

THE

OFFICER REVIEW

VOLUME 62 • NUMBER 3

MAY-JUNE 2023





“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

—*Author Unknown*

Dear Companions,

In the last *Officer Review* (March/April 2023), I wrote about leadership and the need for Companions to step into leadership positions to create positive changes for the betterment of the Order. In this issue, I am compelled to discuss “volunteerism.”

Spring represents Earth’s renewal. Likewise, it is the same with the Order. Chapters, departments, regions and senior leadership are all seeking new ideas and Companion enthusiasm in order to carry out the mission of the MOWW. This will require, in many cases, new leadership. Spring is the traditional time when the hunt for successors to current leadership begins. The Order needs you.

Being a Companion in the Order does not necessarily translate into being a volunteer within the organization. In order to be a volunteer in the MOWW, one must donate and sacrifice (yes, sacrifice) their time to accomplish something good and worthwhile. I have heard, and certainly respect, the many reasons Companions cite in declining requests to assume national, chapter, region, and committee leadership positions and committee membership assignments. These include time requirements; aging issues; mobility and health concerns for themselves and their spouses; financial restrictions, among others. However, there are many Companions for whom these conditions (except time requirements) do not apply. It is to these individuals I plead my case.

American spiritual author and teacher Elizabeth Andrew said, “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” Your chapter, a committee, and the Order need the energy, intelligence, ideas, and heart that you bring to the MOWW. Take our motto—“It is nobler to serve than to be served”—to heart, and volunteer for a position in the Order. Say “Yes” to serving in responsible roles when approached by fellow Companions to do so. Remember, volunteering is a commitment to the kind of community you want to live in.

Sincerely,

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Commander in Chief, MOWW & CEO, MOWW, Inc.

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OFFICER REVIEW®

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ON THE COVER
In 2011, a local district school in Nawa, Afghanistan, waited to present “Flat Stanley” to a visiting Congressional delegation.



Afghanistan— Why Did the Mission Not Succeed?

BGEN PAUL K. LEBIDINE, USMCR (RET)
BG HOLLAND CHAPTER, CA

In lightning fashion, the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan. How could this US-led NATO mission fail so spectacularly? Beyond the history of Afghanistan and the reasons it is referred to as the “Graveyard of Empires,” introspectively, what other factors hindered the US from accomplishing its goals?

Unity of Command, not Unity of Effort

The unity of effort structure between the military forces and other civilian-led interagency agencies was a doomed arrangement that could not deliver results under time limitations. Although many Americans assumed a four-star General in Kabul was overall in charge of the Afghanistan mission, their focus was on security and building the capability of the Afghan Security Forces.

They were not in charge of the civilian agencies responsible for supporting Afghan governance and development under the Ambassador and a Senior Civilian Representative. Without unity of command in which one leader was responsible for all parts of the mission, there was an untold

amount of wasted time in needless discussions or, even worse; no coordination was done. The lack of a unified front also allowed the Afghan leadership to manipulate all sides, both military and civilian, for their benefit. Please make no mistake; Afghans understood their interests.

Without a clear chain of command to demand cooperative action, there were continuous debates between the military and their civilian counterparts from the local District level to Kabul over “if security was good enough” to deliver governance and development. When there was a collaborative plan, it was devised without any forcing mechanism for the military or civilians to execute it.



19 Aug 2011: A commanding general charged with supporting NATO International Security Assistance Force operations in Afghanistan's Nimruz and Helmand provinces speaks to deployed Marines at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, about the support they provide for infantrymen on the ground. Photo by Pfc. Sean Dennison



Between all the uncoordinated military and civilian personnel rotations on different timelines, it was near impossible to build teams that had the continuity to maximize the value or purpose of the parent organizations.

It was a tragically flawed system that led to an environment in which the top leaders found it easiest to remain in separate silos, many times feigning cooperation with each other, thus, nullifying any ability to pinpoint accountability and responsibility for the systemic issues in Afghanistan that impeded sustainable progress.

As a further default, the Afghans were always an easy target to criticize, as if our actions were unrelated to their performance. The mission found itself with a generation of US senior leaders that had proven extraordinarily successful in navigating complex bureaucracies, highlighted by a career of relatively short-term tours in which advanced planning encompassed less than five years. It is not their fault since nobody else in the White House or Congress, with all their visits, seemed to view the constant top leadership rotations in Afghanistan as a problem. Nor did they try to ease the pressure of the war effort to produce yearly results by consistently communicating to the American people the importance and value of a

long-term commitment to ensure our investment in a future regional partner in Afghanistan and not just in terms associated with the “Global War on Terrorism.”

Decency of Americans

It would be a misnomer to describe what was attempted as the hubris of America in exporting democracy to Afghanistan. In actuality, it was the decency of America to allow patriotic Afghans willing to risk their lives and the safety of their families to make their own choices to form a representative government.

It was not about making Afghanistan in our image but about setting the conditions to allow Afghans to make their own choices as a free nation. Nobody bothered to inform the American people it would take fifty years or more to “turn the corner” or benefit from the “Good News” story of the month.

Unfortunately, the failure to respond effectively to the inundation of narratives concerning the short-term setbacks in Afghanistan led to irrevocable political decisions that ironically proved the corrupt Afghans as correct—leaving those who believed in our promises searching for a way out of the country, placed in prison, or dead.



In 2015, US/NATO advisor team planned combat operations with the Afghan 215th Corps Commander in Helmand Province.





US Marines board a C-17 Globemaster III, April 2010, at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. Airmen helped deliver 30,000 troops into the region as part of the surge throughout Afghanistan, since 1 Jan, also they have ensured more than 25,000 customers got on their way to their various destinations throughout Southwest Asia. Photo: US Air Forces Central Public Affairs.

Building to “Tipping” Points

Without a clear strategy built on decades of future engagement, “The Surge” of combat troops into Afghanistan in 2011 was based on an attempt to create a “tipping point” that would provide enough breathing space for the Afghan Security Forces to eventually evolve into the lead combat and police units that would secure their own country. A US/NATO withdrawal deadline for the additional combat forces was set to pressure the Afghan leadership to take advantage of the surged troops, not as an internal US political concession to limit the further commitment to the war effort. This quest to seek a “tipping point” in the conflict drove coalition leaders to make decisions based on what was immediately “good enough” to maximize pressure on the enemy. Still, in many areas, it mortgaged the path to long-term military results for the Afghans.

There was also a further hope that during the troop surge, the Afghan government would be able to deliver services to the local populations creating additional pressure on the Taliban and other maligning influencers to reintegrate back into Afghan society enabling a political solution to end the war. This quest caused hundreds of millions of dollars to be spent supporting many Afghan government and development programs. Progress was somewhat measured through initiated projects, money paid, or equipment purchased. Predictably, each rotation of US/NATO forces tried to meet the overarching goal of supporting relatively short-term actions to end the war. It blinded coalition leaders to ignore the apparent fragility of the Afghan Government and its security forces, as documented in countless Inspector General reports. It has led to the moniker

of not fighting a twenty-year war but rather a twenty-one-year war. The US/NATO leadership was not purposely lying about progress. It was occurring; in fact, it was extraordinary in what was accomplished, but the pieces of all the parts never drove the results necessary because they were based on unrealistic timelines to reach some settled outcome.

Concurrently, it was easy to focus on the more substantial actions of removing bad actors from the battlefield rather than emphasizing the unresolved issues that conflicted with the clear implied message to produce immediate results. Ironically, efforts ramping up combat actions caused more civilian casualties and collateral damage despite remarkable efforts to prevent them, providing ample messaging opportunities for the Taliban to the local populations to not side with the Afghan Government but blame them for their tragedies.

Empty Leverage Over the Afghans

Why didn’t the advisors, including all the Generals and senior State Department officials, do more to push the Afghans to solve identifiable issues such as fictitious soldiers on their rosters (“ghost soldiers”)? They collectively tried but never had enough leverage to drive the Afghans to take steps or actions necessary to advance progress on a reasonable timeline. If there was some success, it was done through force of personality or personal relationships that were formed, but without real defined leverage.

In a deep sense of irony, during President Ghani’s final visit to the US, President Biden encouraged Ghani to reposition his security forces to protect Kabul. Ghani did not. The Afghan Army leadership was advised to move their troops off checkpoints for many years. There were checkpoints across Afghanistan, with small numbers of soldiers, and no matter how much pressure was exerted on the Afghan leadership to realign their forces to support



training cycles that focused on executing unit-size defensive or offensive operations, it rarely changed. Troops positioned at static checkpoints were easy targets for the Taliban. It should be of little surprise that conventional Afghan units were not independently becoming more combat effective regardless of all the advanced military equipment the US provided. At one point, certain metrics were established to reduce funding if specific actions were not accomplished. In reality, the financial penalties did not change their behavior and only provided additional excuses for the lack of Afghan progress.

