



*Walter Reed Society, Inc.*

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

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). To say that 2011 was one of the most hectic years in the Society's history would be an understatement.

Membership continues to grow and now numbers over 600 persons. All friends of the former Walter Reed and National Naval Medical Centers and the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center are welcome and encouraged to join.

The Society aims to preserve the legacy and renowned international reputation of Walter Reed, the man, and the institution named in his honor. The histories of WRAMC and NNMC will be preserved as the integrated facility evolves and forms its new identity and culture.

The Society sponsors activities and funds projects and goods that enhance patient care services and support the welfare and morale of service members and other staff at the Nation's premier military medical center. Through the generous support of corporate and private donors, the Society has assumed an additional mission of assisting service members being treated at Walter Reed due to service in Iraq, Afghanistan and surrounding areas. We help them and/or their families in response to unmet needs during their care at the medical center.

## **COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Finance, Investment and Audit**

John Frankenburg, Treasurer and our sole Navy retiree on the board, skillfully executes the demanding responsibility for receiving and distributing funds and maintaining all financial records. This critical role was exacerbated during the transition to our new location at WRNMMC when a new postal address and electronic communications had to be established. Our association with the accounting firm Burdette-Smith Group LLC has continued.

During 2011, donation receipts totaled just over \$227,000. The distribution in Warrior/Family Support Grants was almost \$226,000 and over \$48,000 was distributed to support events and services at WRAMC and WRNMMC. We are grateful to our donors who generously support our assistance programs.

The Finance Committee included John Frankenburg and Joe Konzelman (co-chairs), Fred Brand and Juan D'Avis. Through the committee's efforts, the investment portfolio of slightly more than \$1-million was transferred from Stifel Nicolaus Associates to UBS Financial Services, Inc. Their recommendation to transfer the banking assets from Bank of America to the Navy Federal Credit Union Branch at WRNMMC was approved and the Treasurer assumed responsibility for these actions. Fred Brand successfully reapplied for the Society to be listed for Combined Federal Campaign contributions after a hiatus of four years while financial practices were systematized and strengthened.

Allan Glass, First VP, chaired the Audit Committee (Vandy Miller, Nick Santrizos) and provided the impetus for improved financial practices, record keeping, and accountability. Under his guidance, for the second year, an annual audit was

successfully conducted by an outside auditor who, again, found that the Society's finances were in good order and in full compliance with accepted accounting practices. Among other activities, Allan completed the myriad of paperwork that enables the Society to operate in Maryland and obtained permission from the US Postal Service for the Society to use non-profit rates.

The critical work of the Finance and Audit Committees is greatly appreciated as they are working short handed. The important position of VP Finance remains vacant.

### **Membership and Programs**

Joe Konzelman, VP Membership, is now exploring how to attract new members from the previously untapped resources at WRNMMC.

Vandy Miller, VP Programs, and Rose Mologne, Society Advisor, enthusiastically co-planned the annual holiday membership gathering and the annual business meeting. Our members enjoy these events as they catch up on happenings at the medical center, reconnect with colleagues, and promote our organization.

### **Communications**

Nick Santrizos, VP Communications, and Jeff Clark, Webmaster, have resigned due to other demands. We thank them for their time and commitment to the Society while serving in these positions. The position of VP Communications remains vacant.

Pete Esker and Dan Bullis continue their efforts to enhance and support the Society's Website. Our goal is for the Website to be a premier source to preserve the legacy of Walter Reed, promote communication, and encourage membership. The MSNBC report on WRAMC closing after more than 100 years can be viewed at [www.walterreedsociety.org](http://www.walterreedsociety.org) (click on the NEWS tab).

Two newsletters were prepared by brand new PhD, André Nicholson, in collaboration with Pete Esker, and this means of communication with our members will continue. We have a lot of good news and need to share more of it with our membership and the world.

Fred McLain, Secretary, effectively maintains the official documents of the Society, tracks renewal requirements, and records our business transitions.

### **Grants and Development**

Dan Bullis, VP Patient Services, chairs the Warrior/Family Support Grant Committee (Fred Brand, Pete Esker, Jim Gonyea, Jan Southby) to review assistance requests on a case-by-case basis from servicemen and women being treated at WRNMMC. The Society helps with unexpected and often crushing financial needs when other resources are not available.

More than \$2 million in assistance has been distributed to hundreds of service members and/or their families since the WRS Warrior/Family Support Fund was established in 2004. Our contributors have helped with everything from paying back rent and utilities, transportation of loved ones, and vehicle repairs to the purchase of therapeutic equipment and supplies not available through regular channels. In 2011, grants and assistance exceeded donation income which is not uncommon in charitable giving.

Linda Anderson, VP Projects, chairs the Projects Grant Committee (Ric Alcantara, the late Diane Butke, Sharon Feeney-Jones). The Society continues its support at WRNMMC to provide specially identified equipment and services to enhance patient care and improve ambiance at the facility. Examples include significant sponsorship of The Arts and the

Military program open to patients, family members and staff; patient and staff appreciation events; cooking classes to engage TBI patients; and monthly dinners for Warriors and families at the American Legion Post 41.

Fred Brand, VP Development, Dan Bullis, Allan Glass, Vandy Miller, Jim Gonyea, Jan Southby and others (including Carlton Kammerer, former NFL player and our Liaison for Athletics), have been very active in many development activities, such as coordinating and participating in charity golf tournaments radio appeals and communications with donors.

## **History**

John Pierce, Society Historian, and Kathy Beasley, USN, Ret., represent the WRS on the Historical Committee at WRNMMC.

## **Walter Reed Mementos**



Unfortunately the Merchandise Committee has been devastated by the death of Diane Butke, Chair, and the resignation of Joni Comuntzis who will be moving from the area; only John Frankenburg remains.

Before memento sales can resume, several major challenges will have to be resolved: Identifying a central location that would support strong sales, acquiring permission to sell at WRNMMC, acquiring secure storage space, and re-establishing the volunteer sales team. At this time, only pursuing the holiday collectibles and the feasibility of designing a WRNMMC-theme afghan are being considered. A holiday collectible featuring the logo of WRNMMC was offered last year and another, celebrating the dedication of WRNMMC has been designed for this year.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

We are saddened by the death of COL(R) Diane Butke after a long, valiant fight against cancer, who served on many committees and was our dedicated and committed Volunteer Sales Coordinator for so many years. We are also saddened by the recent death of Sylvia Miller, wife of COL(R) Vandy Miller, VP Programs.

## **UPDATE**

We greatly appreciate the support of COL Chuck Callahan, Chief of Staff, WRNMMC, for arranging the use of Cubicles 78 & 79 in the Health Care Operations Suite 2C, Building 17, as office space for the Society. We also want to acknowledge the support of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) during the organizational transfer.

Debra Washington, Administrative Assistant, and the Treasurer are usually on site Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Other officers are present at different times. Recently, Debra has not been able to work due to major medical issues. CAPT (R) Bruce Burton, USN, has graciously filled in and this is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers to fill the vacant positions of VP Finance and VP Communications are needed. Elections for officers will be held at the next Annual Meeting, May 2013. Please consider volunteering to be on the ballot for any position. You may send your interest to the Society email or contact the President who is collecting names.

The Board of Directors meets every two months and periodically holds teleconferences to conduct Society business as needed. They devote many hours serving the Walter Reed community and receive NO remuneration. For their service and commitment, I am truly grateful. Otherwise, the Society would only be a paper tiger instead of the vital force it is.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Southby  
COL, USA, Ret.  
President

April 29, 2012