Officers Association*

**USAWOAM 500-1**



**USA WOA NATIONAL AWARDS MANUAL**

## FOREWORD

This manual was developed by the United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) National Board of Directors with the direction of the members of USAWOA under the authority contained in the USAWOA Bylaws and approved by the Board of Directors with an effective date of 1 February 2023. This manual is binding on all members, chapters, regions, members of appointed committees and councils, National Headquarters staff, contractors, consultants, Executive Director, all elected officials or other individuals or any companies under contract with USAWOA. The USAWOA legal counsel will ensure that all contracts and/or agreements contain provisions for compliance with appropriate sections.

The original manual was adopted in 1998 and modified over time. This manual contains extracts from the original procedures and Bylaws, plus amendments and additions gained through the experience acquired during previous years. This manual is designated to unify the Association and serve to answer any member's questions about the USAWOA Awards Program.

The National Board of Directors, with an effective date of 1 February 2023, has approved this edition of the manual. The National Board of Directors further directed the numbering convention be changed to align this operating manual with those By-Laws and Manuals previously published.

Amendments and additions to this manual are encouraged and should be addressed to the National President or the Executive Director, USAWOA, 462 Herndon Parkway, Suite 207, Herndon, Virginia 20170-5235.

### BY DIRECTION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICIAL:



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## **CHAPTER I**

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. **OBJECTIVE**: The objective of the USAWOA Awards Program is to:

- a. Foster morale, incentive, esprit de corps, and recognition to members and non-members.
- b. Formalize a program by which the National Board of Directors, Regions, and Chapters can recognize outstanding performance or service by individuals and chapters.
- c. Recognize the dedication, service, and professionalism of members and non-members who have contributed to the goals of the USAWOA. Service is for the United States Army, the United States Army Warrant Officer Cohort, the USAWOA, and/or the surrounding military communities.

2. **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS**: The following are the general eligibility criteria for each type of award:

- a. Individual Member Awards - Eligibility for this type of award requires the member be in good standing. A member in good standing is defined as any member whose dues are current. Only the BOD as an exception to this manual may approve the awarding of an Individual Member Award to anyone not a USAWOA member.
- b. Auxiliary Member Award - Eligibility for this type of award requires the auxiliary member to be a member in good standing with a USAWOA-recognized Auxiliary.
- c. Non-Member Awards - Eligibility for this type of award requires that the non-member made noteworthy contributions and dedicated service to the USAWOA. Examples: Honorary and/or Associate Membership.
- d. Region Awards - Eligibility for this type of award requires that the region have a minimum of three (3) active chapters. The region must be an active or inactive Region. Active Regions have their own elected officials and may institute their own programs.
- e. Chapter Awards - Eligibility for this type of award requires the chapter to be a regular or auxiliary chapter.
- f. National awards would apply to Regions and Chapters and may or may not have a winner in each category.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AWARDS**:

- a. Any chapter or member can recommend the establishment of a new award. Recommendations for new awards must be sent to National Headquarters for approval. The form recommending a new award, listed in Appendix A, must be completed in its

entirety and must be forwarded to National Headquarters as the official request. Electronic versions are acceptable.

b. Upon receipt, the National Headquarters staff will refer the recommendation to the National Vice President and National Awards Committee Chairperson.

c. Recommendations received by the Awards Committee will be staffed with all committee members. Recommendations favorably considered will be emailed by the National Secretary to the National Board of Directors for approval. Recommendations not favorably considered will be returned by email to the chapter/individual by the National Awards Committee Chairperson – with a copy to the National Vice President – within 30 days, with rationale for disapproval and suggested areas requiring improvement or better justification needed for approval.

#### **4. NOMINATIONS FOR EXISTING AWARDS:**

a. Nominations for awards that require a formal nomination and approval at the National, Region, or Chapter level will be forwarded utilizing the format in Appendix B. Awards can be submitted electronically.

b. Nominations for awards that are not required to be submitted directly to National Headquarters will be routed through the respective Chapter or Region for endorsement by the Chapter President or Region Director.

c. Award nominations must be received at National Headquarters no later than the 15th of August of each year. Award nominations received after the cut-off date – or not in the specified format, as listed in the appropriate appendix – will be returned to the nominator without action. This timeline does not apply to the Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising Awards or the USAWOA Award for Excellence.

d. National-level awards, as described in paragraph 5 (herein below), will have automatic consideration by the National Awards Committee. The committee will review the chapter minutes to determine the Winner and Runner-Up in each category. These awards do not require nominations for the chapters or individual members.

e. Nominations for the Albert M. Holcombe Memorial Award will be forwarded utilizing the form in Appendix B. Only one instance of the award will be presented yearly.

f. Nominations for the Virginia Holcombe Memorial Award will be forwarded utilizing the form in Appendix B. Only one instance of the award will be presented yearly.

g. Nominations for the Don Hess Lifetime Achievement award will be forwarded utilizing the form in Appendix B, accompanied by a list of the member's contributions to the Association/Warrant Officer Cohort, covering a period of no less than 10 years. Only one instance of the award will be presented annually.

h. All individual awards should be endorsed by the Chapter President and the Regional Director. This endorsement can be submitted electronically.

