

**The Military Order of the World Wars
2009 Midwinter General Staff Meeting
Huntsville Marriott, Huntsville, Alabama 35805
February 10-15, 2009**

**Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the General Staff (GS)
MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 (0830-1015 Hours):

CINC LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel called to order the 2009 Midwinter General Staff (GS) Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the GS meeting on February 11, 2009, at 0830 hours, 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**. The only EXCOM member absent was Member-at-Large COL Dick Minor. Also, Assistant JAG COL Earle F. Lasseter was attending for the JAG, Lt Stuart Cowan.

CINC LTG Wetzel requested a motion to approve his invited guest, MOWW Board of Trustee member CDR Arthur J. "Art" Judson II (attending for 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 LTG Wetzel welcomed all of the EXCOM members and guest and thanked all of them for their hard work and dedication, doing the work of the Order. He discussed membership and the importance of getting new members and again challenged the EXCOM to help all chapters reduce their losses due to Non-Payment of Dues (NPDs). He expressed concerns about the new administration with the recent election of a new President, especially his concerns on how they will handle National Security and National Defense issue confronting them and their possible cuts to the Defense budget.

CINC LTG Wetzel discussed his efforts to select a DSA recipient for his term. He informed the EXCOM that he was using recommendations from a panel of distinguished Companions to identify candidates to be considered. He informed the EXCOM that he was considering former Congressman Duncan Hunter from California. After a brief discussion there was a **MOTION** to approve him as the top candidate for the 2009 DSA, **SECONDED, and APPROVED**. The CINC directed the Chief of Staff to start the notification and confirmation process for him to attend the 2009 National Convention and receive this award.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief of Staff BG Bultman asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from 2008 Special EXCOM meeting (see page 100 in the Business Agenda and Reports Book) at MOWW HQs (November 9-10, 2008) and that they be accepted as written and presented, **MOTIONED, SECONDED, and APPROVED**.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer General LTC John H. Hollywood discussed his report (see page 23 in the Business Agenda and Reports Book) and updated the EXCOM on the following items:

1. FY 08-09 Budget (midyear): Everything was on budget (see page 24 in the Business Agenda and Reports Book).
2. CINC's solicitation for FY 08-09 was very slow (\$54K vice \$90K that was budgeted) 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 MOWW IRS letter for FY 07-08 as required and that MOWW Headquarters was contacting all Chapters that did not return their letters; plus, no funds would be paid by National HQs to those Chapters that did not return a completed MOWW IRS letter.
4. Chapter Annual financial reviews for FY 07-08 were reported by the Chapters on the MOWW IRS letter 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 \$120,000 to date. He stated that this program was moving very slowly and that the hope was that more Companions and Chapters would consider making a donation to the MOWW Honor Donor Wall.
6. He informed the EXCOM that the PM dividend payment sent to the chapters in January 2009 was \$7.78 per PM (living & deceased).

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

The EXCOM discussed the 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 and that work would continue on writing this new section and that it may be ready for the 2009 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 member, CDR Judson, 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. He restated that the projected dividends to be received from the Order's funds for FY 08-09 will be much lower and like everywhere else in our Country, MOWW will have some tough financial challenges when preparing the Order's FY09-10 Budget. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

At the end of the Treasurer General's report Sr. VCINC COL St. Amant II raised the issue of revising the Order's C&BLs to remove the "dollar amount" for all or any dues or membership payments made to the Order. This change would give the Order more flexibility in dealing with the price of dues, especially during the trying financial times everyone is having throughout the Country. After an in-depth discussion the CINC directed Sr. VCINC COL St. Amant to prepare the necessary proposed changes to the C&BLs and that Treasurer General LTC Hollywood, VCINC COL Hall Worthington, and MOWW Board of Trustee member CDR Judson should assist, as needed. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this issue.**

The EXCOM received an update on FY 08-09 Membership (Recruiting and Retention efforts) as of December 31, 2008 by VCINC Cliff Way (see pages 48-53 in the Business Agenda and Reports Book). The CINC again stated his concerns that the membership gains for the first half of the FY were “zero” and that this was unacceptable. He understood that the Order loses many members due to things we cannot control, but NPDs are the Chapter’s responsibility and must be reduced to zero and that “no gains” for the first half of his term was unacceptable. He encouraged all EXCOM members to recruit new members and to encourage and help chapters with their membership. **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 four (4) Chapters: Worcester, MA, Southern Maryland, Great Salt Lake, UT, and Ft. Huachuca, AZ. After an in-depth discussion there was a **MOTION** to continue Southern Maryland on “probation” and to put Worcester, MA, Great Salt Lake, UT, and Ft. Huachuca, AZ on “probation” by sending them a letter to inform these Chapters that they would be re-evaluated at the 2009 National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland, **SECONDED, and APPROVED.**