There were lists of government and military officials suspected to be highly corrupt, but the Afghan bench to replace officials was not deep. When a change was made, the replacement was marginally better and perhaps worse in other critical areas, such as combat effectiveness. Between all the ethnic loyalties and layers of unknown issues that were going on in many cases, it took the full force of the four-star General or the Ambassador to focus all their energy on removing one Afghan official.

Our intelligence assets needed to focus more on our “partners,” meaning the critical Afghan government and military leaders, to remove the uncertainty of why essential guidance was not followed and determine their actual motivations. The immediate collapse of the Afghan Security Forces was no surprise to the Afghans, only to some of our advisors in Kabul, who were easy targets for wily Afghan leaders who knew what actions to take to guarantee their survival.

US/NATO Critical Vulnerability—Casualties

No matter the pressure to produce results, the US/NATO leadership in Afghanistan was cognizant of the impacts of casualties on the overall mission and took what eventually proved to be ill-advised steps to protect troops. These steps undermined the ability to drive the Taliban to settle the war. It was the US/NATO critical strategic vulnerability. The enemy was fully aware of how to influence our media reporting and the thoughts and opinions of those informed. The response to IEDs and suicide attacks reinforced a Forward Operating Base (FOB) mentality that kept us locked in, and separated from, the Afghan people and our partnered security forces.



In 2011, an Afghan Battalion Commander explained the local security situation to District leaders in Marjah, Afghanistan





A field filled with opium poppy plants can be seen 11 April 2012, in Marjah, Afghanistan. Heroin is derived from raw opium gum, which comes from opium poppies. US Marine Corps photo by Sgt Michael P. Snody.

The night belonged to the Taliban and other groups to threaten and take retribution against locals. Although some special forces effectively lived in local villages, it was not a large enough effort to make an appreciable difference. Over time, the effectiveness of the insider attacks slowed the advisor's efforts from spending meaningful periods with Afghan leaders to specific meeting times based on the support needed to have individual personal security details for coalition leaders.

The FOBs grew from a needed security requirement for fixed airstrips to full-blown stateside-like bases that went well past what was necessary for the mission creating counterproductive logistical and manpower requirements. It was uncomfortable when a US political leader visited Afghanistan and viewed the FOBs. Most assumed that most deployed servicemembers were living in somewhat austere living conditions. Not establishing expeditionary bases and mobile command posts similar to what was initially done during the early phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom was a monumental error. US forces could have constantly moved their locations to minimize the lack of fortress requirements. The FOBs made us a predictable force in location and daily routine, causing more casualties than they prevented. Focusing on being closer to the population centers in flexible locations would have increased our ability to be partnered with Afghan Security Forces, kept the focus on the mission, and provided a consistent present security environment for the local Afghans.

American Leadership Issues

Institutional leadership mores also played a role. Successful people often repeat what made them effective. One of the most misunderstood terms in recent military generations is "Micro-Manager." Leaders have been conditioned and trained to avoid this moniker at all costs. Our common military doctrine highlights the commander's intent and decentralized execution.

Afghanistan was an environment with the constant rotation of US/NATO forces; detailed guidance and consistent execution were vital to measurable progress. Not only did our advisors have to understand the Afghan systems they were advising, but their guidance also had to mirror the Afghan direction from Kabul. The situation required a different senior leadership style, demanding subordinates adhere to top-down systematic details and not allowing leaders to become sidetracked on unsustainable individual initiatives. The impact of not emphasizing a needed adjustment to the traditionally effective military leadership models led to each level of command approaching Afghan advising issues in distinctly diverse ways. A hierarchal enforced approach supporting Afghan-led processes would have better-driven continuity especially related to Afghan maintenance and supply requirements, the conduct of special operations, and, most critically, tracking personnel-related issues such as the actual number of Afghan Security Forces and the payment system.

Failure to Eradicate the Poppy Crops

At the operational level, the one decision under US State Department control that should have been more seriously revisited was the rationale for not directly eradicating the poppy crops. It was one of the biggest blunders of the war effort, providing unlimited funding lines to an assortment of unsavory characters, reinforcing the sustainment of criminal networks, and was a financial mainstay of the insurgency.

The logic not to eradicate the poppy was directly based on not wanting the local farmers to turn



A US Air Force C-17 Globemaster III safely transported 823 Afghan citizens from Hamid Karzai International Airport, 15 August 2021. US Air Force courtesy photo.

against the coalition forces, but legal substitute crops could have been provided. It would have been less lucrative and would have taken time and resources to implement. However, not doing something about the exponential growth of poppies created a spiraling effect that corruptly touched every part of Afghan society and was the engine at every level that drove opposition to the Government of Afghanistan.

A Failed Mission

The stabilization of Afghanistan was unresolvable without Afghan multi-generational change. The lack of clear US leadership across multiple administrations to consistently work together to inform the American public that sustainable progress with a minimal force of military and contractors needed to be measured, not in months or years, but decades, and why a commitment to Afghanistan was in our long-term security interests beyond preventing another terrorist attack in the US.

This lack of clarity led to a vacuum, and support for the efforts in Afghanistan inexcusably developed into a partisan political issue. Sidelined in the debate was the reality of what ending our participation in Afghanistan would mean to those millions of Afghans, particularly Afghan women who benefitted and supported the fledgling government, the future stability of the region and US credibility worldwide, the utter waste of billions of dollars to include future VA costs, the loss of equipment to terrorist networks, or the reaction of many US Afghanistan veterans and their families who are left trying to understand the meaning of those that gave the ultimate sacrifice or face the realities of the hardships of enduring injuries.

Without accountability for not “winning” the war in Afghanistan and the ultimate disastrous withdrawal, it is hard to measure the true impact on our future military and civilian leadership and what lessons have been learned. A past generation of Vietnam Veterans warned of the results of supporting a government in which the US wanted success more than the host



country on our timelines and not understanding the complexities involved with how the word “partnership” was defined.

Will we listen now? ★

Editor's Note: Brigadier General Paul Lebidine had a 33-year career in the Marine Corps. He retired in 2017. His last billet was the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division. He served three one-year tours in Iraq, mainly as an Advisor. He served two one-year tours in Afghanistan. In 2011, he was in charge of Stability Operations in Helmand Province. In 2015, he served in Kabul as the Director of Expeditionary Advising in areas without NATO/US partnered forces on the ground. He is currently the Commander of the MOWW BG Holland Chapter.





Memorandum of Agreement with the Pershing Rifles Group



HPM CHARLES W. BENNETT JR.

HISTORIAN GENERAL MOWW | VIRGINIA PIEDMONT CHAPTER, VA



On 11 March 2023, during the Pershing Rifle National Convention (NATCON), the Military Order of the World Wars signed a new Memorandum of Agreement with the Pershing Rifles Group. The new Memorandum of Agreement expands the level of cooperation between the MOWW and the Pershing Rifles Group, ensuring that the mutual interests of both organizations are better served with a closer relationship that mutually increases the capacity to achieve the goals and objectives of both great organizations.



Each year, Pershing Riflemen, Pershing Angels and Blackjacks, past and present, as well as guests, friends, and supporters, gather for the annual convention. The 2023 Pershing Rifles National Convention and Pershing Angels General Assembly took place in Chantilly, VA (just outside of Washington, DC) from 9-12 March 2023.

The Pershing Rifles Group (PRG) is an umbrella organization bringing together the entire Pershing family of organizations into a cooperative community. The Pershing Rifles Group coordinates resources for the Pershing family of organizations. Member organizations include the National Society of Pershing Rifles, National Society of Pershing Rifles Alumni Association (NSPRAA), National Society of Pershing Angels, National Society of Blackjacks and The Pershing Foundation.

The mission of the Pershing Rifles Group is to provide advice, assistance, and support to their partnered and member organizations and mutually support one another and their various missions.



Top: The National Society of Pershing Angels' National Commander, COL Antonette Rainey, David M Bornn Jr. Chairman, Pershing Rifles Group, and MOWW's Commander-in-Chief LTC (Dr) Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret) and Chief of Staff Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret).

Center: Chairman, Pershing Rifles Group, David M Bornn Jr. and MOWW's Commander-in-Chief LTC (Dr) Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret) sign the new Memorandum of Agreement.

Lower left: The MOWW Northern Virginia and BG BULTMAN Chapters presented a \$2,000 donation to the Pershing Rifles Foundation. Jimmy Reaves, Chief Executive Officer, The Pershing Rifles Group, COL Paul Wharton, USA (Ret), Chairman Pershing Rifles Foundation, MOWW's Commander-in-Chief LTC (Dr) Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret), and Chief of Staff Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret).