5. AWARDS YEAR FOR NATIONAL LEVEL AWARDS: The awards year will be from 1 July to 30 June of each given year. This covers all awards that must be considered and chosen by the National Awards Committee. This timeline does not apply to the USAWOA Award for Excellence.

6. RECONSIDERATION OF DISAPPROVED AWARDS: When a nomination is disapproved, the approving authority may reconsider the nomination for a lower-level award. Nominations previously disapproved by an approving authority may be resubmitted for reconsideration providing that new or improved justification or evidence is furnished.

7. PROCUREMENT OF AWARDS: Regions and Chapters are encouraged to order their awards from a source approved by the National Headquarters. Each Region or Chapter is responsible for ordering and funding awards presented at their level.

8. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS: The National, Region, or Chapter Presidents (or their designated representatives) will present all awards for their respective levels. Ceremonies may range from formal presentations at annual meetings to small office ceremonies at which the citation will be read and the award presented to the recipient. Most National Level Awards will be presented during the Annual Meeting of the Members (AMM) Awards Banquet, or at the AMM preceding it.

9. PUBLICITY: Winners of USAWOA awards will be given maximum publicity in the *Newsliner*, the USAWOA website and other media as appropriate. The Headquarters Office, National President, and the *Newsliner* Editor should be furnished with photographs and press releases of all awards.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY OF AWARD WINNERS: Award winners, for all levels of awards, will not be announced or publicized until presentation at an awards ceremony.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **AWARD COMMITTEES**

1. **APPOINTMENT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEES:** The Vice President/Regional Director/Chapter President of the RESPECTIVE level of the award will make the Chairperson appointments. National, Regional, or Chapter. Additional members will be appointed by the Chairperson.
2. **ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** Eligibility for appointment as a member of the awards committee, a nominated member must meet the following criteria:
  - a. General criteria required for any committee member:
    - (1) Be a member in good standing (the member is current on membership dues).
    - (2) Endorsement by the Committee Chairperson.
    - (3) Not an elected official.
  - b. National Awards Committee – The chairperson shall be appointed by the National President and must reside within commuting distance of the National Headquarters.
  - c. Region Awards Committee – The chairperson shall be appointed by the Regional Director, and:
    - (1) Be a member of the respective region.
    - (2) Meet all criteria specified by the respective region.
  - d. Chapter Awards Committee – The chairperson shall be appointed by the Chapter President, and:
    - (1) Be a member of the respective chapter or auxiliary chapter.
    - (2) Meet all criteria specified by the respective chapter.
3. **COMPOSITION OF AWARDS COMMITTEES:**
  - a. Total Members: Three (3) minimum.
  - b. Appointed Members: Two (2) or more members of the general membership appointed by the Awards Committee Chairperson.
4. **FUNCTIONS OF AWARDS COMMITTEE:** It is the function of the Awards Committee to administer the USAWOA Awards program. Its duties will include, at a minimum, the following:

- a. Develop the goals and objectives of the awards program at its respective level.
- b. Develop the publicity of the program.
- c. Recommend or endorse award categories.
- d. Recommend or endorse the design of awards.
- e. Review all pertinent documentation to ascertain award winners at their respective levels.
- f. Correspond with elected officials as required.
- g. Determine award winners at their respective levels.

5. USAWOA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE (formerly the Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising):

Levels:

- 1. Gold: Outstanding Contributions at the National Level.
- 2. Silver: Outstanding Contributions at the Region Level.
- 3. Bronze: Outstanding Contributions at the Chapter Level.

Note: If the appropriate level of contributions is not clearly articulated on the nomination form, the recommendation will be returned without action. If the member's membership number is not on the form, the recommendation will be returned without action.

This award replaced the "Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising" on 31 December 2022 by order of the Board of Directors.

**CHAPTER III****NATIONAL LEVEL AND SPECIAL AWARDS**

Awards in this group are considered National Level Awards and are to provide the recognition for exceptional service in the U.S. Army and the USAWOA. (See Appendix E)

