

**The Military Order of the World Wars
2008 Midwinter General Staff Meeting
Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel, Tempe, Arizona 85281
February 5-10, 2008**

**Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the General Staff (GS) Meeting
Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2008
1400-1700 Hours**

CINC Col James D. Elmer called to order the 2008 Midwinter General Staff (GS) Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the GS meeting at 1400 hours, February 6, 2008, and followed with an Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the Order's Preamble.

There was a **MOTION** to dispense with the roll call, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**. EXCOM members absent were JAG Lt Stuart Cowan and VCINC CAPT William Dibble, Jr. who was expected to arrive late.

CINC Col Elmer requested a motion to approve his invited guest, CDR Jack Fetner, II, Chair, MOWW Board of Trustees to sit in on the EXCOM meeting as an observer, **MOTIONED**, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**.

There was a **MOTION** to approve the draft agenda, as presented, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**.

CINC Col Elmer welcomed all of the EXCOM members and guest and thanked all of them for their hard work and dedication to doing the work of the Order.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief of Staff BG Bultman asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from 2007 Special EXCOM meeting (see page 110 in the Business Agenda and Reports Book) at MOWW HQs (November 9-10, 2007) and that they be accepted as written and presented, **MOTIONED**, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**.

NEW BUSINESS

(NOTE: VCINC CAPT Dibble joined the EXCOM meeting at 1452 Hours)

Treasurer General COL M. Hall Worthington discussed his report (see page 26 in the Business Agenda and Reports Book) and updated the EXCOM on the following items:

1. FY 07-08 Budget (midyear): Everything was on budget.
2. CINC's solicitation for FY 07-08 was very slow and he did not feel we would reach the goal and that a third mailing to "all" Companions will be required.
3. Most of the Chapters have returned their IRS postcards for FY 06-07 as required and that MOWW Headquarters was contacting all Chapters that did not return their postcards; plus, no funds would be paid by National HQs to those Chapters that did not return an IRS Postcard.
4. Chapter Annual financial reviews for FY 06-07 was reported by the Chapters on the IRS postcard and it appears that almost all chapters are complying with this new requirement.

5. He informed the EXCOM that the Honor Donor Wall program had raised about \$85,000 to date. He stated that this program was moving slowly and that the hope was that more Companions and Chapters would consider making a donation to the MOWW Honor Donor Wall.

No votes were taken by the EXCOM on any these reports.

Treasurer General COL Worthington then discussed his efforts to prepare a new section for the *MOWW Handbook* on "How to Spend the Order's Money" to be used by all levels of the Order. He stated that he and the Chair of the MOWW Board of Trustees, CDR Jack Fetner II, were working on writing this new section and that it should be ready for the 2008 National Convention. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

After the Treasurer General's report the EXCOM received an update from the MOWW Board of Trustees Chairman, CDR Jack Fetner, II, who stated that the Board is in constant watch of the Order's funds and has the ability to react to changes in the market in a timely manner to help protect the Order's investments. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

The EXCOM received an update on FY 07-08 Membership (Recruiting and Retention efforts) as of December 31, 2007 by VCINC Fred Graves (see pages 61-66 in the Business Agenda and Reports Book). **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

Chief of Staff BG Bultman led a discussion on Chapters with less than 15 living members. Discussed were the following Chapters: Illowa, Illinois, Southern Maryland and Upstate Carolina, South Carolina from the 2007 National Convention and Monroe, Louisiana. After an in-depth discussion there was a request for a motion to continue Southern Maryland on "probation" and to put Monroe, Louisiana on "probation by sending them a letter putting them on "probation." These two Chapters would be re-evaluated at the 2008 National Convention in Columbus, Georgia, **motioned, seconded, and approved.**

Sr. VCINC LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel gave an update on the MOWW 2010 Strategic Plan, Revision "B." He also stated that he was concerned that there is not enough information about the Plan at the Chapter level. The new version was not on the MOWW web site and he asked the Chief of Staff to have it put on the web site as soon as possible. In closing he told the EXCOM that Revision "A" would be printed and ready for the 2008 National Convention. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

VCINC COL Philemon "Phil" St. Amant, II, Chair, MOWW National Security Committee, gave the EXCOM an update on the work of the National Security Committee and the Committee's web site. He said that the web site is up and running and that the information about the web site is published, monthly, in *Officer Review* magazine and that this web site is also linked to the MOWW web site. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