The National Society of Pershing Rifles is a military-oriented, national honor society. Originally founded in 1894 as a special drill unit at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the Pershing Rifles are the oldest continuously operating US collegiate organization dedicated to military drill. Originally named “Varsity Rifles,” members renamed the organization in honor of their mentor and patron, then- Lieutenant John J. Pershing, upon his departure from the university in 1895. These cadets represented the best their battalion had to offer. They each took pride in themselves and each other as Pershing Riflemen. They set an example for others to follow and maintained a level of professionalism and discipline that their peers quickly emulated.

The Pershing Rifles became a National organization in 1928, expanding to include several other universities, with companies consisting of drill teams as well as tactical units. Together, these units form what is known today as the National Society of Pershing Rifles.

Ultimately, the National Society of Pershing Rifles aims to develop, to the highest degree possible, outstanding traits of leadership, military science, military bearing, and discipline within the institution of higher education.

The men and women who have had the honor to wear the Pershing Rifles cord have distinguished themselves as Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen—and have gone on to lead successful careers in the military, public, and private sectors. The skills they learned as members of the Pershing Rifles helped prepare them for success in life, whether in service to their country or community.



The National Society of Pershing Rifles Alumni Association (NSPRAA) is home to the Alumni membership Division of the Pershing Rifles Fraternal Military Organization. As the oldest collegiate based Military Fraternal Organization, they continue to work through Alumni Units and At Large membership. They facilitate opportunities to re-connect and continue to share in the bonds of friendship and brotherhood espoused during our undergraduate years, and to assist the undergraduate division of the Pershing Rifles, in the accomplishment of its missions.



The National Society of Pershing Angels was founded at Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD, on 9 February 1965, as the sister unit to the National Society of Pershing Rifles. Other coed affiliates of Pershing Rifles formed across the nation during the early 60s. The National Society of Pershing Angels fosters a spirit of friendship and cooperation among the women in the military department and maintains a highly efficient drill company.



The National Society of Blackjacks is the nation’s premier high school honor society dedicated to leadership development in JROTC and military school cadets. An extension of the National Society of Pershing Rifles, the Blackjacks are devoted to the same principles of leadership, academic scholarship, and military excellence espoused by the Pershing Rifles and its patron, General of the Armies of the United States, John J. Pershing.

The National Society of Blackjacks provides students with hands-on leadership experience in a challenging and rewarding environment through precision and exhibition drill and ceremony. The student-led, cadre-supervised companies are at the program’s core and provide cadets with additional leadership opportunities beyond the typical JROTC curriculum.



The Pershing Foundation is a non-profit, volunteer-based public charity established by alums of the National Society of Pershing Rifles. They uphold the founding core values of leadership and discipline. As the Foundation grows, so will the program outreach. They are dedicated to helping the next generation of American leaders achieve their full potential. The foundation provides scholarships and grants for both high school and college students to partake in superior and prestigious leadership programming that will equip them for success and changing our world. We financially support cadets of Pershing Rifles, the National Society of Blackjacks, and Pershing Angels. As with all the PRG, they honor and instill the teachings, values, and leadership skills of General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

<https://www.thepershingfoundation.org/> ★





**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**



*** MOWW ***
MILITARY ORDER
OF THE WORLD WARS

MOWW Announces Association Partnership with AUSA

MOWW Membership Benefits Now Includes AUSA Membership

MOWW looks for ways to deliver more value to our members, expand our impact through alliances and strategic partnerships and increase the visibility of the Order. To this end, we're proud to announce that all MOWW Companions now have access to the membership benefits of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

MOWW has joined with AUSA as an Association Partner to bring our Members best-in-class resources at no additional cost to Companions or the Order. Since 1950, AUSA has supported the military community with professional development programs and educational resources as well as access to industry supporters across the country. Now our Companions have access to their exclusive membership benefits, including:

- Employment assistance through AUSA Jobs Central with a free resume critique.
- Access to AUSA scholarships - more than \$300,000 each year.
- Free ACT/SAT Test Prep materials for your kids or grandkids.
- A legal document service for both individuals and small businesses.
- Discounts on travel, dining, entertainment, healthcare, and more services and products offered by dozens of AUSA affinity partners.
- Exclusive pricing for professional development and networking opportunities, including national and international warfare expos, as well as digital courses and events.

AUSA is helping to build the next-generation military community through programming that prioritizes education and connection among those who are serving and have served. While AUSA's primary mission is Army-focused, this program and these benefits are available to all Companions, regardless of their military service branch affiliation.

MOWW Companions will receive an e-mail from the HQ; if you prefer not to be included in this new MOWW member benefits program, you may opt-out by responding to this MOWW HQ E-mail. In a few weeks, you will receive a message directly from AUSA with your member number and further details about your new benefits. <https://www.ausa.org/membership/basic>

**We hope you find great value in the benefits
provided to MOWW Companions
by our partnership with AUSA.**



2023-24 National Officer Candidates

IPCINC BGEN FREDERICK R. LOPEZ, USMCR (RET)
CHAIR, MOWW NOMINATING COMMITTEE

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED OFFICE (To Date)



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:

BG Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret)

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:

Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)

VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (4):

CAPT Deborah A. Dombeck, USCG (Ret)
Region VIII

CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret)
Region VI

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)
Region XIII

COL Loren A. Weeks, USA (Ret)
Region III

Note: the MOWW Constitution [Article V, Section 2, Paragraph A.2], states, "Four each, with no two of whom coming from any one region."

TREASURER GENERAL:

Col Jerry E. Knotts, USAF (Ret)

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL:

CPT Harold Greenberg, JD, USA (Fmr)

SURGEON GENERAL:

CPT (Dr) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Fmr)

CHAPLAIN GENERAL:

LTC Victor W. Burnette, USA (Ret)

HISTORIAN GENERAL:

HPM Charles W. Bennett Jr.

"IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE"

VOLUNTEER AS A CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

The MOWW National Convention will be held 1-6 August 2023 in Annapolis, Maryland. Every Companion can fulfill the promise of MOWW's motto, "It is nobler to serve than to be served," by running for an elected leadership role or by volunteering for an appointed position. Become a candidate for national elected or appointed office!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Companions: please email the following Companions with your candidacy preference.

Remember: if you're running for elected office, you need a nominating official!

• Chair, Nominating Committee

IPCINC BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)

Email: flopez23@cox.net

• Vice Chair, Nominating Committee

PCINC LTC Charles S. Chamberlin, Jr., USA (Ret)

Email: a_cchamberlin@mygrandecom.net



MOWW Election Process

LTC WILLIAM RAPP, USA (RET)

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER | CONVENTION CO-SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Every year at Convention, there seems to be some confusion on the exact procedure for the election of our National Officers. It is hoped that this article will lay to rest some of that confusion.

Just as the responsibility for a National Office should not be taken lightly, the responsibility of voting for these National Officers should also not be taken lightly.

It is the responsibility of each chapter Commander to see that his chapter is represented at the convention. He or she can do that by making sure that a MOWW Form 22, available on the Companion Only section on our website, moww.org, is properly filled out and signed by the Chapter Commander.

This form authorizes a delegate to attend the nominating committee session at convention and to vote for the national officers. This is the only delegate authorized to vote. This document must be hand carried to the convention and presented to the Nominating Committee desk in the registration area at convention. The delegate will then be given a packet with a number on it. This packet is your entrance ticket to the voting session which will be held on Friday, 4 August, at 9:30 AM. Prior to the voting session will be the National Candidate Presentation session at 8:00 AM which will be open to all convention attendees. The delegate voting session at 9:30 will only be open to those delegates possessing the numbered packet.

At the end of the Candidate Presentation Session, the room will be completely cleared of all personnel and the room doors will be locked. One door will open and only the delegates with

the numbered packets will be allowed to re-enter. Their names will be checked off and verified from a master list by the Sergeant-at-Arms. Once inside, the doors will then be locked and the official nominating will begin. If you have been asked by one of the National Candidates to either do a nominating speech or a seconding speech it is very important that you make sure that you are waiting outside of the room and available at the beginning of the meeting which begins at 9:30 AM on Friday, 4 August. If you are not present when your name is called by the Sergeant-at-Arms and not able to give either the nominating or seconding speech, your candidate will not be able to be put up for election.