Past CINC CAPT Rollie Stevens, representing PEC Chairman, COL Dick Minor (see PEC Report on pages 48-53 in the Business Agenda and Reports Book), gave the EXCOM an update, followed by a discussion, on the following: 1.) MOWW’s YLCs schedule for calendar year 2009; 2.) update on providing insurance coverage for staff, faculty, volunteers and students; 3.) update on completing background checks for all staff and faculty; 4.) status of finding and training new YLC Directors; 5.) funding for students; 6.) status on the program for staff and faculty to complete the necessary training to become certified by MOWW; 7.) MOWW’s working relationships with other organizations. CAPT Stevens answered all of the questions asked of him by the EXCOM and presented the EXCOM with an excellent overview and informative and helpful updates. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on any of these reports.**

Sr. VCINC COL Philemon A. “Phil” St. Amant, II, Chair, Policy Planning Committee, gave an update on the completed “Revision B” (dated July 31, 2008) for the MOWW Strategic Plan 2010 (on MOWW web site) and also stated that the next meeting of his Committee would be during the current 2009 Midwinter GS meeting. He informed the EXCOM that “Revision C” would be finished and presented to the 2009 National Convention for approval. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

Sr. VCINC COL 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. After his presentation there was a concern raised by the CINC about Chapters not having a “speakers” program for their communities or not working to start one. He asked all EXCOM members to encourage all chapters to start a “speakers” program if they did not have one. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

CINC LTG Wetzel informed the EXCOM that he was looking for a new Chair to run the Homeland Security Committee at this Midwinter GS meeting. He stated that the current Chair was having some health problems. It was also reported to the EXCOM that the Homeland Security web site was closed and that after a new Chair was selected the Committee would look at options for starting a new web site. *(Note: The CINC announced later that Col Waymon Johnson (Augusta, GA, Chapter) was appointed Chair, Homeland Security Committee effective March 30, 2009.)*

The EXCOM received a report on the proposed changes submitted, to date, to the C&BLs Committee for changing the Order's C&BLs at the 2009 National Convention. CINC LTG Wetzel asked if there were any changes that the EXCOM members might consider submitting since the deadline for submitting changes was February 15, 2009. After an in-depth discussion it was decided that the EXCOM members did not have any changes that they wished to submit other than the proposed change discussed earlier to be submitted by Sr. VCINC COL St. Amant, II reference dues. **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, and the *MOWW Handbook*. He informed the EXCOM that in developing the draft budget for FY 09-10 he is considering reducing the mailing of two (2) to four (4) issues of *Officer Review* magazine and only publish these 2 to 4 issues on the MOWW web site (i.e. not print or mail them). After an in-depth discussion on this issue there was a **MOTION** that if funding was limited for operating MOWW Headquarters in FY 09-10 that the Chief of Staff have the approval to produce 10 issues of *Officer Review* magazine but only print and mail eight (8) issues, with the other two issues only being published on the MOWW web site, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**. He also informed the EXCOM that he is considering converting the Assistant Editor's position for *Officer Review* magazine back to a "contractor position." This change may save the Order the funds needed to continue to annually publish and mail 10 issues of *Officer Review* magazine. **Only the one vote was taken by the EXCOM on all of these reports.**

CINC LTG Wetzel discussed the issue of poor attendance/participation of the Companions at Midwinter GS meetings, especially addressing the tough challenge the Huntsville Alabama Chapter has to try to "break even" from hosting the 2009 Midwinter GS meeting. After an in-depth discussion there was a **MOTION** to cancel the 2010 Midwinter GS meeting scheduled to be hosted by the San Diego, California, Chapter, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**. There was then a **MOTION** to suspend indefinitely, all future Midwinter GS meetings due to the critical financial situation that is affecting everyone throughout the Country, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**. *(Note: The Huntsville Alabama Chapter lost almost \$10,000 in hosting the 2009 Midwinter GS meeting and is currently working out a plan with the hotel to cover this lose, which they are obligated to pay.)*