**1. SPECIAL AWARDS:**

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF AWARD
1. <u>Don Hess Life-Time Achievement Award</u>	<p>Any Member of the USAWOA</p> <p>May be nominated by any Member and is submitted directly to National Secretary</p>	<p>Outstanding dedicated extended service (10+ years) to the USAWOA. The service periods will cover the members entire time and contributions made as a member</p>	<p>National BOD</p> <p>Plaque</p> <p>Lapel Pin</p> <p>***See Note</p>
2. <u>Honorary/Associate Membership Award</u>	<p>Persons not eligible for membership in the USAWOA or Auxiliary</p> <p>May be nominated by any Region, Chapter or National BOD official</p>	<p>Outstanding support to the USAWOA or Auxiliary</p>	<p>National BOD</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p>
3. <u>National President's Award</u>	National President	<p>Special recognition to individuals who have supported the goals of the USAWOA during the award period</p>	<p>National President</p> <p>Plaque</p>
4. <u>Albert Holcombe Memorial Award for Warrant Officer of the Year</u>	<p>Any Warrant Officer who is a regular member of the USAWOA</p> <p>May be nominated by any National, Region or Chapter official</p>	<p>Outstanding dedication and service to the U.S. Army and/or the USAWOA during the award period</p>	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Plaque</p>
5. <u>Virginia M. Holcombe Memorial Award for Warrant Officer Spouse of the Year</u>	<p>Any spouse of a Warrant Officer who is a regular member of the USAWOA</p> <p>May be nominated by any National, Region or Chapter official</p>	<p>Outstanding dedication and service to the U.S. Army and/or the USAWOA during the award period</p>	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Plaque</p>

6. <u>USAWOA Outstanding Region/Chapter/ Auxiliary of the Year Award</u>	Any Region, Chapter or Auxiliary for the awards year  National Awards Committee	Outstanding achievement in supporting the overall goals of the USAWOA	National Awards Committee  Certificate of Appreciation
7. <u>Chapter Secretary of the Year</u>	Any Chapter Secretary	Outstanding attention to detail when capturing the events that take place throughout the year in the life of the Chapter	National Awards Committee  National Certificate of Achievement  *** See note
8. <u>The USAWOA Award for Excellence</u>	Any Region, Chapter or Auxiliary for the awards year  May be nominated by any National, Region Member or the Chapter Awards Committee	Outstanding service to the country, USAWOA, Region, Chapter or the betterment of the Warrant Officer Cohort and, Army.	Depends on the level of award-see below.  Gold, Silver or Bronze level**  Certificate of Appreciation and Medallion at all levels

**USAWOA Award For Excellence** See paragraph 5 of Chapter II

\*\*GOLD: USAWOA National or Regional Contributions. Support rendered to an Army Division-level or higher, the WO Cohort at an Army-wide level or support to the local civilian civic foundations. Approval is by the National President upon written endorsement by the Regional Director.

\*\*SILVER: USAWOA Regional Contributions. Support rendered to the Brigade or Battalion levels. Any support of the local civic or country areas. Approval of this level lies with the Regional Director.

\*\*BRONZE: USAWOA Chapter Contributions. Support rendered to the Battalion level and local civic foundations. Approval of this level lies with the Chapter President.

NOTE: The USAWOA Award for Excellence has no timelines. It can be awarded at any time during the year. Every attempt will be made to present Gold level awards at a USAWOA function.

\*\*\* The Don Hess Lifetime Achievement Award will only be awarded to ONE individual per awards year, by direction of the BOD.

\*\*\* The Secretary of the Year is intended to be a ONE-TIME only award to preclude the same individual receiving the award every year.

**2. MEMBERSHIP AWARDS:** Awards in this category recognize the outstanding achievement of Regions, Chapters, Auxiliaries and members for recruiting and retaining members. (See Appendix E)

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF AWARD
1. <u>Outstanding Warrant Officer Recruiter</u>	<p>Any member who has recruited 5 or more members in the awards year</p> <p>Automatic nomination by the Awards Committee for those qualified</p>	Outstanding recruitment of members	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p>
2. <u>Overall Best Region for Recruiting and Retention</u>	<p>Any Region with 3 active Chapters with the best overall recruiting and retention in the award year</p> <p>Automatic nomination by the Awards Committee for those qualified</p>	The Region with the best overall recruiting and retention rates	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p> <p>Streamer</p>
3. <u>Overall Best Chapter for Recruitment and Retention</u>	<p>Any active Chapter that was nominated for either Best National Recruitment, Best Retention or Highest Recruitment</p> <p>Automatic nomination by the Awards Committee for those qualified</p>	The Chapter with the best overall recruitment and retention rates	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p> <p>Streamer</p>
4. <u>Highest Recruiting Award</u>	<p>Any active Chapter with the highest number of new members for the awards year</p> <p>Automatic nomination by the Awards Committee for those qualified</p>	The Chapter with the highest number of new members	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p> <p>Streamer</p>
5. <u>Best Retention Award</u>	<p>Any active Chapter with the best retention rate for the awards year</p> <p>Automatic nomination by the Awards Committee for those qualified</p>	The Chapter who has the best membership retention rate	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p> <p>Streamer</p>