Under no circumstances are you to open the envelopes at any time unless instructed by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Inside each envelope are ballots to be used only if a contested position exists for one of the national offices. The election will proceed from the top down, namely from Commander-in-Chief down to Historian General. If there are no contested elections, the completed slate of national officers will be voted on by acclamation to be presented to the general session of the convention. At this point, the chairman of the nominating committee will instruct all delegates to pass their unopened envelopes to the isles to be collected by the Sergeant-at-Arms. No envelopes are to leave the room. The chairman of the nominating committee will then close the meeting and the delegates will be dismissed. The following day at the General session, the slate of officers elected by the nominating committee will be presented to the general session for official election for the 2023-24 term of office. ★

Each chapter shall be entitled to two (2) delegates-at-large and one additional delegate for every twenty-five (25) members or major fraction thereof, in good standing as of the prior 30 June, in addition to the General Staff members. A member may represent but one chapter. Proxies shall not be allowed. A duly-accredited alternate may attend and vote in the absence of a delegate.





Proposed Constitution & Bylaws Amendments

SVCINC BG VICTOR S. PÉREZ, USA (RET)
CHAIR, CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

In keeping with the MOWW Constitution (Article VIII, Section 3) and MOWW Bylaws (Article IX, Section 3), the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendments to these documents for consideration by all Companions of the Order. The Committee recommends their adoption and expressly presents them for consideration by, and the vote of, the Delegates to the MOWW Convention to be held in Annapolis, MD, in August 2023.

1. Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Article V, Section 5

- a. Current Language: SECTION 5. Department Commander. Department commanders with less than two chapters within their respective area will be appointed by the region commander and will take office prior to 1 July of each year. All other department commanders, i.e., those departments with two or more chapters, will be elected by their chapters.
- b. Proposed Language: SECTION 5. Department Commander. All department commanders will be elected by their subordinate chapters.
- c. Rationale: The section as currently written is inconsistent with Article III, Section 1, Paragraph A, which states that Departments must have two (2) or more chapters. Therefore, there is no requirement to elect or appoint Department Commanders with less than two (2) chapters.
- d. Submitted by: PCINC COL Clay C. Le Grande, Jr., USA (Ret)

2. Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Article II, Section 1, Paragraph B and Paragraph F

- a. Current Language: SECTION 1. B. Perpetual Membership. Perpetual Membership is open to Regular, Hereditary and Senior members, to former members in the first two classes or to qualified new members desiring to join the Order, upon contributing the sum prescribed in the Bylaws to the Perpetual and Memorial Membership Fund through the National Headquarters. New members will be exempt from all annual dues for the fiscal year in which they join the Order through Perpetual Membership, and all Perpetual Members will be exempt from future annual dues in perpetuity.
- b. Proposed Language: SECTION 1. B. Perpetual Membership. Perpetual Membership is open to Regular, Hereditary and Senior members, to former members in the first two classes, or to qualified new members desiring to join the Order, upon contributing the sum prescribed in the Policy Manual to the Perpetual and Memorial Membership Fund through the National Headquarters. New members



will be exempt from all annual dues for the fiscal year in which they join the Order through Perpetual Membership, and all Perpetual Members will be exempt from future annual dues in perpetuity.

- c. Current Language: SECTION 1. F. Memorial Perpetual Membership. Memorial Perpetual Membership may be conferred upon a deceased officer who was a member of the Order at the time of their death, upon a deceased officer who was eligible for such membership but was not a member at the time of their death, or upon a citizen eligible for Hereditary Membership at the time of their death. Upon nomination by a chapter of the Order and upon Headquarters MOWW's receipt of a contribution to the Perpetual and Memorial Membership Fund in the sum prescribed in the Bylaws, the name of such member will be inscribed in the records of the Order as a Memorial Perpetual Member.
- d. Proposed Language: SECTION 1. F. Memorial Perpetual Membership. Memorial Perpetual Membership may be conferred upon a deceased officer who was a member of the Order at the time of their death, upon a deceased officer who was eligible for such membership but was not a member at the time of their death, or upon a citizen eligible for Hereditary Membership at the time of their death. Upon nomination by a chapter of the Order and upon Headquarters MOWW's receipt of a contribution to the Perpetual and Memorial Membership Fund in the sum prescribed in the Policy Manual, the name of such member will be inscribed in the records of the Order as a Memorial Perpetual Member.
- e. Rationale: These paragraphs, as currently written, refer you to where a procedure is located, not the amount to be collected. By moving all dues to a comprehensive schedule in the policy manual, all dues amounts can be quickly found without referring to other documents. This schedule of dues should contain member class, authority, dues amount.
- f. Submitter: PCINC COL Clay C. Le Grande, Jr., USA (Ret)

3. Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Article V, Section 1, Paragraph K

- a. Current Language: SECTION 1. K. General Staff Officers (at least five, but no more than 10, Appointed).
- b. Proposed Language: Section 1. K. General Staff Officers (Currently Appointed).
- c. Rationale: Article V, Section 2, Paragraph B states that the CINC & SVCINC may appoint not more than 10 General Staff Officers for their term. No minimum number is specified, so there could be zero currently appointed. Changing Paragraph K, as proposed, covers GSO appointments from 0 to 10 as National Officers.
- d. Submitter: PCINC COL Clay C. Le Grande, Jr., USA (Ret)

4. Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Article VII, Section 4. Soliciting Funds and Accepting Gifts.

- a. Current Language:
 - A. No Chapter, Department, National Officer, or member of the Order will solicit funds in the name of the Order without first securing the approval of the General Staff.
 - B. No restricted gift may be accepted and made an obligation of the Order except by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the entire General Staff. The vote in such cases may be taken by mail or email ballot.
- b. Proposed Language:
 - A. No Chapter, Department, National Officer, or member of the Order will solicit funds in the name of the Order without first securing the approval of the EXCOM.
 - B. No restricted gift may be accepted and made an obligation of the Order unless it does not violate the Constitution of the Order and is approved by the EXCOM.



C. The vote in such cases may be taken by mail or email ballot.

c. Rationale: The current prohibition of Article V, Section 4, precludes the Order from making any solicitation for the Good of the Order as well as chapters, departments, and National Officers (which includes the CINC). The requirement of a vote by the General Staff at Convention limits the opportunities of the Order to take advantage of donations within the Operation Year, therefore losing the intent of having the donation, which most are time driven (sensitive) and, if not accepted, will most likely be authorized to an organization ready to move in favor of the offer. It is a matter of seizing the opportunity.

d. Submitter: SVCINC BG Victor Pérez, USA (Ret)

5. Proposed MOWW Bylaws Amendment to Article I, Section 8.

a. Current Language: SECTION 8. Memorial Membership. The contribution for a Memorial Membership in Perpetuity shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00 US), payable to the Military Order of the World Wars.

b. Proposed Language: SECTION 8. Memorial Membership. The contribution for a Memorial Membership in Perpetuity shall be two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00 US), payable to the Military Order of the World Wars.

c. Rationale: This amendment proposes an increase of \$50.00 in the contribution requirement of a Memorial Membership in Perpetuity. The costs to operate the Order have increased substantially and the required revenue to operate the Order has not kept pace. While I could not determine the date that the memorial membership amount was established, it is estimated to have been in place for more than 12 years.

d. Submitter: Chief of Staff, Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)

6. Proposed MOWW Bylaws Amendment to Article I, Section 4, Paragraph A

a. Current Language: SECTION 4. A. The amounts of the one-time contributions of Perpetual Members (including Hereditary Perpetual Members) shall be established by the National Convention upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the General Staff and published in the MOWW Convention Book.

b. Proposed Language: SECTION 4. A. The amounts of the one-time contributions of Perpetual Members (including Hereditary Perpetual Members) shall be established by the National Convention upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the General Staff and published in the MOWW Policy Manual.

c. Rationale: This change simply alters the requirement to publish the General Staff established Perpetual Membership (PM) contribution amounts in the MOWW Policy Manual vice the MOWW Convention Book (Almanac). This change aligns with Bylaws Article I, Section 2, Payment of Regular (Annual) Membership (RM) Dues, which establishes the requirement to publish the RM dues in the MOWW Policy Manual. The MOWW Almanac, formally the Convention Book, is published annually prior to the execution of the upcoming national convention. The requirement to publish the PM contribution in the Convention Book means that any changes approved by the General Staff will not be published until the following year.

d. Submitter: Chief of Staff, Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)



...CONTINUED PAGE 18



The MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Committee considered the following three proposed amendments but did not recommend them for consideration and a vote by the Delegates to the MOWW Convention to be held in Annapolis, MD, in August 2023. Although not recommended IAW MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Article VIII, the proposed amendments may again be proposed from the floor during the next annual convention.