The EXCOM then discussed some of the possible locations for the 2011 National Convention. The CINC said with Baltimore, MD in 2009 and El Paso, TX in 2010 that it would be good if the Order could get to the West coast for 2011. He encouraged all EXCOM members to discuss this issue with chapters in their areas of responsibilities and to try and find a chapter to host the 2011 National Convention before the National Convention in Baltimore, so it can be approved at this National Convention. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

The EXCOM discussed the similar roles and duties of the State and Department Commanders. They were told that 25 States had State Commanders and 25 States had Department Commanders. After an in-depth discussion there was an agreement that the Order would consider merging State and Department Commanders by converting the Department Commander positions to State Commanders, so all fifty States would have State Commanders, and therefore, the position of Department Commander would be removed from the Order's C&BLs. Past CINC Col Elmer agreed to take the lead and draft a new section for the *MOWW Handbook* that would identify two areas for the State Commander duties: 1.) Those with chapters, and; 2.) Those without chapters. The EXCOM also agreed to have a proposed change submitted to change the Order's C&BLs at the 2009 National Convention to reflect these changes. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

Chief of Staff BG Bultman briefed the EXCOM that the Order had received the \$25,000 grant requested for FY 08-09 from the Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter. The CINC and all members of the EXCOM express their deep appreciation to the Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter for their financial support to the Order. The Chief of Staff then informed the EXCOM that the grant request for FY 09-10 would be for \$20,000 and that a letter signed by Sr. VCINC COL St. Amant II has been presented to the Chapter and that this grant from Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter would be used to help the Order cover the cost of membership services for FY 09-10, which is an unfunded requirement for the Order. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this report.**

The EXCOM then heard reports from the Sr. VCINC and the other four VCINCs.

Each of the five (5) VCINCs gave a short verbal update on all major activities and significant events in the Regions, States, Departments, Chapters, and Committees for which they have oversight responsibility. 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 VCINCs also addressed the activities and contribution that their GSOs made. The reports were presented as follows:

Sr. VCINC COL Philemon A. "Phil" St. Amant II oversees Regions, II & VII (2 & 7), and his two GSOs are CDR John Lopez III and Companion Mrs. Jennie McIntosh, and his three committees are the Budget (including the HQs Pay & Compensation Subcommittee), National Security, and the Policy Planning Committees, and the Council of Department and State Commanders. During his reports he informed the EXCOM that two Resolutions would be presented to the GS as emergency Resolutions (*Stay the Course in Iraq, Stay the Course in Afghanistan*) and there was a **MOTION** to vote to recommend approval of both Resolutions to the full GS, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**.

VCINC Col Frederick J. "Fred" Graves oversees Regions, IV, V, & VI (4, 5, & 6), his two GSOs are LTC Guthrie H. Ashton, Jr., and CDR Rudolph L. Matzner, and his four committees are the Constitution & Bylaws, Homeland Security, Law & Order, and the ROTC Committees.

VCINC CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel oversees Regions, XIII, XIV, & XV (13, 14, & 15), his two GSOs are COL Fred W. Darley and Lt Col Norman G. Wilson, and his four committees are the Boy & Girl Scouts, Historical & Archives, Honors & Protocol, and the Information, Publicity & Magazine Committees.

VCINC Col Clifford D. "Cliff" Way oversees Regions, VIII, X, & XI (8, 10, & 11), his two GSOs are LTC Michael S. George and Capt John M. Hayes, and his four committees are the Chapter Activities & Awards, Membership, Memorials, and the Patriotic Education (PEC) Committees.

VCINC COL M. Hall Worthington oversees Regions, I, III, & IX (1, 3, & 9), his two GSOs are COL Christopher M. Smrt and CDR Robert L. "Bob" Rawls, and his three committees are the Financial Development, Legislation & Resolutions, and the National Convention & Seminars Committees, plus the Council of Region Commanders.

CINC LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel chairs the Executive Committee of the General Staff (GS). The Nominating and Ethics Committees plus the Council of Past CINC's are chaired by Past CINC's and are not under VCINC oversight; however, the Ethics Committee does report to the CINC.