6. <u>Best Recruiting Award</u>	<p>Any active Chapter that recruits the highest amount of Chapter membership for the awards year</p> <p>Automatic nomination by the Awards Committee for those who qualify.</p> <p>Chapter must have been an active chapter for the full award year.</p>	The Chapter with the best recruiting rate	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p> <p>Streamer</p>
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**3. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AWARDS:** Awards in this category recognize the outstanding achievement of Regions, Chapters, Auxiliaries, and members for support to their community in providing donations, services or sustaining programs. (See Appendix E)

1. <u>Community Affairs Award for Donations</u>	<p>Any active Region, Chapter, Auxiliary or member that contributed the most money to their community for charitable purposes during the award year as reported in Region/ Chapter minutes</p> <p>Nomination by the Awards Committee for those who qualify</p>	Outstanding financial support to their community	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p> <p>Streamer</p>
2. <u>Community Affairs Award for Services</u>	<p>Any active Region, Chapter, Auxiliary or member that performed non-monetary services for their community during the awards year as reported in Region/ Chapter minutes</p> <p>Nomination by the Awards Committee for those who qualify</p>	Outstanding services rendered to their community within the award period	<p>National Awards Committee</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation</p> <p>Streamer</p>

<u>3. Community Affairs Award for Sustaining Programs</u>	Any active Region, Chapter or Auxiliary that provides their community with a sustaining program from one year to the next. "Sustaining" year as reported in Region/ Chapter minutes  Nomination by the Awards Committee for those who qualify	Outstanding sustained program support to their community for an established extended period of time.	National Awards Committee  Certificate of Appreciation  Streamer
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**4. BEST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AWARDS:** Awards in this group are to recognize the outstanding achievement of Regions, Chapters, Auxiliary and members for developing and executing an active Officer Professional Development (OPD) program designed toward the continuation of the individual and collective officer education.

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF AWARD
<u>Best Professional Development Program Award</u>	Any active Region, Chapter, Auxiliary, or member that conducts a high-quality officer professional development program during the awards year as reported in Region/ Chapter minutes  Nomination by the Awards Committee for those who qualify	Outstanding Officer Professional Development Program	National Awards Committee  Certificate of Appreciation  Streamer

**5. BEST SOCIAL MEDIA SITE AWARD:** Award in this group are to recognize the outstanding achievement of Regions, Chapters, Auxiliary, and members for developing and executing social media sites designed for the use and spread of information of the members.

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF AWARD
<u>Best Social Media Site Award</u>	Any active Region, Chapter, Auxiliary or member that maintains the best social media platform	Maintaining the outstanding web site.	* National Social Media Site Coordinator  Streamer

\* The National Social Media Site Coordinator will publish the Site Grading Rules at the start of the new awards year.

**6. CHAPTER LONGEVITY AWARDS:** Awards in this group are to recognize the outstanding longevity as Chapters in good standing for service to the United States Army, the United States Army Warrant Officer Cohort, the United States Army Warrant Officers Association and the surrounding Military/Civilian community.

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF AWARD
<u>Chapter Longevity Awards</u>	Any chapter or auxiliary that remains active as defined in the USAWOA bylaws.	Continuous service to the surrounding military community	Member Services Administrator A Streamer annotated in 5-year increments.
<u>Chapter "Silver" Status</u>	Any Chapter that attains 25 consecutive years of active service to USAWOA.	Continuous service to the USAWOA	BOD **NOTE <i>A streamer annotating with the word "Silver Chapter".</i>
<u>Chapter "Gold" Status</u>	Any Chapter that attains 50 consecutive years of active service to USAWOA.	Continuous service to the USAWOA	BOD **NOTE <i>A streamer annotating with the word "Gold Chapter".</i>

\*\*The Chapter must request the change to "Silver" and "Gold" status through the home office to the BOD for approval.

**7. MEMBER LONGEVITY AWARDS:** Awards in this group are to recognize longevity as Members in good standing for service to the United States Army, the United States Army Warrant Officer Cohort, and the USAWOA. Membership must be uninterrupted, and dues must be paid in a timely manner.

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF AWARD
<u>Member Longevity Awards</u>	Any member that remains active as defined in the USAWOA bylaws.	Continuous service to USAWOA in increments of 5 years.	Member services administrator.  A lapel pin annotated in 5-year increments over the years of continuous membership.

**CHAPTER IV****REGION AWARDS**

**1. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:** Awards in this category are to provide the Regions with a means of recognizing outstanding service by individuals who are members of their region. (See Appendix H)

