



Annual Report 2017

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 almost 700 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. Any 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 and the annual business meeting both at the Uniformed Services University. Both activities were well attended and enjoyed by all as they learn about current activities, future plans and promotion of our organization.

Communications - Andre Nicholson, PhD and Peter Esker prepared two newsletters, one of four pages and one of eight pages, 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 Wounded, Ill, or Injured and their families in conjunction with Helping Hometown Heroes organization. We look forward to new alliances with organizations having similar missions such as the Oakleaf 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 submitted,

John R. Pierce, COL, US Army (R), President

COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES

This year the board of directors continued active participation in events, projects, and activities surrounding the care of the Wounded, Ill, or Injured, their families, the staff that cares for them, and the facility where the care takes place. Our officers met with hospital leaders at Walter Reed and Ft. Belvoir to obtain guidance and support, and to receive ideas about how we can help.

Our committees continue to honor and support grant proposals within their spending authority, reporting these activities to the Board. Larger projects and proposals come to the board for consideration, where they are discussed and usually approved in full or part. We will consider and support any rational proposal that supports the Wounded, Ill, or Injured, their families and care givers, as well as the health care staff that provides their care.

Activities supported by your Society this year included:

- Delivery of 41 special infusion chairs for use in three infusion locations at the facility.
- Partnership with American Red Cross to purchase special equipment
- Event tickets for Wounded, Ill, or Injured
- Support for hospital-wide music therapy program
- Refreshments for professional meetings throughout the hospital
- Refreshments for ceremonies that include the Wounded, Ill, or Injured or the staff
- Support to the command organization day
- Funding for special items for hospital holiday meals
- Support for specialized Occupational Therapy programs in glass artwork and wood working
- Financial support for a off-site retreat for Wounded, Ill, or Injured and care givers
- Financial support for Wounded, Ill, or Injured, their families and care givers

The Society continues to receive membership applications, some at the Life Member level, and typically, we will approve one to five new members at each of our board meetings. At this time, we currently have almost 700 members.

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

Fred McLain, COL US ARMY (R), Secretary

Donation income in 2016 increased after three years of decline. Corporate and individual contributions to the Society totaled \$190,757, which was an increase of 10.5% from 2015. This increased the Society's ability to support the Wounded, Ill, and Injured and their families.

Support of activities/services for Wounded, Ill, and Injured patients and their families again showed a significant increase from 2015 to 2016. During 2016, the Society provided grants to approved requests in the amount of \$280,599. This was a 15.4% increase over grants approved in 2015. Our committees have been very proactive in letting the medical community know that the Society can be very helpful in areas where funding is not normally available.

During 2016 the Society was able to support requests from staff at WRNMMC. Requests in the amount of \$161,787 were approved with the majority of those funds for 41 infusion chairs for use in the dialysis unit, the chemotherapy unit, and the infusion area.

The Society continued to receive substantial CFC Donations from areas around the country as a result of the 2015 Fall Campaign. Donations in the amount of \$11,162 were received in 2016. This total was slightly less than the amount of CFC donations which were received in 2015.

The Society's investment portfolio has rebounded from the downturn in 2015. Investments suffered an overall growth of 6.0%. Initial review of the start of 2017 looks promising for growth of the investments this year.

Sales of the Society's items continues strong in 2016 with an increased by 62.6%. Another new ornament was introduced to support new sales. The ornaments, stockings and afghans from WRAMC and WRNMMC contributed to total sales of \$13,301. Three new ornaments have been ordered with all input submitted. Brochures will be reviewed when received; delivery should be made in about a month.

John Wetterau, LTC US Army (R), Treasurer

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.

The previous year reveals a modest improvement in world economies however even with the growth remained these socio economic factors growth of our investments remains on the positive

trajectory. This is due to our market management by UBS Securities and the conservative nature of our investment portfolio.

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 minimize overall aggregate risk and provides returns commensurate with a very conservative portfolio.

We continue to believe with a conservative portfolio as indicated above the WRS investment future is bright and shows positive indications of better returns in the out years.

The remainder of 2017 we continue to update the “Fiscal Policies of the WRS.” With many new changes since WRS move to Bethesda, this update is important to insure consistent strong management and fulfill the organizations mission.

John Frankenburg, MCPO US Navy (R), VP for Finance

The external audit of the Walter Reed Society’s 2015 financial statements was successfully completed in early 2016. The external audit of the 2016 financial statements is currently in process and should be complete sometime in the spring of 2016. All required 2016 WRS documents filings with governmental jurisdictions are in process of completion.

The WRS has partnered with the American Health Information Association (AHIMA) Foundation, in providing Health Information Management (HIM) scholarships at the associate degree, bachelor’s degree and master’s degree level for Wounded, Ill or Injured (WII) veterans, their spouses and the spouses of active duty military members.

The HIM/HIT field is a promising career pathway for WII, as their disabilities will not hinder them in this career field which offers opportunities to up-skill and earn stackable, portable credentials, as well a variety of work environments, including a growing sector of remote staffing. Additionally, there are excellent employment opportunities in government agencies for WII veterans and spouses to capitalize on their special civil service priority.