1. Proposed MOWW Bylaws Amendment to Article 1, Section 9, Paragraph A, Subparagraph 1)

- a. Current Language: Each “sub-element” (in IRS parlance) of the Military Order (the “parent organization”) with an EIN or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) shall conform to the requirements for tax-exempt status under the provisions of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code 501(c)(19).
- b. Proposed Language: Each “sub-element” (in IRS parlance) of the Military Order (the “parent organization”) with an EIN or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) shall conform to the requirements for tax-exempt status under the provisions of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code 501(c)(3).
- c. Rationale: The Order has changed its IRS classification to a 501(c)(3). This change is made to conform to the Order’s change in status.
- d. Submitter: CINC LTC (DR) Michael A. Okin, USA (Ret)
- e. The committee’s decision:
 - The proposed amendment was considered not justified. As of 15 March 2023, the stated rationale that the Order has changed its IRS classification to a 501(C)(3) is not valid.
 - To date the IRS Compliance Committee has not submitted a complete report to the Top-8 and the EXCOM for its approval and subsequent forwarding to the National Convention for final acceptance.

2. Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph A

- a. Current Language: A. The MOWW Convention will meet annually at such places and dates as approved by the General Staff. Each chapter will be entitled to two (2) delegates-at-large and one additional delegate for every twenty-five (25) Members or a major fraction thereof, in good standing as of the prior 30 June, in addition to the General Staff members. A member may only represent one chapter. Proxies will not be allowed. A duly accredited alternate may attend and vote in the absence of a delegate.
- b. Proposed Language: A. The MOWW Convention will meet annually at such places and dates as approved by the Executive Committee. Each chapter will be entitled to two (2) delegates-at-large and one additional delegate for every twenty-five (25) Members or major fraction thereof, in good standing as of the prior 30 June, in addition to the General Staff members. A member may only represent one chapter. Proxies will not be allowed. A duly accredited alternate may attend and vote in the absence of a delegate.
- c. Rationale: This change simply alters the requirement of the General Staff to vote on the “places and dates” of the Annual Convention. Currently, Host Chapters and/or Regions are required to wait for approval in August before they can commence signing a contract with a new venue for a future Convention. The new language will alleviate the delay and allow the EXCOM to approve the locations and dates in a more rapid fashion, thus continuing the Order’s forward progress.
- d. Submitter: Chief of Staff, Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)
- e. The committee’s decision:
 - The proposed amendment was considered not justified since all prohibitions are covered in Article VII of the Constitution, therefore no need to change Article IV.



- It is the opinion of the committee that Article IV, Sect. 1, Para. A does not preclude the EXCOM from deciding the future date/location of future National Conventions.
- In addition. Article VI, Section 3, Para B reads:
 - B. The Executive Committee (EXCOM/MOWW, Inc., Board of Directors) will have full power and authority to manage the business of the Order, to include making decisions required of the General Staff between the General Staff's meetings, except for the following:
 - 1) Incurring an obligation (Article VIII, Section 2, Para A.). 2) Creating a loan (Article VIII, Section 2, Para B.).
- The amendment would be redundant to prohibitions already stated in the Constitution.

3. Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Article II, SECTION 1, Paragraph A.

- a. Current Language: A. Regular Membership. Regular membership is open to a citizen of the United States of America of good moral character and repute who has served honorably on Active Duty, to include Active Duty for Training, in the Armed Forces of the United States of America (Active, Guard, Reserve), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) as a Federally-recognized Commissioned, Flight or Warrant Officer during the period 6 April 1917 to the present, or to such later date as may be determined by the Order during a National Convention.
- b. Proposed Language: A. Regular Membership. Regular membership is open to citizens of the United States of America of good moral character and repute who have served honorably on Active Duty, to include Active Duty for Training, in the Armed Forces of the United States of America (Active, Guard, Reserve), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), or the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) as Federally-recognized Commissioned, Flight or Warrant Officers, and United States citizens with veteran status based on service for the United States who have served as Commissioned, Flight or Warrant Officers in a state-authorized Militia unit, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary or a Civil Air Patrol unit, during the period 6 April 1917 to the present, or to a such later date as may be determined by the Order during a National Convention.
- c. Rationale: By adopting this amendment, the Order would make available Regular Membership to veterans who have also served as officers in state Militia units or the Coast Guard Auxiliary or Civil Air Patrol. This will serve to increase the number of veterans in the Order in fulfillment of the percentage requirements of the Internal Revenue Code and assist in reversing the trend of aging and declining membership. Importantly, the veterans in this new category will have had similar experiences and responsibilities to traditional Regular Members, and opening membership to them will recognize the contributions and important public services they have rendered. In considering this proposal, it is important to remember that many of our founding members had served as officers or enlisted personnel in state militia formations before being commissioned in the then-newly organized National Guard or in Federal service.
- d. Submitter: COL (MA) Lawrence A. Willwerth, (Ret)
- e. The committee's decision:
 - The subject of membership is currently being studied by the Membership *Ad Hoc* Committee, which will be submitting its findings and recommendations to the National Convention, if not this year, most certainly the next.
 - Conferring an Officer Rank in State Militias is not constant in all US States.
 - The Committee will forward the amendment to the Membership *Ad Hoc* Committee.



AGENDA FOR THE 103RD MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION



2023 MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION • ANNAPOLIS, MD
“Setting Course to the Future”

Crown Plaza Annapolis Hotel 173 Jenifer Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 Hotel: 410-266-3131
 Visit <https://moww.org/convention/> for more information

Tuesday, 1 August 2023 Dress: Casual				
TIME	EVENT	SET-UP	LOCATION	ATTENDEES
0800-1030	Pre-Convention EXCOM Breakfast	(Conference, 15)	Montgomery	EXCOM Members
0800-1600	GOLF OUTING & LUNCH	Walden Country Club, Crofton, MD		ALL Golfers
1400-1600	Council of Area Commanders (CAC)	(Classroom, 40)	Queen Ann	CAC, CINC, SVCINC, CS
Wednesday, 2 August 2023 Dress: Casual				
0900-1600	TOUR 1: HISTORIC ANNAPOLIS and US NAVAL ACADEMY			ALL ATTENDEES
1600-1700	MOWW History Presentation	(Banquet, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1700-1800	Hann-Buswell Chapter Meeting	(Classroom, 60)	Queen Ann	All Attendees
1800-2100	CINC Welcome Buffet	(Banquet, 175)	Arundel	All Attendees
Thursday, 3 August 2023 Dress: Casual (Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter Dinner: Mess Dress)				
0730-0930	Council of Past CINC's Breakfast	(Conference, 15)	Montgomery	CPC/CINC/SVCINC/CS
0800-0930	New Chapter Commanders Forum	(Classroom, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1000-1730	TOUR 2: DAY ON THE BAY			ALL ATTENDEES
1000-1115	MOWW Strategic Plan Brief	(Classroom, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1115-1130	National YLC Ad Hoc Committee Update	(Classroom, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1130-1300	LUNCH AS DESIRED			
1300-1400	Digital Marketing & Social Media	(Classroom, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1415-1515	Membership & Naming Ad Hoc Committee Update	(Classroom, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1530-1700	Commander's Call	(Classroom, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1800-2100	Hann-Buswell Chapter Dinner	(Banquet, 60)	Queen Ann	H-B Chap Members
	DINNER AS DESIRED			
Friday, 4 August 2023 Business Casual				
0800-0930	National Candidate Presentations	(Banquet, 125)	Queen Ann	All Attendees
0930-1100	Teller Meeting	(Box Square, 20)	Montgomery	Tellers
0930-1100	National Delegate Voting	(Banquet, 125)	Queen Ann	Nom Cmte Del
0930-1500	TOUR 3: HOMES OF THE SIGNERS			ALL Available
1130-1330	MOWW Awards Luncheon	(Banquet, 175)	Arundel	All Attendees
1415-1500	Patriotic Education Committee Meeting	(Banquet, 30)	Arundel	All Available
1415-1500	PS/L&O Committee Mtg	(Banquet, 30)	Queen Ann	All Available
1415-1500	Scouting Committee Meeting	(Classroom, 30)	Prince George	All Available
1515-1600	Homeland & National Security Mtgs	(Banquet, 30)	Queen Ann	All Available
1515-1600	ROTC Committee Meeting	(Banquet, 30)	Arundel	All Available
1515-1600	Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting	(Classroom, 30)	Prince George	All Available
1615-1700	Information & Publicity Meeting	(Banquet, 30)	Arundel	All Available
	DINNER AS DESIRED			
Saturday, 5 August 2023 Business Casual (CINC Banquet: Mess Dress/Tuxedo)				
0730-0830	MOWW Memorial Service	(Classroom, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
0900-1130	Convention Business Session I	(Banquet, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1130-1300	LUNCH AS DESIRED			
1230-1400	TOUR 4: THOMAS POINT SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE CRUISE			ALL AVAILABLE
1300-1600	Convention Business Session II	(Banquet, 125)	Arundel	All Attendees
1600-1645	Non-Denominational Worship Service	(Classroom, 125)	Queen Ann	All Attendees
1730-1800	National Officer Photos	(Reception, 15)	(TBD)	CPC/CINC/VCINC/CS
1800-1850	CINC Reception	(Reception, 175)	Banquet Foyer	All Attendees
1900-2100	CINC Banquet	(Banquet, 175)	Arundel	All Attendees
Sunday, 6 August 2023 Dress Casual				
0800-1130	Post-Convention EXCOM Breakfast	(Conference 15)	Montgomery	EXCOM Members
0800-1130	EXCOM Spouse/Partner Breakfast	(Ovals 15)	Prince George	Spouses/Partners