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF AWARD
1. <u>Region President's/ Director's Award</u>	<p>Any member or auxiliary member of the Region</p> <p>May be nominated by any Region, Chapter or Auxiliary President within their respective Region</p>	<p>Special recognition to individuals who have supported the goals of the Region</p>	<p>Region President/ Director</p> <p>Region Certificate of Appreciation</p>
2. <u>Warrant Officer of the Year</u>	<p>Any Warrant Officer member of the Region</p> <p>May be nominated by any Region or Chapter official</p>	<p>Outstanding dedication and service to the U.S. Army and/or the USAWOA, and their Region</p>	<p>Region Council of Presidents or Region Awards Committee</p> <p>Region Certificate of Appreciation</p>
3. <u>Warrant Officer Spouse of the Year Award</u>	<p>Any spouse of a Warrant Officer member of the Region</p> <p>May be nominated by any Region or Chapter official</p>	<p>Outstanding dedication and service to the U.S. Army and/or the USAWOA, and their Region</p>	<p>Region Council of Presidents or Region Awards Committee</p> <p>Region Certificate of Appreciation</p>
4. <u>Outstanding Warrant Officer Recruiter</u>	<p>Any member who has recruited 10 or more members in the awards year</p> <p>Nominated by Region officials with verification by National Headquarters</p>	<p>Outstanding recruitment of members</p>	<p>Region Council of Presidents or Region Awards Committee</p> <p>Region Certificate of Appreciation</p>

**2. CHAPTER AWARDS:** Awards in this category are to provide Regions with the opportunity to recognize chapters and auxiliaries who have demonstrated outstanding management of a chapter.

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF
1. <u>Outstanding Chapter</u>	<p>Any Chapter within the respective Region</p> <p>May be nominated by any Region or Chapter official</p>	<p>Outstanding achievement in supporting the overall goals of the Region and the USAWOA</p>	<p>Region Council of Presidents or Region Awards Committee</p> <p>Region Certificate of Appreciation</p>
2. <u>Outstanding Auxiliary</u>	<p>Any Auxiliary within the respective Region</p> <p>May be nominated by any Region or Chapter official</p>	<p>Outstanding achievement in supporting the overall goals of the Region and the USAWOA</p>	<p>Region Council of Presidents or Region Awards Committee</p> <p>Region Certificate of Appreciation</p>

### SPECIAL AWARDS FOR NON-MEMBERS

The USAWOA Award for Excellence for Non-Warrant Officers	<p>Any individuals who do not hold a Warrant Officer Appointment to include Honorary Members</p> <p>May be nominated by any National, Region Member or the Chapter Awards Committee</p>	<p>Outstanding service to the country, USAWOA, Region, Chapter or the betterment of the Warrant Officer Cohort and Army.</p>	<p>Depends on the level of award-see below</p> <p>Gold, Silver or Bronze level**</p> <p>Awarding of the AFE to a Non-Warrant Officer is at the discretion of the National President, regardless of level of award.</p> <p>Certificate of Appreciation and Medallion at all levels</p>
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**CHAPTER V****CHAPTER AWARDS**

Awards at this level are to recognize the contributions of chapter members who have rendered outstanding support to the chapter.

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES	PRESENTED FOR	APPROVING AUTHORITY AND TYPE OF AWARD
1. <u>Chapter President's Award</u>	<p>Any member or auxiliary member of the Chapter</p> <p>May be nominated by any Chapter or Auxiliary official</p>	<p>Special recognition to individuals who have supported the goals of the Chapter</p>	<p>Chapter President</p> <p>Chapter Certificate of Appreciation</p>
2. <u>Warrant Officer of the Year Award</u>	<p>Any Warrant Officer member of the Chapter</p> <p>May be nominated by any Chapter member</p>	<p>Outstanding dedication and service to the U.S. Army and/or the USAWOA, and their Chapter</p>	<p>Chapter Officials or Awards Committee</p> <p>Chapter Certificate of Appreciation</p>
3. <u>Warrant Officer Spouse of the Year Award</u>	<p>Any spouse of a Warrant Officer member of the Chapter</p> <p>May be nominated by any Chapter or Auxiliary member</p>	<p>Outstanding dedication and service to the U.S. Army and/or the USAWOA, and their Chapter</p>	<p>Chapter Officials or Awards Committee</p> <p>Chapter Certificate of Appreciation</p>

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **GUIDANCE ON CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

1. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION. The Association has established this certificate to provide the National President a means of recognizing a special service to the Association by distinguished persons, government agencies or private organizations. Any recipient may subsequently be awarded additional certificates. The National President can award this certificate without a vote by the National BOD.
2. CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT. The Association has established this certificate to provide the National Headquarters a means of recognizing meritorious service to the Association by members, who have made significant contributions to the Association at the National, Region and Chapter levels. Award of this certificate is subject to the following provisions and conditions.
  - a. The request for issuance of this certificate must be in writing, signed by a National Officer, member of the National Board of Directors, Region President or Chapter President, and must contain the specific citation to be used on the certificate. Supporting justification is desired but not required.
  - b. May be awarded only to members of the Association.
  - c. Any recipient may subsequently be awarded additional certificates.
  - d. The National BOD must approve the issue of this certificate.
  - e. The President of the Association will sign the certificate.
  - f. Procurement and cost of the certificate will be borne by the National Headquarters.
3. CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. The association has established this certificate to recognize academic achievement on the part of any Warrant Officer. The certificates are provided, upon request, to the academic department of any recognized Army school.
4. CHAPTER/REGION CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION. Regions and Chapters may develop and procure their own certificates to recognize the achievements and/or service of members, non-members and supporting organizations or activities. The design of such certificates must be approved by the National Board of Directors to ensure the Association's high standards of professionalism are maintained. Such certificate may be awarded by region/chapter officials without approval or reporting to the Association Headquarters.
5. Additional awards presented at the National, Region and Chapter level are designated by administrative directives.

