



*Message from the GNW Region Coordinator, by Fran Blaylock*

### **The GNW Region in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Greetings! I hope all of you have had a wonderful summer and are now preparing for the 2007-2008 ARMA year. I know the chapter leadership has been busy attending the GNW Region Leadership conference in June and brought back many good ideas for planning the year and networked with members of our neighboring chapters. I would first like to say thank you again to the planning committee from the Columbia Basin chapter for putting on such an excellent leadership conference. It was very well attended and I think the information provided was of excellent use to all! This is a vital part of making our region cohesive a valuable resource to our GNW region members.

One of the sessions that the leadership group participated in was to define the attributes of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century chapter. Last month Sue Lord sent out the results of the group participation to the chapter presidents. The title was "The Shape of Things to Come: Evolving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". The results were broken into four different areas:

- What do you need as a professional?
- How can you use the Competency Disciplines at chapter level for members?
- Technical/Leadership/Volunteers/Education a.k.a Challenges?
- What defines chapter success?

I want to encourage you as an ARMA member to take this down a notch and consider what ARMA and your chapter specifically can do to help meet your needs.

First, define what you need to do to prepare your career to meet the demands of a RIM professional in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The previously mentioned document is a list of what your leaders consider some of the top issues and considerations. However you know your position best and I am confident you can personalize this list! Second, consider what you need both in support and additional skills to not only meet future needs, but excel in your position. The last part is to communicate to your chapter and your region leadership what these needs are and what we can do to get you on the path to success.

There are many options currently available to you as an ARMA member to enhance your skill toolbox and increase your value as a RIM professional in the workplace. Starting at the chapter level, make sure you take the time to attend the meetings offered by your local chapter. Also, don't hesitate to check the meetings put on by our neighboring chapters. The chapters in our region work hard to offer an array of topics, so I am confident you will find something of value to you. Another option is to attend the ARMA International Conference in Baltimore running from October 4<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the first year ARMA is incorporating the core competency disciplines into the conference planning. Many of the sessions are aligned with the core competencies and in enhancing your toolbox for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is also a powerful networking opportunity, considering ARMA members worldwide attend this conference!



As a final note, one of the most important resources we have in our region is the power of networking. Keep in touch with your local chapter and your ARMA friends. I don't know how many times I have contacted someone in ARMA when I have a problem at work to solve or just need to connect to others in RIM. It is this connection that makes our region and ARMA so special! Do mark your calendars for the Great Northwest Region Conference to be held in Portland, Oregon on April 7-9, 2008. Watch your mailbox for more information.

Also, don't forget...if you plan to attend the ARMA International conference in Baltimore, please check the information board in the Registration area for the time and date of our no-host region luncheon which will probably be held on Tuesday of the conference. Sue and I will scope out the perfect spot! Also, there is a region reception on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30 pm in the conference hotel. There will be "Ballpark munchies", soft drinks and coffee with an excellent opportunity for networking with other members of our GREAT! Northwest Region. Hope to see you there!

Very truly yours,

Fran Blaylock, Coordinator  
GNW Region of ARMA