MOWW Annual Golf Outing

Tee time 8:30 am, Tuesday, 1 August
Cost is \$55 per golfer
Lunch is on the Meade Chapter in the Country Club.
Walden Country Club in Crofton, Maryland
<https://www.waldencountryclub.com/>

Tours



2023 MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION • ANNAPOLIS MD



Tour 1: Historic Annapolis and the US Naval Academy (Wednesday, 2 Aug 2023, 0900-1600)

Enjoy the rich stories of historic Annapolis, the Maryland State House, and the US Naval Academy. Stops in Annapolis include the Maryland State House, homes of three signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the United States Naval Academy. At the Academy, you will also see the Visitor Center, gift shop, chapel, John Paul Jones' crypt, and the Preble Museum. Lunch will be provided at the Naval Academy Club.

Cost/person: \$99



Tour 2: Day on the Bay (Thursday, 3 Aug 2023, 1000-1730)

Cruise across the Chesapeake Bay to historic St. Michael's on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This quaint historic village offers fresh seafood, boutique shopping, and historical landmarks all within walking distance during your approximately 3 hours ashore. Highlights include admission to the wonderful Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, amazing views of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and St. Michael's charming main street. Lunch as desired in St. Michael's.

Cost/person: \$90



Tour 3: Homes of the Signers Tour (Friday, 4 Aug 2023, 0930-1500)

Join us on a walking tour of three historic homes in downtown Annapolis: the William Paca House and Garden, the Hammond-Harwood House, and the Chase-Lloyd Home. Each home was once lived in by a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and each has been restored to its original state from the mid-1700s. Lunch will be provided at the Galway Bay Irish Pub.

Cost/person: \$45



Tour 4: Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse & Chesapeake Bay Boat Cruise (Saturday, 5 Aug 2023, 1230-1400)

Built in 1875, the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse is the last screw-pile lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay still in its original location. It is located one-and-a-half miles offshore at the mouth of the South River. Enjoy a 1.5-hour boat ride around the Lighthouse and the amazing views of the Chesapeake Bay!

Cost/person: \$45



Water

CPT ROBERT E. MALLIN, MD, USA (FMR)
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

Water is so precious and ubiquitous that we take it for granted. Be it from outer space or our own atmosphere--we couldn't do without it. Our cells, organs, and life depend on water.

Some rules: drink four or five 6-ounce glasses of room-temperature water each morning, 45 minutes before eating. You can start with only 1-2 glasses and gradually increase the amount.

The adage "8 glasses a day" is no longer valid. Think about your weight in pounds and divide that number by 2. That's how many ounces of water you should drink a day. Drink 17 to 20 ounces a couple of hours before exercising. And 8 ounces of water before you warm up and 8 ounces after you finish. Rehydrate with 8 ounces of fluid during workouts every 10 to 20 minutes. Coffee and other beverages also count.

Swimming is the most basic of exercises for anyone. It's a full-body workout for the heart, limbs, and core muscles all at once. Even an "easy" swim can burn up to 500 calories an hour. In exercise and therapy, it promotes health and longevity. Swimming is ideal, but many of us are limited by other issues. Here are some factors to consider.

Pool therapy helps in many ways: The increased warmth allows muscles to relax while easing joint pain and helping your exercise. The water supports your weight and increases your range of motion while increasing resistance.

Regular participation in water aerobics or exercises helps your heart and cardiovascular strength. The water helps circulate the blood in your body efficiently. In water, calories burn faster and more effectively than on land, boosting metabolism and leading to weight loss, stronger muscles, leaner

physique, and higher stamina and fitness, as well as mental health benefits.

What is the best temperature for aqua fitness? For most, ideally, water temperatures are between 83 F and 88 F. Older people, and children prefer a warmer pool. Seniors should not work out in pools that are too cold. In "therapy pools," temperatures are usually up to 90 F. Adjust the temperature so that it is best for the oldest people without being uncomfortably warm for others.

How long is a good pool workout? Just 30 minutes of walking and stretching three times per week can boost your energy level by increasing your metabolic rate. And you are exercising without a sweat.

Try any of the following water exercises but be aware of safety. These, and many other exercise videos demonstrating water exercises may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@fitmotivation-poolfit-videos/featured>

These are just a few of the many exercises recommended: Water Walking • Flutter Kicks • Leg Lifts • Leg Swings • Standing Push-up • Arm Curls • Arm pull-ups • Chest Fly • Calf Raises.

Exercises should be in water at least waist deep, not over your shoulders. Never exercise alone in a pool. Pushing yourself too far can lead to injury, pain, and less progress. Talk to your doctor before beginning any exercise program.

Plan on four to five days per week. Pool exercises for seniors are a fun way to get moving and a great way to socialize while feeling invigorated and minimizing stress.

Be well. ★



God's Infinite Power

LCDR DEBRA F. ROGERS, ED.D., USN (RET)
 CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

“And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.”

—EXODUS 14-21:22

Lately, there seems to be gloom and doom postulated across news feeds and social media. Very few positive and uplifting stories make it to Prime Time. However, despite all the negativity, God's infinite power still reigns supreme. As we look around us, we see the beauty and grandeur of the world He created. Every blade of grass, every leaf of a tree, every bird in the sky, and every human being are all a testament to God's infinite power and wisdom. The Bible is full of stories about God's boundless power. One such example resides in the book of Genesis, where we read about the creation of the world. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis,1:1). The verse reminds us that everything we see around us, including the sun, moon, stars, and planets, was all created by God.

Another example is seen in the story of Moses and the Israelites. When the Israelites were trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian Army, Moses called upon God, and He parted the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to crossover safely, as stated in Exodus 14-21:22.

Similarly, God's power can be found in Job. Job was a righteous man who loved God and obeyed his commandments. But one day, the enemy came to God and challenged him, purporting that Job loved him only because he had been blessed with prosperity. God allowed the enemy to test Job. Job lost everything, but remained faithful to God despite his circumstances. In the end, God restored everything back to Job and blessed him even more than before.

Job's story reinforces that God's power is not just about overcoming obstacles or performing miracles, but also sustaining us through trials and hardships. Even though we may not understand the suffering, gloom, and doom, we can trust that God's infinite power and love to carry us through. As children of God, we have access to HIS infinite power. As we read in Ephesians 3:20, Now to him who can do immeasurably more than we can even ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us. His power is not something to observe from a distance, but it's in each one of us. Time to tap into this power and change the narrative. ★





Dallas Chapter, TX

Free Legal Representation

BY LTC DON B. MUNSON, USA (RET), COMMANDER, EMERITUS

Since 2014, the Dallas Chapter has helped low-income veterans and their families receive free legal representation for legal issues and VA benefits.

Since 2018, Perpetual Companion MAJ John C. Van Buskirk, USA (Ret), has assisted the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) veterans' legal clinics and has served as co-chair of the Veterans Outreach Subcommittee of the Pro Bono Activities Committee of the Dallas Bar Association. The Veterans clinic is the largest DVAP legal clinic in Texas, each month serving as many as 79 veterans and family members. DVAP volunteers provide advice and full representation in a variety of cases, including family, housing, employment, landlord-tenant, real property, consumer, wills, expunctions and non-disclosures, probate, Chapter 7 bankruptcy, small business issues, veteran's benefits, and more. DVAP cannot assist with criminal cases, tickets, or fee-generating cases such as personal injury. Major Van Buskirk advises that the American Bar Association has similar programs nationwide.



