



## **Walter Reed Society, Inc.**

### **Annual Report 2015**

The Walter Reed Society is a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization incorporated in the District of Columbia [EIN 52-1961196]. It was organized exclusively for charitable purposes in 1996 to benefit Walter Reed Army Medical Center [WRAMC] and its educational, patient treatment and research activities. In 2011 the Society transferred its activities to Bethesda, Maryland to support the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center [WRNMMC].

Membership continues to grow and now totals 691+ persons. All friends of the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center, National Naval Medical Center, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences are welcome and encouraged to join us.

The Society has assumed the mission of assisting service members being treated at Walter Reed and their families in response to unmet needs during their care at the medical center. We also sponsor activities and fund projects and goods that enhance patient care services and support the welfare and morale of service

members and other staff at Walter Reed. All of this is accomplished through membership and the generous support of corporate and private donors.

The Board of Directors is elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Board meetings are held every two months at American Legion Post #41, Silver Spring, Maryland. All Board members are volunteers and serve with NO remuneration for the many hours spent conducting Society business at meetings, on line and by teleconference. We have recently had three senior, highly credentialed retired officers volunteer to assist on Board matters; so the future looks very bright. Any other members interested in serving on the Board are urged to contact the President or the Society office.

COL [R] Vandy Miller, VP Programs and Rose Mologne, Society Advisor co-planned the annual holiday membership gathering at the Officers Club, Ft Myer and the annual business meeting at the Uniformed Services University . Both activities were well attended and enjoyed by all as they learn about current activities; future plans and promotes our organization.

Communications- Andre Nicholson, PhD and Peter Esker prepared two newsletters to keep Society members and friends apprised of our current activities and plans.

We owe special gratitude to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center personnel for their collegiality and support; the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for their support and use of their facility; the American Legion Post 41 for use of their facilities for our meetings and monthly dinners for Warriors and their families in conjunction with Helping Hometown Heroes organization. We look forward to new alliances with organizations having similar missions such as the Oak leaf Club. Special thanks to COL[R] Janet Southby, President Emerita for continuing outstanding support, advice and overall excellence in service to our Society and our beneficiaries.

Respectfully,

Joseph L Konzelman, DDS

COL, US Army [Ret]

President

## COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES

### - COL [Ret] Fred Mc Lain- Secretary

This year, the Board of directors continued their active participation in events, projects, and activities surrounding the care of the Wounded Warriors, the medical center staff, and the facility where the magnificent care takes place. Our leaders continued to seek and obtain the guidance of the Medical Center Director, and received several ideas from him concerning how the Society could best support the Wounded Warriors and the facility.

Our committees continued to honor and support grant proposals within their spending authority, reporting these activities to the Board. Larger projects and proposals came to the Board for consideration, where they were discussed and most often approved. We considered and supported all rational proposals that directly or indirectly supported the Wounded Warriors or the staff that provided their care.

Activities supported by your Society since the last annual meeting includes:

- Refreshments for professional meetings in the facility
- Event tickets for Wounded Warriors
- A grant for Operation Brave Families, which supports the children of Wounded Warriors
- Significant funding to the Stages of Healing Program
- Funding for updating and beautifying the Mother/Baby Unit at the medical center
- Funding to the Junior Officers Council in support of their summer mentorship, professional development and networking activity.
- Refreshments for ceremonies that included the Warriors and the staff
- Funding for special items for hospital holiday meals
- Support for a program called Life Skills Transition for Wounded Warriors, which assists them in successfully returning home
- Support to Resiliency Fairs held at the facility
- Funding for the Winter Ball to enable more junior enlisted members, civilians, and junior officers to attend

- Golf outings for the Wounded Warriors
- Monthly Wounded Warrior dinners under the Helping Hometown Heroes program
- A significant number of iPads for the Wounded Warriors. Use of these devices is clinically beneficial for certain types of injuries.