VCINC COL St. Amant II, informed the EXCOM that there were no proposed emergency resolutions for the Midwinter GS meeting. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

VCINC CAPT Dibble, Chair, MOWW Constitution and Bylaws (C&BLs) Committee informed the EXCOM that he has received some proposed changes to the C&BLs from Companions. CINC Col Elmer asked if there were any changes that the leadership of the Order might consider submitting since the deadline for submitting changes was February 15, 2008. After an in-depth discussion it was decided that the EXCOM members did not have any changes that they wished to submit. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

Since the JAG was absent, CINC Col Elmer updated the EXCOM on the JAG's efforts to Patent & Trademark MOWW's names and logo. He informed the EXCOM that all necessary applications have been submitted, processed, and completed. The EXCOM discussed having a policy for the use of the Order's name and symbols. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

CINC Col Elmer led a discussion on the Order's current policy for Chapters to change their names. After an in-depth discussion the EXCOM decided that the current policy of the Order was sufficient and no changes were needed to be made to this policy, however, a clear written policy should be put in the *MOWW Handbook*. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

CINC Col Elmer discussed with the EXCOM his efforts to refine and further develop the "Mentoring" program currently being used by the Order to help save or energize a Chapter. He stated that this effort has been successful in helping numerous Chapters and that he was counting on all EXCOM members to help with this program. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

Chief of Staff BG Bultman presented his report to the EXCOM. He highlighted issues reference National Headquarters operations, *Officer Review* magazine, the Order's web site, the new IRS 990-N reporting requirement for all elements of the Order with the first deadline being November 15, 2008, the publishing of the upcoming MOWW Harris Directory, and the *MOWW Handbook*. **No votes were taken by the EXCOM on these reports.**

Chief of Staff BG Bultman briefed the EXCOM on the status of the Order's request for a \$20,000 Grant from Hann-Buswell Chapter to help the Order cover the cost of membership services for FY 08-09, which is an unfunded requirement the Order has for FY 08-09. There was a recommendation to increase the amount of the Order's grant request to \$25,000, **motioned, seconded, and approved.**

Col Jim Elmer updated the EXCOM on his efforts to identify a State Commander for all 50 States. He said that the task was almost completed and that he would need the assistance of all VCINCs and Region Commanders to complete the last States. The EXCOM was informed that the Order had 25 States with State Commanders and 25 States with Department Commanders and Florida's Department Commander position was currently vacant. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

CINC Col Elmer discussed some of the possible locations for the 2011 Midwinter GS meeting. Sr. VCINC LTG Wetzel strongly recommended that the Order hold this meeting somewhere in Florida. CINC Col Elmer asked that VCINC Graves take on this effort and find a chapter or chapters in Region VI to host the 2011 Midwinter GS meeting. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

CINC Col Elmer discussed his efforts to select a DSA recipient for his term. He informed the EXCOM that he was using a panel of distinguished Companions to finalize a list of Candidates to be considered and he was waiting to hear from Admiral Vernon Clark, former CNO of the US Navy. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

The EXCOM then heard reports from the Sr. VCINC and the other four VCINC's. Each of the five (5) VCINC's gave a short verbal update on all major activities and significant events in the following areas which they have oversight responsibility: Regions, States, Departments, Chapters, and Committees. They especially addressed challenges or troubled spots within these areas. When they identified a concern, they gave a short overview of what they planned to do to address these concerns. The VCINC's also addressed the activities and contribution that their GSO's made. The reports followed:

Sr. VCINC LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel, with oversight of Region V (5) and two GSO's (LTC Gary Engen & Companion Mrs. Jennie McIntosh). He reported on his four (4) committees: Budget (including the HQ's Pay & Compensation Subcommittee), Policy Planning, Patriotic Education, and ROTC. **No votes were taken by the EXCOM on these reports.**

VCINC COL Philemon A. "Phil" St. Amant II, with oversight of three (3) Regions: VII, VIII & XI (7, 8, & 11) and two GSO's (Col John W. Lazur and Col Clifford Way). He reported on his four (4) committees and one (1) Council: Law and Order, National Security, Homeland Security, Legislative and Resolutions, and The Council of Department and State Commanders. **No votes were taken by the EXCOM on these reports.**