Following the VCINC's reports the EXCOM received 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. They reported in the following order:

- Treasurer General LTC John H. Hollywood
- Judge Advocate General (JAG) LT Stuart M. Cowen
- Immediate Past CINC Col James D. "Jim" Elmer (During his report he informed the EXCOM about his efforts to search the status of "lost addresses" of Companions in the Order. He stated that he had success and that more than 100 Companions listed with lost addresses have been identified as deceased.)
- Chairman, Council of Past CINC CAPT R. M. "Rollie" Stevens
- Chairman, Council of Region Commanders CWO4 Allan R. Peschek
- EXCOM Member-At-Large COL Richard E. "Dick" Minor (no report--absent)
- EXCOM Member-At-Large LTC Gary O. Engen
- EXCOM Member-At-Large Companion Mrs. Jennie McIntosh

No votes were taken by the EXCOM on the CINC, VCINC's, and other members of the EXCOM reports.

CINC LTG Wetzel asked if there were any "**For the Good of the Order**" issues.

The Chief of Staff discussed his recent email to the EXCOM, Past CINC's, and other leaders of the Order about "being positive about MOWW." EXCOM members stated that they appreciated the email and are passing this "be positive about the Order" message to all Companions and re-stating it to Companions during their visits. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this issue.**

The EXCOM discussed the issue that the Order's names (The Military Order of the World Wars, MOWW, and *Officer Review*) and the Order's symbols/logo (crest, neck ribbon, and flag) are Patented, Trademarked, and Registered. There is currently policy in the *MOWW Handbook* that state "Regions, States, Departments, Chapters and Companions are authorized to use the Order's name and logo on stationary, business cards, etc. for official correspondence and publicity required to do the organizational business. MOWW units, other than National Headquarters, wishing to sell items displaying the logo, such as clothing, name plates, etc. must submit and receive prior approval from National Headquarters. Units currently selling items utilizing the logo are

authorized to continue, but they must register these items with National Headquarters. Failure to register existing items sold for profit will result in a revocation of the authorization to sell these items. Units will report to their membership the amount of income from the sale of logo items and how the money is used. Normally this will be done in the unit's treasurer's report of meeting minutes." The EXCOM discussed the importance of all elements and Companions of the Order being aware of this policy and follow it. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this issue.**

There was a discussion by the EXCOM to consider changing the size of the "medium" category of the Order's chapter awards from 50 to 99 living Companions to 50 to 119 to expand the range for medium chapters who currently have to compete with the large chapters (100 or more living members) due to their recruiting success. If this change would be implemented the large chapter size would be changed to 120 or more living members. After an in-depth discussion, the EXCOM decided to take no action on this issue. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this issue.**

The EXCOM discussed the issue of having a "winner" and a "first runner-up" and a "second runner-up" for all MOWW awards presented to the Chapters (less the ROTC awards which are directly related to the number of ROTC units serviced). After an in-depth discussion on this issue the EXCOM decided to take no action on this issue. **No vote was taken by the EXCOM on this issue.**

The EXCOM was informed that due to the cost of producing and mailing the Order's C&BLs and *National Directory* pocket books that consideration should be given to only publishing these two items on the MOWW web site. They were informed that the Order's *National Directory* is "outdated" the day after it is printed due to the numerous and constant changes of Companion information and this information can be maintained and updated weekly on the MOWW web site. After an in-depth discussion, there was a **MOTION** to suspend indefinitely, the printing and mailing of the Order's C&BLs and *National Directory* pocket books, and only publish this information (in pdf format) on the MOWW web site, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**.

After these issues were discussed, other items were briefly discussed; however, **no votes were taken by the EXCOM on any additional issues discussed during "For the Good of the Order."**

During his closing remarks, CINC LTG Wetzel encouraged the five VCINCs and all other EXCOM members to again review his goals and to assist the Chapters in meeting these goals. He again expressed concerns about future National Security issues with the new Administration. He also addressed the issue of membership and stated that membership is his number "one goal." In closing, he thanked all of the EXCOM members for their dedication and hard work for the Order.

CINC LTG Wetzel adjourned the EXCOM meeting held during the 2009 Midwinter GS meeting, following a Benediction, at 1040 hours, Wednesday, February 11, 2009.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE EXCOM AT THEIR PRE-CONVENTION EXCOM MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2009, DURING THE 2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION MEETING AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.