Last year the WRS funds were used to fund two scholarships. The spouse of a Navy veteran received a scholarship to pursue a master’s degree. An Army veteran received a scholarship to pursue an associate degree to become a Registered Health Information Technician.

Brian Foley , COL US Army (R), First VP

Twenty-eight letters of thanks and appreciation have been sent from the WRS board president to donors of over \$1,000 since May 2016. Numerous thank you notes from the Society have gone to smaller donors as well.

Updating the Society's web site has been an ongoing process. This has involved updating the list of WRS board members, adding current news items such as the recent grant of infusion chairs to the hospital, updating the offerings of military decorative ornaments for sale, and removing outdated information. More remains to be done.

The board recently signed off on an updated brochure for the Society. The board will also be considering quotes from several printers for the Society's newsletter, with the aim of improving the timeliness of the newsletter's release.

John D. Gallicchio, CAPT (R), USPHS, VP for Communications

In 2016 we donated \$274, 008.53 towards projects that improved morale, assisted service members, and improved the quality of care for our Wounded, Ill, and Injured service members, their families, and many of our beneficiaries. Most noteworthy were the 41, state of the art, therapeutic chairs for dialysis, chemotherapy and the infusion area. Other sizable contributions included the ongoing support of the Nutrition Support Division for themed meals; the American Red Cross's Emwave 2 Device project that promotes health through stress management; Stages of Healing, music therapy for patients, staff, and visitors; Occupational Therapy's drone project to improve dexterity, attention to detail and cognitive critical thinking ability, support for art glass, wood working, and numerous morale welfare projects.

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.

Linda Anderson, LTC US Army (R), VP Projects Committee



Pentagon 9 – 11 Flag

The Society designed our 2017 collectible to honor our Nation in memory of the tragedies that occurred at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, and Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania, on September 11, 2001. Our Nation's flag draped over the wall of the Pentagon after 9 -11 was an image that inspired courage and the spirit of determination. Made in the USA, it will soon be available in an attractive gift box for \$15 each.

Two other collectibles were also designed. One honors the U.S. Public Health Service and the other reflects the history of the National Naval Medical Center. Each will sell for \$15.

Janet Southby, COL US Army (R) President, Emerita

Membership Statistics Since Annual Meeting May 2016

Current Total Member Count: 686

Renewals: 32

1 year - 5, 2 years - 22, 5 years - 5

New members: 24

New Honorary (Lifetime) 0, Other lifetime - 13, 1 year - 3, 2 years - 5, 5 years - 3

Deceased members removed from database and other members removed because of failure to respond to requests for renewal/returned mail - 14

George Turiansky, COL US Army (R), VP, Membership

We continue our coordination 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 and we have established a closer collaboration with the amputee center in directing assistance to many of our returning heroes. The SFAC continues to submit a steady flow of requests for assistance representing the wounded, ill and injured service members and families they represent allowing us to continue to make a difference in the lives of many that require our services. 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. We continue our outreach efforts to case managers and others outside of the SFAC so all are aware of our open solicitation to assist.

During our discussions with representatives from the amputee center we learned of a challenge that demanded our assistance and we have been working very closely with this vital center to resolve the issue. After a service member has been treated, discharged and returns home the center stands ready to provide ongoing medical treatment to all that have lost limbs as a result of their service however they must return to the hospital on a self-funded basis to receive an adjustment or even an additional corrective surgery. If they are referred by a VA provider the transportation may be covered but the lodging and related costs must be borne by the individual. It is even more complicated if the individual requires someone to assist as a non-medical attendant. Our WRS has embraced this need and we have established assistance that we have coined "Operation Mobility" whereby we cover the cost of lodging in one of the two on base hotels. Many times this follow-on care involves several months because of the physical therapy involved.

Also for the past several years Mr. Mike Haji, President of Select Auto Imports continues to assist us with 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. This past November Jeff and the Veterans of Cape Cod invited me and the physician who performed the life-saving and altering surgery on Vincent to an event honoring the WRS and doctor along with a fund raising event. It was a grand time with several hundred in attendance and a record breaking donation of close to \$50,000 to the WRS. We are so fortunate to have friends like the Cape Cod Veterans and to have been a part of a “paying it forward” movement that has been so rewarding for all.

This year has also allowed us to reflect on a program that we supported several years ago that was designed to assist the loved ones of those living with the challenges of PTSD. The program we sponsored at WRAMC in 2011 was designed to target those significant others who are ill equipped and prepared to understand and support their loved one who returns home with this condition. Through the efforts and a request from very skilled trauma clinicians and the medical staff of Kent State University we have agreed to sponsor a series of scientifically based four day retreats that focus on the needs of both the significant other and the warrior that lays the ground work for compassionate recovery with an added value of KSU conducting an IRB approved study. The program involves groups of 24 participants. Thus far we have sponsored two of the initial four that we have committed to with the first being in the Washington DC area, the second in Chicago, and the next being planned in the Ft Riley, KS area.

The WRS continues to support recovering warriors/family appreciation dinners at American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring, MD. These events continue to draw recovering Veterans and family members who have an enjoyable relaxing time away from WRNMMC with great food, fun and entertainment.

Dan Bullis, SGM US Army (R), VP Patient Services/ Warrior/Family Support Committee

