

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

**2009 Midwinter General Staff Meeting, Sessions 1 & 2
Minutes**

First Session, Friday, February 13, 2009, 0800 Hours

CINC LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel called to order the 2009 Midwinter General Staff (GS) meeting at 0800 hours, February 13, 2009, followed by the Invocation, Posting of the Colors (by Companions of the Huntsville Chapter), Pledge of Allegiance, Singing of the National Anthem (by Ms Lynn), Retiring the Colors, reading of the Order's Preamble, and an Honoring of the POW/MIA Table.

CINC LTG Wetzel gave his welcoming remarks and welcomed all Companions and friends of the Order.

There was a **motion** from the GS for the Chief of Staff BG Roger Bultman to suspend the roll call of the General Staff, **seconded, passed.**

There was a **motion** from the GS to approve the agenda, as presented, **seconded, and passed.**

CINC LTG Wetzel reviewed the goals that he presented at the beginning of his term as CINC that were published in the September 2008 issue of *Officer Review* magazine.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief of Staff BG Bultman asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the 2008 Post-Convention General Staff (GS) meeting minutes (page 5-GS meeting book) held in Columbus Georgia (August 2, 2008) and that they be accepted as written, presented, and corrected, **motioned** by the GS, **seconded, and passed.**

NEW BUSINESS:

CINC LTG Wetzel presented his CINC report (page 7-GS meeting book) by giving the GS a brief update of his activities in support of the Order. The CINC announced that all National Officers' reports received by MOWW National Headquarters were provided to the GS in the Business Agenda and Reports booklet. The CINC then presented his report for the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the GS (page 37-GS meeting book). The CINC thanked the VCINCs, National Officers, Committee Chairs, and General Staff for their hard work in support of the Order's Preamble. No vote was taken by the GS on these reports.

Chief of Staff BG Bultman presented his report (page 5-GS meeting book) to the GS. He highlighted issues reference National Headquarters operations, *Officer Review* magazine, the Order's web site, and the *MOWW Handbook*. He informed the GS 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 by the GS 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 **passed**. After this vote he informed the GS that if he could identify the funds in the draft FY 09-10 budget needed to continue to annually publish and mail 10 issues of *Officer Review* magazine that he would recommend to the Order to continue printing and mailing 10 issues of *Officer Review* magazine. Only the one vote was taken by the GS on all of these reports.

After his report the Chief of Staff took roll call of Chapter Commanders and Adjutants present to determine the winner of the annual BG Horace W. Port award that will be announced at the CINC's Banquet. (*Note: the 2009 winner was Region V*). CINC LTG Wetzel invited the five VCINCs to give a brief update on their reports.

Sr. VCINC COL Philemon A. "Phil" St. Amant II, VCINC Col Frederick J. "Fred" Graves, VCINC CAPT Russell C. Vowinkel, VCINC Col Clifford D. "Cliff" Way, and VCINC COL M. Hall Worthington gave their reports (pages 11 to 22-GS meeting book) to the GS. Each VCINC gave the GS an update on all major activities in their Regions and a report on all significant activities occurring in the Committees they have oversight responsibility for and also highlighted the work of their GSOs. No vote was taken by the GS on any of the VCINCs reports.

Treasurer General LTC John H. Hollywood discussed his report (see page 23-GS meeting book) and updated the EXCOM on the following items:

1. FY 08-09 Budget (midyear): Everything was on budget (see page 24 in the GS meeting 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).

After his presentation there was a **motion** by the GS to have the CINC's third solicitation letter be mailed to all Companions, even those Companions who have already donated to the CINC's solicitation for this fiscal year, **seconded**, and **passed**. After the GS approval of this motion the Chief of Staff informed the GS that the third letter will be mailed it in two weeks and that it will be mailed to all Companions.

CINC LTG Wetzel asked if there were any other National Officers that wished to add something important to their submitted written reports and there were no additional oral reports. He recommended that if any Committee or Council Chair wished to add or expand their written reports provided in the GS meeting book to please do so at the upcoming CINC's Committee and Council Reporting time (formally the CINC's symposium). No vote was taken by the GS on any of these reports.

CINC LTG Wetzel then opened the CINC's Committee and Council Reporting time (formally the CINC's Symposium) for all Committees and Councils of the Order (see page 30-GS meeting book for the rule for this reporting forum/symposium). This was the third time the Order has attempted to include this reporting forum/symposium as part of the Midwinter GS meeting agenda.

