

HAWKEYE CHAPTER UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2010

Fellow “Hawkeye” members – The year is off and running with our first event, the first annual “Chili Feed.” I hope everyone got off to a great start for 2010. There will be many changes this year which I will address to the best of my abilities in this update. I will continue to solicit the growth of chapter and to get the word out on who we are and what we represent. Our objectives are clearly stated in the chapter bylaws which can not only be used to help recruit new members, but to also remind current members what we represent for USAWOA, the Army, and our community.

Chili Feed – With the weather being what it is in Iowa the timing for this event couldn’t have been better! The Chili Feed kicked off at 1100 hours, with a few customers even starting before that. There was no set price, only a free will donation by those who came. We had a large buffet of different chili’s, homemade soups, bread, crackers, cheese, ice tea, deserts and condiments. The paper products were donated by Fare Way grocery store in Grimes. For their support a certificate of appreciation will be presented at a future chapter meeting. There was some skepticism at the beginning of the feed however this quickly vanished as the dining area filled up with hungry customers. The chili feed was such a success that most of the chili and soups were gone by 1200! The chapter made over \$650 in donations. The final totals will be posted when our treasurer Mr. Tew returns from his WOBC course. I can see this being an annual event every year, with some members suggesting this to become a semi-annual event. I applaud everyone who participated for their outstanding support in this event. We will try to get the pictures taken at the chili feed posted on the chapter website.

Officer Recognition Dinner “Ice Breaker.” Once again the chapter is hosting this Friday night event to be held on the 26th of March. The theme this year is “Caribbean Night” so bring your favorite beach ware and dread locks. Hopefully this will help everyone forget about the winter for awhile. The Warrant Officer Caucus will take place from 1700-1800. Signs will be posted for those who would like to come.

Additionally, the raffle will take place during the Ice Breaker. CW5 Peters is the lead on this event. Some ideas discussed at the last meeting were dining certificates from participating restaurants, discount if not free weekend “get-away” at a local club, resort, or hotel, and perhaps golf related ideas. Other suggestions are Ipods, a Blu-Ray player, and gift certificates at participating retailers. Anyone who would like to help solicit retailers and restaurants for items to raffle please contact either myself at 515-727-3551 or CW5 Peters at 000-000-0000.

WOA booth – We will be having a chapter booth this year for current members and any Warrant Officers who are still serving or retired who would like to see what USAWOA and the Hawkeye chapter is about. Membership forms will be available at the table. We will need volunteers to work the one-hour time slots from 1700 till closing (2300?).

Chapter Officer Elections – Change is a constant force in everyday life. Change happened again as a result of my pending departure in May. Ms. Penny Stoker has declined her nomination for

the time being as our new Vice-President, so currently three positions are open being the President, the Vice-President and the secretary. New elections will be held at the next meeting as noted in the February minutes. The intent is still for the new officers to be sworn in at the Warrant Officer Caucus.

Chapter Mascot Design/Logo – CW2 Gillette still needs input from chapter members on what we want as our chapter trademark. We did not have the opportunity at the February meeting however the need is still there. Any ideas can be sent to me at brian.cleven@us.army.mil or call 515-727-3551.

Family Picnic – We will discuss the family picnic at the next chapter meeting. Dates and place will need to be decided if this event is to take place. Member input is critical as the idea is to hold the picnic on a weekend providing the opportunity for members to come that cannot make the monthly weekday meeting. Previously proposed timeframes were April and May. The chapter meeting will be held during that event. Again, the goal is to have weekend meetings semi-annually for the purpose of providing accessibility for all members to the chapter meetings that cannot attend during the week. The next proposed semi-annual meeting is Retiree Day held during the August/September timeframe.

Our Chapter Website – Have you looked at it lately? Anything you like or dislike? Are you finding the information you are looking for? Contact either myself or our webmaster with suggestions and ideas. Our link is: <http://www.iowahawkeyewoa.org/>.

The Final Word – We started the year out on the right foot and with everyone's support and participation we need to sustain the pace we currently have. The Chili Feed was an overwhelming success and I believe without a doubt the raffle can do just as well if not better. Some members have been asking "what are we going to use the funds for?" I believe we need to get our account to the level that will support our chapter members during times of sickness, loss, retirement and other chapter needs. Yes, we will support the community, but we have to be able to support ourselves first.

Respectfully submitted,
For the Corps!

CW3 Brian Cleven
Hawkeye Chapter 319
President