Region I, Greater Boston Chapter, Worcester Chapter, MA

LTC Geoffrey E. Love, MAARNG, Honored by the New England Companions

BY 2LT JASON A. SOKOLOV, USA (FMR)

One of the cherished projects of the New England Region (Region I) was brought to completion last year with the dedication of a display case in the Joint Forces Headquarters Building of the Massachusetts National Guard. The exhibit presented by the cabinet is not simply a random selection of unconnected items of historical interest but a carefully prepared presentation illustrating the establishment of the Order in New England by the officers of the Massachusetts Guard during the famous Boston Police Strike of 1919. Importantly, it is in the Joint Forces Headquarters building beside the cabinets of other organizations with historical roots to the Guard and the original Militia organization. In the course of planning for this project, Companion BG Leonid Kondratiuk, MAARNG (Ret), the Massachusetts military historian, assigned LTC Geoffrey E. Love to work with a committee of Region I to accomplish this project. LTC Love's work on this project was nothing short of outstanding, and the result of his efforts was beyond all expectations. The dedication ceremony, possibly the most memorable event in the history of Region I, in which Companions LTG L. Scott Rice, MG Gary Keefe, BG John Driscoll, BG Leonid Kondratiuk, BG Enoch "Woody" Woodhouse (the last of the Tuskegee airmen), and many other Companions participated, was in significant measure a success because of LTC Love's efforts. During his work, LTC Love became a Companion, joining the Worcester Chapter, MA.

Left: On 16 February 2023, Region I Commander, COL Lawrence A. Willwerth, surprised LTC Love with the presentation of a much-deserved MOWW Outreach Medal and Citation in the office. Right: MG Gary Keefe, the Adjutant General; LTC Love, and COL Lawrence A. Willwerth.



Brig Gen Scott Chapter, GA

MOAA Hosts MOWW at Joint Gathering

BY MAJ ROBERT F. KOMLO, USAF (RET)

Chapter Commander Capt Theron Simpson, Jr., USMC (Ret), and Maj Bob Komlo, USAF (Ret), were thrilled to attend MOAA's Middle Georgia Chapter meeting, with Capt Simpson invited as the speaker. He eloquently spoke about the history and programs of MOWW and our chapter. Capt Simpson talked about the intention of developing ways that our two chapters may be able to work in collaboration. Capt James C. Murphy, USAF (Ret), completed an application for MOWW membership that very day!

(L-R): Local MOAA president, Lt Col Mike Qualls, USAF (Ret), thanked Capt Theron Simpson, Jr., USMC (Ret), the speaker at the MOAA chapter meeting.



Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

The Future of Scouting

BY LTC MIKE BERENDT, USA (RET)

In January, the Chapter welcomed Mr. Adam Weitzel, Chief Executive Officer of Pathway to the Rockies Council. He gave a very enlightening presentation on the successful addition of females to scouting and the present state of the organization. He discussed how the effects of the scouting lawsuit resulted in the merger of two Councils to form Pathway to the Rockies Council which expanded the geographic area of responsibility by adding three Scout campgrounds as resources. Membership dropped drastically during COVID, but steady growth has occurred post-COVID, leading the way for a sustainable future.

L-R: Mr. Adam Weitzel receives a MOWW Certificate from Col Kerm Neal, USAF (Ret).



COL Billie L. Stephens – Apache Trail Chapter, AZ

"A Date Which Will Live in Infamy"

BY LTC PATRICK C. STOLZE, USA (RET)

On 7 December 2022, LTC Patrick C. Stolze, USA (Ret), represented the COL Billie L Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter, Department of Arizona, and Region XIII at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony, marking 81 years since that tragic day. The beautiful ceremony was held at Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix, AZ. It featured music, guest speakers, a parade and the laying of 83 wreaths by the attending patriotic organizations, culminating in two separate fly-overs. A highlight of the ceremony was the introduction of a Pearl Harbor survivor.

Photo: Commander, Region XIII LTC Patrick C. Stolze, USA (Ret), with the Chapter wreath.





San Diego, CA

Annette Rodriguez Awarded BPH

BY IPCINC CAPT DEBORAH A. KASH, USAF (RET)*

Girl Scout Annette Rodriguez received the Bronze Patrick Henry Award for patriotism and community service in November 2022. Annette is very active in Girl Scout troop 5912 and in 2022 received the Girl Scout Silver Award. She has participated in many Massing of the Colors ceremonies as well as veterans events. MOWW is proud to wish Annette much success in all that the future has to offer.

(L-R): Girl Scout Troop 5912 leader Irene Barajas, Chapter Commander HPM Barbara C. Peralta, Annette Rodriguez.



Philadelphia Chapter, PA

West Chester University Recognized

BY COL JOSEPH P. KIRLIN III, USA (RET)

On 15 December 2022 at West Chester University's Greg and Sandra Weisenstein Veterans Center, Philadelphia Chapter Commander COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret), presented a Bronze Patrick Henry Plaque to Vince DeMarro, the University's VA School Certifying Official and a retired US Marine Corps veteran. The award recognizes the University's status as a Gold Designated Military Friendly University 2021-22, and for its service to veterans.

(L-R): Mr. Vince DeMarro and COL Joseph P. Kirlin III, USA (Ret)



CPT Grevemberg Chapter, LA

Support for Veterans and Community

BY PCINC COL CLAY LEGRANDE, JR., USA (RET)

On 28 January 2023, former MOWW VCINC HPM Jennie McIntosh presented a \$2000 donation to Chapter 30 Special Forces Association President Bruce Little to support their yearly Mardi Gras float for war veterans. The annual float project provides 20 combat veterans and wounded warriors the opportunity to ride in the Mardi Gras Parade with the Krewe of Argus in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans, before a crowd of one million people. For being a longtime major project sponsor, Chapter 30 SFA presented the CPT Grevemberg Chapter with a 5-Star Commendation Award, and the MOWW crest and the CPT Grevemberg Chapter logos were displayed on the float's side.

(L - R): HPM Jennie McIntosh presents donation to Bruce Little, President of Chapter 30 SFA.





Northern Virginia Chapter, VA

MOWW Northern Virginia Chapter February 2023 Meeting

BY COL VINCE OGILVIE, USA (RET)

Partner organizations and guests joined Chapter Companions at the Military Women's Memorial (MWM) at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery for a special Chapter meeting. Ms. Brianne Ogilvie, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary, Office of Policy & Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, gave an informative briefing on the new PACT Act. Companion CW5 Phyllis Wilson, USA (Ret), President of the Military Women's Memorial Foundation, was presented the MOWW Outstanding Service Medal. Additionally, in anticipation of MWM founder Brig Gen Wilma L. Vaught's 93rd birthday, CW5 Wilson accepted the MOWW Silver Patrick Henry Award on behalf of Brig Gen Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret), from Chapter Commander COL Vince Ogilvie, USA (Ret). Brig Gen Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret), founder of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, was the first woman to deploy with an Air Force bomber unit and the first woman to reach the rank of Brigadier General from the comptroller field. She was recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Air Force Association Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as her induction into the National Defense University Hall of Fame and the dedication of the Vaught Center at MWM.

Top left: Ms. Brianne Ogilvie received a thank-you bouquet from NOVA Vice Commander, LTC Edmund Feige, USA (Ret). Top right: COL Vince Ogilvie, USA (Ret) presented the MOWW Outstanding Service Medal to CW5 Phyllis Wilson, USA (Ret). Lower left: CW5 Wilson accepted the Silver Patrick Henry Award on behalf of Brig Gen Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret), from COL Ogilvie. Lower right: Commander of the NOVA Chapter COL Vince Ogilvie, USA (Ret); MOWW Chief of Staff Col Mike Farrell, USMC (Ret); and Vice Commander, NOVA Chapter LTC Edmund Feige, USA (Ret).





The VETT Act is Endorsed By The Military Order of the World Wars

**Representatives Panetta, Wenstrup Introduce Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation
To Expand Charitable Deduction Rules For Veterans Service Organizations**

118th CONGRESS 1st Session | H. R. 1432

Washington, DC | 7 March 2023

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) introduced the VSO Equal Tax Treatment (VETT) Act on 7 March 2023. The bipartisan and bicameral legislation would update a provision in the Federal tax code that currently prevents Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) from accepting tax-deductible donations unless they maintain a membership of at least 90 percent wartime veterans.

The current rules exclude veterans who joined and served after the Vietnam War and prior to the Persian Gulf War in 1991. The provision prohibits veteran organizations from accepting tax-deductible donations if their membership contains over 10 percent peacetime veterans. Nearly 2.5 million of the 20 million veterans across the US are peacetime veterans.

“Veteran service organizations are integral to supporting those in our communities who served our country in uniform, but that mission is being held back by outdated classifications in our tax code,” said Rep. Panetta. “I’m proud to introduce this bipartisan, bicameral, commonsense legislation to ensure that charitable contributions to these organizations are tax deductible. This way, our federal tax code could incentivize and encourage Americans to continue supporting organizations that serve those who served America.”

“Veterans Service Organizations offer vital support and a sense of community to Americans who wore our nation’s uniform and sacrificed so much for our country. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation makes needed reforms to the tax code that will help VSOs grow and maintain their memberships without having to risk losing their ability to receive tax-deductible charitable donations,” said Rep. Wenstrup.