All National Committees and Councils gave oral reports to the CINC and the GS (see their written reports on pages 31 to 67 in the GS meeting book). Each Committee/Council Chair (or Vice Chair or Committee/Council representative) "highlighted "their successes and future challenges." This reporting forum/symposium was an open discussion with questions from the all in attendance, after each Committee/Council presentation, facilitated by CINC Col LTG Wetzel. The order of the reports is as follows:

Committees

1. Boy/Girl Scouts:
2. Budget:
3. Chapter Activities & Awards:
4. Constitution and Bylaws:
5. Ethics:
6. Financial Development:
7. Historical and Archives:
8. Homeland Security:
9. Honors and Protocol:
10. Information, Publicity & Magazine:
11. Law and Order:
12. Legislative and Resolutions:
13. Membership:
14. Memorials:
15. National Convention & Seminars:
16. National Security:
17. Nominating:
18. Patriotic Education:
19. Policy Planning:
20. ROTC:

Chairs

(Absent-no report)
Sr. VCINC COL Phil St. Amant II
VCINC Col Clifford Way
COL Roger C. Green
Past CINC 1st Lt Donald Allen
COL Gregory "Greg" Camp
Historian Gen. Maj John Brady
(Absent—no report)
Companion Patricia J. Snyder
VCINC CAPT Russell Vowinkel
COL James T. "Tom" Roberts, Jr.
Vice Chair LTC Mike George
Vive Chair VCINC Col Graves
New Chair, Capt John M. Hayes
CPT Leo J. Goodsell
Sr. VCINC COL Phil St. Amant II
Past CINC LTC David R. Titus
Comm Member PCINC CAPT Stevens
Sr. VCINC COL Phil St. Amant II
LTC Gary O. Engen

Councils

1. Council of Past CINC's:
2. Council of Region Commanders:
3. Council of Department & State Commanders:

Chair

PCINC CAPT Rollie Stevens
CWO4 Allan R. Peschek
(Absent-no report)

After the CINC's Committee and Council Reporting time (formally the CINC's Symposium) CINC LTG Wetzel thanked all of the Committee and Council Chairs (or their representative) for working hard for the Order and that it appeared that all were being successful at "doing the work of the Order" and again thanked all National Officers, Committees, Councils, and GS members for their dedication and hard work for the Order and for taking the time to "make it happen." No vote was taken by the GS on any of the Committee/Council reports.

LTC Mike George, Vice Chair, Legislation & Resolution Committee informed the GS that there were three proposed emergency Resolutions accepted by the Committee for the Midwinter GS meeting to consider: 1. *Stay the Corse in Iraq*; 2. *Federal Funding of BRAC Impacted School Districts*, and 3. *Stay the Course in Afghanistan*. After an in-depth discussion on the three proposed emergency Resolutions, there was a **motion** by the GS to approve all three (3) Resolutions, as presented, **seconded**, and **passed**.

CINC LTG Wetzel discussed the issue of poor attendance 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. The CINC informed the GS that the EXCOM voted to cancel the 2010 Midwinter GS meeting scheduled to be hosted by the San Diego, California, Chapter. After an in-depth discussion about the Order having Midwinter GS meetings, there was then a **MOTION** by the GS to suspend indefinitely, all future Midwinter GS meetings due to the critical financial situation that is affecting everyone throughout the Country, **SECONDED**, and **APPROVED**.

The GS 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 chapters to discuss this issue so the Order could identify 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 GS on this report.

The GS 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 not an agreement that the Order should 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 informed the GS that he would 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 GS was informed that a proposed change would be submitted to change the Order's C&BLs, to be considered at the 2009 National Convention, which would reflect these proposed changes. No vote was taken by the GS 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 passed.**

The GS discussed the issue of Chapters with one (1) chapter officer doing all three chapter jobs (Commander, Adjutant, and Treasurer). The Chief of Staff informed the GS that it was critical to have two chapter officers' signatures on the annual MOWW IRS letter. After a short discussion, the CINC requested that all National Officers, Region, State, and Department Commanders work at helping these chapters find "at least" one additional chapter officer to help satisfy the concern about the need of having two chapter officers' signatures on the annual MOWW IRS letter. No vote was taken by the GS on this report.

The GS discussed the Order's 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 was informed 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 GS on this report.

CDR Art Judson II reported for Past CINC 1st LT Donald G. Allen, President, Patriotic Education Foundation (PEF), Inc. (see PEF report on page 94-GS meeting book) to the GS an update and overview of the Foundation and he informed the GS about the PEF's efforts to support the MOWW youth programs and other un-funded requirements the Order may have. He closed his report by informing the GS that if they had any requests for a grant from the PEF to please submit their requests to the Board President. No vote was taken by the GS on this report.

Past CINC COL Bert Rice, President, Youth Enrichment Foundation (YEF), Inc. (formerly called the Youth Development Foundation (YDF), Inc. (see their report on page 106-GS meeting book) gave the GS an update and overview of the Foundation. He informed the GS about the YEF's efforts to support all of the MOWW youth programs and specifically their efforts to raise funds to help support the Order's YLC program. He closed his report by informing the GS that if they had any requests for a grant from the YEF to please submit their requests to the Board President. No vote was taken by the GS on this report.

Past CINC COL Brion V. "Bri" Chabot, President, Patriotic Education, Inc. (PEI) gave the GS an update and overview of the PEI. He gave the GS a brief update on their efforts to re-print copies of the "*Keys to the Constitution*" and provide these to the Order's YLCs provided that funding can be identified for these books. He closed his report by stating that he looked forward to the continued support of Companions helping the PEI with donations that the PEI's would continue their efforts to provide publications to the Order's YLCs. No vote was taken by the GS on this report.