VCINC CAPT William W. "Bill" Dibble, JR., with oversight of three (3) Regions: II, IX, & X (2, 9, & 10) and two GSO's (COL Richard A. Colson and CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel). He reported on his four (4) committees: Memorials, Honors and Protocol, Constitution and By-Laws, and Financial Development (Ad Hoc). **No votes were taken by the EXCOM on these reports.**

VCINC COL Frederick J. "Fred" Graves, with oversight of four (4) Regions: I, III, IV, & V (1, 3, 4, & 6) and two GSO's (LTC Guthrie H. Ashton, Jr. and Maj Reynald A. "Rey" Moreau). He reported on his three (3) committees and one (1) Council: Chapter Activities, Membership, Information and Publicity, and The Council of Region Commanders. **No votes were taken by the EXCOM on these reports.**

VCINC COL Billie L. Stephens with oversight of (3) Regions: XIII, XIV, & XV (13, 14 & 15) and two GSO's (CWO4 Allan R. Peschek and Companion Mr. James C. Baird). He reported on his five (5) committees: Awards, Historical and Archives, National Convention, National Seminars, and Boy & Girl Scouts. **No votes were taken by the EXCOM on these reports.**

CINC COL James D. "Jim" Elmer chairs the Executive Committee, the Nominating, Ethics, and Magazine Committees, plus the Council of Past CINC's which is chaired by Past CINC's and is not under VCINC oversight; however, the Ethics and Magazine Committees report to the CINC. CINC Col Elmer reported on both of these committees and gave a short overview of his work during the first half of his term and commented on the many observations he had of the activities of the Order during his travels. **No votes were taken by the EXCOM on these reports.**

Following the VCINCs reports the CINC stated that input from all EXCOM members was important and requested reports from the remaining members of the EXCOM. They highlighted their concerns and plans for addressing these concerns within the areas that they are active or have responsibility for within the Order:

- Treasurer General, COL M. Hall Worthington
- Immediate Past CINC, LTC David R. Titus briefed the EXCOM on Patriotic Education, Inc. (PEI) and the changes that were being made to strengthen this important program. He also updated the EXCOM on the Gist Blair Trust Fund.
- Chair, Council of Past CINCs, Chair, PCINC MG Franklin E. Miles
- Chair, Council of Region Commanders, Col Fred W. Darley
- Member-at-Large and Chair, Information & Publicity Committee, CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel updated the EXCOM on the new "Chapter Bulletin" award that would be started and presented at the 2008 National Convention. He stated that there would be awards for small, medium, and large Chapters. He also updated the EXCOM on his upcoming "Workshop" on Chapter Information & Publicity.
- Member-at-Large and Chair, Awards Committee, MAJ JoAnne Barton
- Member-at-Large Companion Mrs. Jennie McIntosh

No action was taken by the EXCOM on any of these reports.

"FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER" CINC Col Elmer asks if there were any issues "for the good of the Order."

There was a recommendation that the Order look at Southern California for a possible site for the 2011 Midwinter GS meeting.

CINC Col Elmer updated the EXCOM on his new program of paying for half of the membership fees for annual dues paying Regular Memberships for all newly Commissioned Officers. He said a Chapter or Companion would pay the other half of the membership fees. He has set aside a pool of funds to cover this program cost and was hoping that the Order could get 1,000-2000 new members with this program.

Chair, PCINC MG Miles recommended that the Order consider changing the location for the 2010 National Convention from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Santa Fe, New Mexico. He said he is working with the Chapters and Region to work out the details and to change the sites.

There were many issues discussed for the good of the Order; however, no votes were taken by the EXCOM.

CINC Col Elmer gave his closing remarks to the EXCOM thanking all EXCOM members for their assistance, hard work and dedication to the Order.

CINC Col Elmer adjourned the EXCOM meeting for the 2008 Midwinter GS meeting, following a Benediction, at 1705 hours, Wednesday, February 6, 2008.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE EXCOM AT THEIR PRE-CONVENTION EXCOM MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008, DURING THE 2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION MEETING, COLUMBUS, GEORGIA.