US Senators Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) introduced companion legislation in the US Senate.

“Veteran service organizations provide vital support, assistance and community programming for those who served our nation,” said Sen. Duckworth. “I’m proud to co-lead this legislation to reform our tax code so that it promotes, rather than discourages, involvement in these community organizations, helping ensure they can continue to be a resource for Veterans to lean on.”

“Veterans—regardless of whether they served in wartime or peacetime—should be treated equally,” said Dr. Cassidy. “Our bill fairly treats millions of military men and women who served our great nation.”

“AMVETS is grateful to Representatives Wenstrup and Panetta for stepping up and doing the right thing for our nation’s veterans. Their introduction of the VSO Equal Tax Treatment Act (VETT ACT) will ensure that our Congressionally Chartered veteran groups are able to receive tax-deductible contributions similar to other nonprofits. Our veteran groups have been particularly hard hit during the pandemic, and this change will mean a world of difference to our local AMVETS posts,” said AMVETS National Commander, Don McLean.

AMVETS, American Legion, AMSUS, Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS, Fleet Reserve Association, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the World Wars, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, US Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association, and TREA: The Enlisted Association.

Source: <https://panetta.house.gov/media/press-releases/panetta-wenstrup-introduce-bipartisan-bicameral-legislation-expand-charitable>





Reveille

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

*Denotes PM/HPM

**Denotes RM/HRM

DATA FROM FEBRUARY–MARCH 2023

ATLANTA AREA CHAPTER, GA

LTC THOMAS G. COLE, USA (RET)**

LTC Louis P. Ariff, USA (Ret)*

CAPT KARA L. GASKIN, USAF (FMR)*

1LT Loïselle M. Conner, USAF (Fmr)*

AUGUSTA CHAPTER, GA

CW3 ALVIN E. JENKINS, JR., USA (RET)**

CW4 Gary L. Smith, Sr., USA (Ret)*

CHICAGO CHAPTER, IL

CW4 LEE E. BAKER, USAF (RET)**

1LT Brian R. Burch, USA (Fmr)*

MAJ STEVEN L. FIXLER, USA (RET)**

CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)*

PO2 CHRISTOPHER M. LOPEZ, USN (FMR)**

CW2 Eliseo T. Lopez, Jr., USA (Ret)*

MAJ VERNON L. PATTON, JR., USA (RET)**

CW3 Donald A. Sender, USA (Ret)*

COL ELMER CHAPTER, AR

CPT THOMAS J. MUSTICCHI III, USA (RET)*

MG Ronald S. Chastain, USA (Ret)*

COL WOODS–OKLAHOMA CITY CHAPTER, OK

CPT ALLEN M. BECKETT, USA (RET)*

LTC Robert W. Mathews, USA (Ret)*

1LT BRITTANY J. DIXON, OKARNG**

LTC Robert W. Mathews, USA (Ret)*

COL WOOLSEY CHAPTER, CA

CAPT AUSTIN R. FAUNCE, USMC**

BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)*

COL DAVID N. LOPEZ, USAF (RET)*

BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)*

DALLAS CHAPTER, TX

CW3 DAVID A. COOMBS, USA (RET)**

Capt Scott O'Grady, USAF (Fmr)*

CW3 RONALD A. CRENSHAW, USA*

CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret)*

MRS. DIANA M. CRENSHAW*

CPT Allen B. Clark, Jr., USA (Ret)*

CAPT JUSTIN D. WOLF, USAF (FMR)*

1st Lt Donald L. Crusius, USAF (Fmr)**

FORT WORTH CHAPTER, TX

CPT MATTHEW J. STATON, TXARNG**

COL David J. Green, TXARNG*

GEN WESTMORELAND CHAPTER, SC

COL ARTHUR R. HOPKINS, USAF (RET)*

Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)*

HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER, VA

LTC SETH PILGRIM, USA**

Col William E. Townsley, USAF (Ret)*

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER, TN

LTC TYRON W. EASON, USA (RET)*

MAJ Trent D. Laviano, USA (Ret)*

LTC SHEHAB CHAPTER, NJ

BG LISA J. HOU, NJARNG*

BG Jeffrey L. Pierson, USA (Ret)*

MEMPHIS CHAPTER, TN

LT COL RANDALL R. HIGGINBOTHAM, USAF (RET)**

Brig Gen Harry D. Montgomery, Jr., USAF (Ret)**

MG MILES CHAPTER, NM

MR. ROBERT M. MALONE*

LTC Gregg C. Giesler, USA (Ret)*





Reveille

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

NEW MEMBER

Sponsor

*Denotes PM/HPM

**Denotes RM/HRM

DATA FROM FEBRUARY–MARCH 2023

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER, VA

1LT CHARLES E. NAHABEDIAN, USA (RET)**

MAJ John C. Chatelain, MD, USA (Fmr)*

COL THOMAS G. STICKNEY, USAR (RET)*

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)*

MS. ROBERTA L. YOURTEE**

COL Vicente C. Ogilvie, USA (Ret)*

PHOENIX CHAPTER, AZ

SSG LONI A. FIFE, USA (FMR)**

CPT Steven R. Fife, USA (Ret)**

PUERTO RICO CHAPTER, PR

COL ANTONIO T. MARTINEZ-LUENGO, USAR (RET)*

Col Adolfo Menendez, USAF (Ret)*

LTC JESUS REYES, USA**

BG Victor S. Perez, USA (Ret)*

PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, WA

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Lt Col Richard W. Muri, USAF (Ret)*

LT COL BRUCE M. STALK, USAF (RET)**

Lt Col Annette M. Mummery, USAF (Ret)*

LTJG SAMUEL C. WHIPPLE, USN*

CDR Ronald E. Kirkland, USN (Ret)*

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CDR KRIS J. SZCZECZOWICZ, USCG (RET)*

CDR George T. Parsons, USN (Ret)*

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LTC STEPHEN M. DOLGIN, CAARNG**

LTC Christian D. Taddeo, USA (Ret)*

SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER, FL

CDR GINA F. ALDERMAN, USN (RET)*

LTJG Charles P. Collins III, USNR (Fmr)*

CDR LANCE R. ALDERMAN, USN (RET)*

LTJG Charles P. Collins III, USNR (Fmr)*

LTC JAMES A. HART, USA (RET)*

COL Robert W. Hart, USA (Ret)*

MAJ JAMES A. TAYLOR, USA (RET)**

LTC Charles R. Conover, Jr., USA (Ret)*

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MAJ CHRIS W. SCHMIDT, USA (FMR)**

MAJ Kenneth E. Coffman, USA (Ret)*





Taps

RANK/NAME (SERVICE)

**Denotes PM/HPM*
***Denotes RM/HRM*

DATA FROM FEBRUARY–MARCH 2023

ATLANTA AREA CHAPTER, GA

MS. BETTY M. LOUD*

BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (AT LARGE)

COL EARLE F. LASSETER, USA (RET)*

COL JERRY C. SCOTT, USA (RET)*

CHICAGO CHAPTER, IL

CW4 LEE E. BAKER, USAR (RET)**

COL FREMONT PIERCEFIELD, USA (RET)*

COL STEPHENS-APACHE TRAIL CHAPTER, AZ

MRS. DIANE T. MCDOWELL*

COL WOODS-APACHE TRAIL CHAPTER, AZ

MG BRAD GAMBILL, USA (RET)*

MR. CHARLES R. GUTHRIE III*

COLUMBIA CHAPTER, SC

LTC ROBERT H. ADAMS, USA (RET)*

FORT WORTH CHAPTER, TX

COL DAVID A. BASS, USA (RET)*

GA EISENHOWER CHAPTER, KS

COL JUNIOR F. ELDER, USA (RET)*

GENERAL MEADE CHAPTER, MD

CAPT DANA E. KENNAN, USAF (FMR)*

GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAPTER, MO

LT COL HAROLD E. GOSS, USAF (RET)*

HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER, TX

CAPT KENNETH J. HARTWEIN, USAF (FMR)*

MG BUTLER CHAPTER, KY

MAJ ARTHUR H. RADERER, USA (RET)*

MG MILES CHAPTER, NM

2LT JAMES H. DUNCAN, SR., USA (FMR)*

NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER, FL

LT COL WALTER G. LUCAS, JR., USAF (FMR)*

ROANOKE CHAPTER, VA

CPT JOHN C. EBERHARDT, USAR (FMR)*

SUN CITY CENTER CHAPTER, FL

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"IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

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REMEMBER AND HONOR

MEMORIAL DAY



JUNE 14, 2023

LOVE AND RESPECT

NATIONAL FLAG DAY