**APPENDIX A****FORMAT FOR RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW AWARD**

FROM: (Submitting individual/region/chapter/auxiliary)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Establishment of a New USAWOA Award

TO: Chairperson of the National Awards Committee United  
States Army Warrant Officers Association  
462 Herndon Parkway, Suite 207 Herndon,  
VA 20170-5235

1. Recommend the establishment of a new USAWOA award to be titled: \_\_\_\_\_
2. In this paragraph, the following information should be provided by the individual/chapter recommending new award.
  - a. Description of the award.
  - b. Who will be eligible to receive it?
  - c. What body with the USAWOA should be the approving authority for nominations?
  - d. What must a nominee accomplish to be eligible for the award?
  - e. Where will the funds come from for the award if funding is required?
3. In this paragraph, the individual/chapter recommending the award should provide full justification for the establishment of the award.

**SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS**

Enclosures

## **APPENDIX B**

## **USAWOA AWARD RECOMMENDATION FORM**

<b>AWARD RECOMMENDATION FORM</b>			
<b>PART I - SOLDIER DATA</b>			
1. NAME (First Middle Initial Last Name)		2. RANK (IF APPLICABLE)	3. DATE
4. ORGANIZATION	5. COMPONENT	6. IF ARNG, STATE	7. PREVIOUS USAWOA AWARDS
8. USAWOA MEMBER NUMBER		9. AWARD RECOMMENDED	10. PERIOD OF AWARD
			a. FROM      b. TO
11. REASON FOR AWARD		12. POSTHUMOUS  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	13. PROPOSED PRESENTATION DATE
<b>PART II - RECOMMENDER DATA</b>			
14. NAME		15. EMAIL ADDRESS	
16. TITLE/POSITION	17. RANK	18. PHONE NUMBER	
19. RELATIONSHIP TO AWARDEE	20. SIGNATURE  <i>To the best of my knowledge the awardee has no issues that would discredit this award nor the USAWOA</i>		
<b>PART III - JUSTIFICATION AND CITATION DATA (Use Specific Examples of Meritorious Acts and Contributions to US Army and/or USAWOA)</b>			
21. CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS			
CONTRIBUTION/ACHIEVEMENT #1			
CONTRIBUTION/ACHIEVEMENT #2			
CONTRIBUTION/ACHIEVEMENT #3			
22. PROPOSED CITATION			
<b>PART IV - RECOMMENDATION/APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL</b>			

23. AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RECOMMENDATION:

<input type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS APPROVAL APPROVAL*	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS DISAPPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL*
<input type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS UPGRADE TO N/A UPGRADE	<input type="checkbox"/> TO* N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> UNANIMOUS DOWNGRADE TO N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO* N/A

*I, the Awards Committee Chair or Designee, certify this recommendation was reviewed and deliberated by the entire Awards Committee*

*\* Recommendation was not unanimous, minority report attached*

24. USAWOA Award for Excellence

*I, the Chapter President, certify this decision*

*was reviewed and deliberated by the entire Executive Committee*

<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVED AWARD - BRONZE
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVED AWARD – SILVER

APPROVED AWARD - GOLD

ENDORSE TO HIGHER

Date Approved

DISAPPROVAL - See attached

RECOMMENDATION TO REGIONAL/NATIONAL DIRECTOR:

<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVE N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO N/A

Mail all approved awards to:

USAWOA FORM 500-1 1 April 2022

**APPENDIX C**

**FORMAT FOR REGION ENDORSEMENT FOR AN AWARD**

FROM: Region President/Director

SUBJECT: Nomination for (specify award and category as applicable).

TO: Chairperson of the National Awards Committee  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
462 Herndon Parkway, Suite 207  
Herndon, VA 20170-5235

1. (Name or Chapter) has been selected as the Region (Name of Award) of the year and is forwarded to National Headquarters as the nominee for (Region Name).
2. Statement by Region President (or designated representative) of agreement/disagreement with any pertinent information submitted in Chapter nomination letter.
3. Additional comments (200 words or less).

SIGNATURE OF REGION PRESIDENT (or designated representative)

Enclosure

Chapter Nomination Letter

**APPENDIX D**

**FORMAT FOR CHAPTER ENDORSEMENT FOR AN AWARD**

FROM: Chapter President

SUBJECT: Nomination for (specify award and category as applicable).