The Society continued to receive membership applications, some at the Life Member level, and typically, approved one to five new members at each Board meetings. At this time, we currently have 691 members.

In summary, we continued to play an active role in the support of the Wounded Warriors, the staff that cares for them, and the facility that houses their world class medical and health care.

**-COL [Ret] Allan Glass - First Vice President and Audit Committee Chair**

The external audit of the Walter Reed Society 2013 financial statements was successfully completed in early 2014. The external audit of the 2014 financial statements is currently in process and should be complete sometime in the spring of 2015. All required 2014 WRS document filings with governmental jurisdictions were successfully completed without problems.

**- LTC [Ret] John Wetterau Treasurer**

Donations income in 2014 decreased continuing a trend starting in 2013. Corporate and individual contributions to the Society totaled \$178,998, down from \$233,413 in 2013. This, however, does not impact our ability to support the Warriors and their families.

Support of activities, services and Warrior patients and their families, showed a significant increase from 2013 to 2014. During 2014, the Society provided grants to approved requests in the amount of \$178,998. This more than doubled the \$70,879 in grants awarded in 2013. Our committees have been very proactive in letting the medical personnel know that the Society can be very helpful in areas where funding is not normally available.

The Society started to gain some substantial CFC donations from the 2013 Fall Campaign. Donations in the amount of \$6,337 were received in 2014. The Society is looking for additional donations in 2015 as the Society's CFC number had wider distribution during the 2014 Fall Campaign.

The Society started to receive royalties from a pharmacy card program administered by Help Soldiers, Inc. Royalties received in 2014 totaled \$7,907 and indications are that 2015 will show a significant increase in this program.

The Society's investment portfolio continues to show modest gains with a growth of 4% during 2014. The year ended with the portfolio moving beyond the \$1.2 million level. Growth of the portfolio only grew 2% during 2013, so the results have looked much stronger in 2014.

Sales of the Society's items continued strong in 2014. A new ornament was introduced along with a new coin. These along with some previous ornaments and afghans from WRAMC and WRNMMC contributed to total sales of \$10,699.

#### **-LTC [Ret] Linda Anderson, VP Projects Committee**

The Projects Committee oversaw the processing and distribution of \$195,080.29 in contributions towards requests for assistance from both Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) and FT Belvoir Community Hospital (FBCH). The majority of the gifts were in keeping with our charter which is to sponsor activities and fund projects and goods that enhance patient care services and support the welfare and morale of service members and other staff at the medical treatment facilities. All gifts were received with enthusiasm and recipients offered their utmost appreciation to the Walter Reed Society. All recipients acknowledged that without the generosity and support of the WRS, these projects that proved vital to morale as well as to the "excellent patient experience" for Wounded Warriors, patients, families, and staff would not have been possible.

A detailed report of the 37 activities that the projects committee supported in CY 2014 was provided to the President and Secretary, WRS, for the record. Some of the highlights of our activities were contributions in support of the following:

- Resiliency and Psychological Health Fairs (for the dissemination of information to all staff)
- Nutrition Care Division Themed Meals (decorations and enhancements)
- Research and Innovation Symposia (Wounded, Injured and Ill Warrior)
- Warrior and Family Coordination Cell Outing
- Artwork, Maternal Infant Child Department

- Artwork Design Wall – Operation Healing Eyes - FBCH
- IPads (20)- Occupational Therapy
- Fisher House BBQ
- 911 Wreath Laying Ceremony
- Caregiver Support – FBCH
- BG Clark’s Initiative – Prosperity Fairs
- Plague NCO and Soldier of the Year
- Hemodialysis – Patient Comfort Items
- Operation Brave Family-Children’s garden and stuffed animals
- WRNMMC Holiday Ball - support to junior officers and enlisted
- Darnell Medical Library Opening Ceremony
- Honor Dr. (COL) Kenneth Block
- Seminars on Sexual Health for the Wounded Warrior

and other smaller projects throughout the year.

The Projects Committee dedicated countless hours towards communication and interaction with staff and the leadership at WRNMMC and FBCH. The reputation of the WRS has improved exponentially, with the passing of time, through service and dedication. The Projects Committee played an important role in enhancing that perception and preserving the legacy of Walter Reed.

**-SGM [Ret] Dan Bullis, VP Patient Services/ Warrior/Family Support Committee**

We have continued our relationship with the Soldier Family Assistance Center (SFAC) in receiving applications for assistance from recovering warriors and family members that are part of the Warrior Transition Battalion. While the number of applications is decreasing in relationship to our withdrawal from Iraq and our decreased numbers in Afghanistan, we continue to make a difference in the lives of many that require our services. Several of the requests this year were for the conversion of vehicles that required adaptive equipment to allow those with physical challenges the opportunity to continue to drive their vehicle. Many of the requests that were acted upon continue to be for financial assistance as a result of a spouse or family member becoming unemployed while caring for their loved one, resulting in a decrease in the finances available to the family. We continue to process these requests in a timely manner with all committee members responding electronically within hours of the receipt of the request. In an effort to ensure all areas of the hospital are aware of our “offer to assist” I have made presentations to the Social Work department and to the Case Managers of the WTB and we have subsequently received requests from them as well.

Since 2009, Walter Reed Society has been honored to have *Edward L Helminski* as a true and loyal friend with a passion to assist our recovering warriors. As the President and CEO of Exchange Monitor Inc., he has organized an annual Amelia Island Golfing event that has resulted in thousands of dollars in donations as well as connecting both recovering warriors with job opportunities and the Walter Reed Society with other interested donors. At our very first event many years ago we were represented by C.J.Roup and since then Vandy Miller and Carlton Kammerer have taken on the hardship of traveling to Amelia Island each year. Ed was the proud recipient of our coveted Combat Medic Statue which we awarded to him during a luncheon at Walter Reed Army Medical Center prior to its closure. In December 2014, Ed passed away and during his farewell, Ed's wife Carol was presented with a flag that flew over Walter Reed Army Medical Center during its closing days. We are now working with Exchange Monitor in establishing the Edward L. Helminski Patriot Fund, in honor of our dear friend and to continue his desire to help our young heroes and their families.

Also for the past several years Mr. Mike Haji, President of Select Auto Imports has been assisting the Walter Reed Society in a Veterans Day fund raising event where he would match donations up to \$10,000.00. Mike partnered with WTOP Radio and the Walter Reed Society and continues to support this effort that has resulted in thousands of dollars donations for our recovering warriors. Mike is also a proud recipient of our Combat Medic Statue, which we presented to him, in his office, near the Pentagon. Mike continues to be a loyal friend and member and would like to continue this Veterans Day event.

Jeff Brodeur is the President of the Korean War Veterans Association and a proud member of the American Legion Post 405 located in Raynham, ME. Jeff was first introduced to WRAMC when his son Vincent was traumatically wounded several years ago and given little hope for survival and function. It was during one of these trips that we met Jeff and provided him assistance as he traveled back and forth from Maine to Walter Reed. Fast forward several years and Vincent is doing extremely well and Jeff has conducted an annual fundraising event with the American Legion Post that has resulted in thousands of dollars of donations over the past several years. During this past years visit, the WRS presented Jeff and Post 405 with a Combat Medic Statue that they proudly display in their Post home.

The WRS continues to support helping Hometown Heroes who organizes a monthly recovering warrior family appreciation dinner at American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring, MD. These monthly events continue to draw recovering Veterans and family members who have an enjoyable relaxing time away from WRNMMC with great food, fun and entertainment.

And we have made many friends like Mrs. Afreida Davis who stops by during her annual visit to WRNMMC to provide a generous donation along with many others offering their assistance year after year and to whom we are ever grateful.

**-COL (Ret) Fred Brand - V.P. DEVELOPMENT**

The Society was once again blessed by the generosity of many; small and large, old and new, continuing the policy of passive fund raising.