TO: Region President (or Region Awards Committee) address as applicable

1. Name has been selected as the Chapter (Name of Award) of the year and is forwarded to Region Headquarters as the nominee for (Chapter Name).
2. Statement by Chapter President (or designated representative) of agreement/disagreement with any pertinent information submitted in chapter nomination letter.
3. Additional comments (200 words or less).

SIGNATURE OF CHAPTER PRESIDENT (or designated representative)

Enclosure

**APPENDIX E****National Awards Committee Procedures**

## 1. Best Retention Award.

a. The chapter award for retention was computed based on the following criteria:

(1.) Chapter strength was determined based on the average strength for the award year. This figure was derived from the semi-annual meeting reports.

(2.) Life members were subtracted from each chapter's average strength. This gave a baseline membership for computing the renewal percentage.

(3.) The total amount of chapter renewals was computed based on the monthly rebate reports.

(4.) The total chapter renewals are then divided by the average chapter membership strength to give the percentage of chapter renewals.

b. Determination of award nominees: The committee nominated all active chapters that met a 90 percent or higher renewal rate.

c. Award Winner: The Chapter with the highest resultant percentage.

## 2. Best Recruiting Award.

(1) The chapter award for recruiting was computed based on the following criteria: (1.) Chapter strength was determined based on the average strength for the award year. This figure was derived from the semi-annual meeting reports. This gave a baseline membership for computing the new member percentage.

(2.) The total amount of new members for each chapter was computed based on the monthly rebate report.

(3.) The total new members by chapter are then divided by the average chapter membership strength to give the percentage of chapter new members.

b. Determination for award nominees: The committee nominated all active chapters that met a 50 percent or higher new member rate.

c. Award Winner: The Chapter with the highest resultant percentage.

## 6. Highest Recruiting Award.

a. The chapter award for highest recruiting was computed based on the highest

amount of new members as computed from the monthly rebate reports.

b. Determination for award nominees: The committee nominated all active chapters that recruited 10 or more new members.

c. Award Winner: The Chapter with the greatest number of new members.

7. Overall Best Chapter for Recruiting and Retention.

a. The chapter award for recruiting and retention was computed based on the following criteria:

(1) The chapter has been nominated for an award in any of the award categories of recruitment, retention or highest recruitment.

(2) Each chapter is then ranked within each of the three award categories.

b. Determination for award nominees: The award is based on the lowest combined ranking total.

c. Award Winner: The Chapter with the highest combined ranking.

8. Overall Best Region for Recruitment and Retention.

a. The region award for recruitment and retention was computed based on the following criteria:

(1) The region must have three active chapters and must have a qualifying chapter in each of the award categories of recruitment, retention or highest recruitment.

(2) Each region is then ranked within each of the three award categories.

b. Determination for award nominees: The award is based on the lowest combined ranking total.

c. Award Winner: The Region with the highest combined ranking.

9. Best Professional Development Program.

a. The President's Award for Professional Development was determined from a review of the chapter minutes on the depth of the subject discussed.

b. Award Winner: The Chapter was selected for conducting the best professional development program during the award year.

10. Community Affairs Award for Donations.

a. The award for community affairs for donations was determined from a review of the minutes for all active chapters and the total amount donated by the chapter members. (In the past, we have used total monies donated.)

b. Award Winner: The Chapter which contributed the most financial assistance to their community throughout the award year.

11. Community Affairs Award for Services.

a. The award for community affairs for donations was determined from a review of the minutes for all active chapters. The Awards Committee reviewed all chapter minutes for the award year that contained information regarding the community services performed.

b. Award Winner: The Chapter with the best community services program during the award year.

12. Community Affairs Award for Sustaining Programs.

a. The award for community affairs for sustaining programs was determined from a review of the minutes for all active chapters. The Awards Committee reviewed all chapter minutes for the award year that contained information regarding any sustaining community services program.

b. Award Winner: The Chapter with the best community sustaining services program during the award year.

13. Best Web Site Award.

a. The awards for the best web site are determined by the currency and relevancy of the information and easy and speeds of use kept up for the whole awards year. Other considerations are the ease of navigation and appearance. Consider the three click rule.

b. The committee votes on the sites and recommends the winner for the best chapter site.

14. National President's Award. Awarded by the USAWOA President to an individual or group for accomplishments for the U.S. Army, the Warrant Officer Cohort and/or USAWOA.

15. Chapter Longevity Awards.

a. Streamers are awarded to chartered chapters of the USAWOA for loyal service. This recognition is for the significant efforts to the United States Army, the Warrant Officer Cohort, USAWOA and the surrounding military communities.

b. The committee recommends these award streamers to chapters in 5-year increments starting with the year the chapter was chartered by USAWOA. (Example, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, etc.)

16. The Virginia M. Holcombe Memorial Award for Warrant Officer Spouse of the Year. Nominated by any member through the USAWOA channels to the Awards Committee

Chairman. Must be in the proper format and provide adequate justification. Nominations are voted on by the committee members.