The sad news was the passing of *Ed Helminski* one of the Society's most prominent and prolific givers who not only gave freely personally and through his Exchange Monitor Company, but also encouraged others by sponsoring events that attracted the BUNZL group of companies and Longmeade associates among others. He will be missed.

The BUNZL group through sponsoring several golf outings contributed over \$30,000 and provided outings for 50 Wounded Warriors.

SELECT AUTO again along with radio WTOP sponsored a pre -Veterans' Day radio fund raiser with SELECT AUTO matching up to \$10,000 in pledges.

The Spring Lake Fire Department and community for many consecutive years have sent cash donations and home made good from the community.

Other annual donation came from the Fort Myer Chapel and many VFW, American Legion, Korean War Vets of Delaware, religious groups, school and scout groups from all over the country are consistent in fund raising.

The HELPING SOLDIERS RX discount card program has sent monthly checks for several years thanks to the McGonigle family.

Many gifts come by way of donations in lieu of flowers and gifts from grateful patients and families provide more than \$40,000.

Another faithful friend, a pharmacist in Dover Ohio has hosted Memorial Day functions for our benefit.

The year ended with presentation of a huge Christmas card signed by customers in conjunction with opening of a new mall in Bedford, NJ.

Unfortunately, WRS was forced to turn down an offer from J-SAND, INC. which offered to donate a set amount for each sale of a new product, ILLUMNI KOVER-UP if the Society would permit the use of the logo and other WRS info in its advertising. Legal counsel advised against this as it would require the Society to register in many states at a cost thought to prohibitively high.

More good news! The McGonigle family, from Pennsylvania, began to pursue negotiations with WAL MART to sponsor a discount RX program for the Society. Because of the expected size of the deal, a partner was sought to provide the administrative support. AMSUS, the WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT and others were considered. With advice and support of LTG (R) Blanck the project was approved in principle to be formalized early in 2015.

#### **-MCPO (Ret) John Frankenburg Vice President for Finance**

The VP for Finance serves as the Chairman of the Finance and Investment Committee and shall have oversight of the Finance and Investment Committee's preparation of the annual budget of the Corporation. The active support of the Treasurer is appreciated in preparing this important business document.

February of 2015 provided the Finance Committee an opportunity to present to the Board of Directors for approval the updated "Investment Policy" which they approved.

#### **Investment Objectives:**

1. Provide a high quality of investment selections that preserve capital and increases overall value.
2. Prudently manage the program to provide a sustainable stream of income from year to year.
3. Select a prudent range of investments that is well diversified and minimizes overall aggregate risk and provides returns commensurate with a very conservative portfolio.

We believe with a conservative portfolio as indicated above the WRS future is bright and growing ever stronger.

The remainder of 2015 will be devoted to updating the” Fiscal Policies of the WRS” with input from the other Individual on the Board.. The last update was 2010. With many new changes since our moving to Bethesda, this update is important to insure consistent strong management and fulfill the organizations mission in the most efficient manner.

During this past year the Finance Committee welcomed our newest member, George Holborow, HMCS, USNR (Ret). George brings a wealth of experience in budget planning from his 35 plus years as the Director of the Anatomical Teaching Laboratory at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. We appreciate George taking on this important committee assignment with enthusiasm.

**COL (Ret) Vandy Miller/Mrs. Rose Mologne - VP Programs/Society Advisor**

We are planning for our annual meeting May 3, 2015 at the USUHS Cafeteria. This will be announced in our next newsletter. The other big activity will be our annual Christmas Gala at Ft. Myer.

With regards to the Golf Outings for our wounded Warriors, we are planning for at least six outings during 2015.

**COL (Ret) George Turiansky - VP Membership**

Membership Statistics for 2014

Renewals 23

Lifetime Member 19

1 year 7

2 years 13

5 years 6

Removed from Data Base 37

Total 691