17. The Albert Holcombe Memorial Award for Warrant Officer of the Year. Nominated by any member through the USAWOA channels to the Awards Committee Chairman. Must be in the proper format and provide adequate justification. Nominations are voted on by the committee members.

15. The Don Hess Lifetime Achievement Award. Nominated by any member to the National Secretary who will forward it to the National Board of Directors. This award is to recognize that member who has devoted a majority of their time promoting and supporting the USAWOA. The minimum time of membership for consideration is 10 continuous years as a member in good standing.

NOTE: In some categories not all awards will be awarded each year.

**APPENDIX F****FORMAT OF CHAPTER MINUTES**

(FULL NAME) of CHAPTER  
UNITED STATES ARMY WARRANT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX (or installation)

**Call to Order:** President (Last Name) called the meeting to order at (Location) on the (Day) of (Month) (Year)

**President:** (First and Last name) [Present/Absent]

**Vice-President:** (First and Last name) [Present/Absent]

**Secretary:** (First and Last name) [Present/Absent]

**Treasurer:** (First and Last name) [Present/Absent]

**The pledge of allegiance:** Said by all.

**Secretary's Report:** Report was read and a motion to approve was submitted by (First and Last name), seconded by (First and Last name), motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report was read and the report is now an official record. This report does not require approval by the members, but subject to audit.

**Committee Reports:** As or when prepared for to update the membership.

**Vice-President's Report:** Words from the Vice President

**President's Report:** Words from the President

**Unfinished Business:** Always refer to this action as unfinished versus "Old"

**New Business:** Anything that need to be discussed that is new to the Chapter

**Community Affairs:** Qualify what the Chapter did to help the community.

**Charity:** This is where you put the dollar amount donated and to what organization.

Event	Date	Amount Raised	#Volunteers	#Hours	Beneficiary	Date awarded	Sustaining Y/N

**In some cases this format may not work. However the Chapter chooses to document volunteer hours will be accepted,**

**Guest Speaker:** If you have one put his/her name here

**Professional Development Topic:** Briefly discuss the OPD, Topic, Date occurred, # participants, and provider (Who?)

**Membership, Recruiting and Retention:** Current membership is at Regular membership and Members-at-Large.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by to adjourn by (First and Last name) and seconded by (First and Last name) Meeting adjourned at (Time) hours.

(First and Last name)  
Chapter Secretary

(First and Last name)  
Chapter President

## APPENDIX G

### WEAR OF THE HOER AND AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

#### **The Honorable Order of the Rising Eagle and The USAWOA Award for Excellence Medallion Guidance for Wear:**

AR 670-1 paragraph 22-12d. Badges authorized for wear on Army uniforms:

Badges of civic and quasi-military societies of the United States and international organizations of a military nature. These include badges of organizations originally composed of members who served in a U.S. force during the Revolutionary War; the War of 1812; the Mexican War; the Civil War; the Spanish-American War; the Philippine Insurrection; and the Chinese Relief Expedition of 1900. These also include badges (such as medallions) issued by military (regimental) associations. The badges are worn only while the wearer is attending meetings or functions of such organizations, or on occasions of ceremony (as authorized by the commander). Personnel will not wear these badges to and from such meetings or events. Items must be similar to those authorized by AR 670-1 and worn in the same manner.

#### **Army Blue Mess or Army White Mess Uniform:**

The Honorable Order of the Rising Eagle and the USAWOA Award for Excellence medallion should be worn with ribbon around the neck, outside the shirt collar and inside the coat collar. The medallion should hang at the full length of the ribbon.

#### **Army Blue, Army White, or Army Green Service Uniform:**

The Honorable Order of the Rising Eagle and the USAWOA Award for Excellence medallion will hang with ribbon around the neck, outside the shirt collar, and inside the coat collar. The medallion should hang over the four-in-hand necktie near the collar, and above the top button of the coat, or just under the bow tie, or neck tab, near the collar and above the top button of the coat. Proper positioning may necessitate pinning the ribbon together approximately three inches from the ribbon ends.

#### **Civilian Attire:**

Men should wear the medallion around the neck with the ribbon over the shirt collar and inside the coat collar. Whether worn with bow tie or four-in-hand necktie, the medallion should hang at full length. Ladies should wear the medallion around the neck with the medallion hanging at full length of the ribbon.

#### **General Information:**

The medallion will be worn with the Rising Eagle facing out and in full view and the Warrant Officer rank insignias facing the chest. The Honorable Order of the Rising Eagle medallion should be worn only at USAWOA functions, **such as formal chapter social events during the installation of national, regional or chapter officers or promotion ceremonies where his/her branch attendees are primary audience** Warrant Officer Birthday Ball or USAWOA Balls/Banquets (Chapters and National level events). Awardees will not wear The Honorable Order of the Rising Eagle medallion to and from such meetings or events.