The CINC again stated his concerns to the GS 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 GS members to recruit new members and to encourage and help chapters with their membership. No vote was taken by the GS on this report.

CINC LTG Wetzel asked for a motion to accept all reports presented orally to the GS or as written and presented to the GS in the GS meeting book provided to all members of the GS, motioned by the GS, second, and passed.

CINC LTG Wetzel informed the GS that the “business of the GS” was completed and that the second session of the GS meeting on Saturday would be used to discuss his CINC goals in detail and to cover any GS business “for the good of the Order.”

CINC LTG Wetzel recessed the first session of the 2009 Midwinter GS Meeting at 1150 hours on Friday, February 13, 2009.

CINC Col LTG Wetzel reconvened the second session of the 2009 Midwinter GS Meeting at 1300 hours on Saturday, February 14, 2009.

CINC LTG Wetzel reviewed each of the Goals he set for the Order for his term that were published in the September 2008 issue of *Officer Review* magazine. There was an in-depth discussion by the GS on many of these goals and CINC LTG Wetzel fielded questions from the GS, answering all of their questions. He encouraged all members of the GS to assist the Chapters in meeting these goals. In closing these discussions, he again expressed concerns about future National Security issues with the new Administration. He also addressed the concerns he has with membership and stated that membership is his number “one goal.” No votes were taken by the GS during these discussions.

CINC LTG Wetzel asked if there were any items “**For the Good of the Order.**”

Magazine Sub-Committee Chairman, Past CINC LTC Alfred Shehab gave the GS an oral report on the winners of the Vice Admiral George C. Dyer Magazine Award for 2008 as follows:

First Place: MAJ Marian E. Weller of the San Antonio, Texas, Chapter, for her article “Yes, This Gal Wore Combat Boots” published in the January/February 2008 issue (page 7).

Second Place: COL Calvin G. Lyons, Knoxville, Tennessee, Chapter, for his article “Heroes Among Us” published in the May 2008 issue (page 8).

Honorable Mention (3):

---Past CINC COL Jack B. Jones, General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, California, Chapter, for his article “The American ‘Indian Wars’—The Other Forgotten War” published in the July/August 2008 issue (page 10).

---COL George C. Woolsey, Santa Barbara, California, Chapter, for his article “The Truman Doctrine” published in the October 2008 issue (page 5).

---LTC David King, Roanoke, Virginia, Chapter, for his article “A Good Soldier” published in the December 2008 issue (page 6).

The Committee awarded a “Special Recognition” to Capt LeRoy Reinburg, Jr., Bethesda, Maryland, Chapter, for his numerous well-crafted contributions to *Officer Review* magazine over the years. His articles have merited First Place (2006) and multiple Honorable Mention Awards. He has written articles about his father’s and uncle’s service, as well as his own experiences in the Coast Guard, providing vivid descriptions and detail about his subjects. In addition, in 2008 he submitted two

articles, "Disco Baby" published in the January/February 2008 issue (page 9), and "Collision Quarters" published in the December 2008 issue (page 8) that the Magazine Sub-Committee acknowledged for "Special Recognition." No vote was taken by the GS on this report.

Past CINC Col Elmer restated to the GS his new recruiting initiative "to recruit newly Commissioned Officers." He stated "if every Chapter will recruit a top senior student in every Senior ROTC unit that they support, or could support from their area, and give them a "Scholarship" of a paid Annual Membership, we will increase our MOWW membership by almost 500 new Commissioned Officers. In addition, some Chapters are close to the Military Academies or other commissioning programs such as Officer Candidate Schools (OCS) and each graduating class can yield another possible candidate, for graduates from these organizations are also eligible for a "Scholarship" Annual Membership. To cover the cost, Past CINC Col Elmer will split that cost with the Chapter or Companion sponsoring the recruit (they pay half of the annual membership cost (\$20) and Col Elmer pays the other half (\$20). Col Elmer stated "that he is willing to 'step-up' and cover half the cost of these 'Scholarship' Annual Memberships for this program is surely worth the time and money it takes to make a positive step forward for the future of the Order." No vote was taken by the GS on this report.

CINC LTG Wetzel reported that he and Past CINC CAPT Stevens (subbing for COL Dick Minor, Chair Patriotic Education Committee), along with Col David Gibson, Director of the Tacoma, Washington, YLC would be presenting the 2008 Phoenician Award and a \$1,000 check to Ms. Linda Nguyen from Portland, Oregon, at the CINC's Banquet and that she will be accompanied by her parents. Ms. Nguyen attended the Tacoma, Washington State, YLC.

The GS discussed many additional items for the "Good of the Order" however, there were no votes taken by the GS during any of these discussions.

In closing the second session of the GS meeting CINC LTG Wetzel told the GS that Region XV won the Horace Port Award for having the best percentage of their GS members in attendance at the 2008 Midwinter GS meeting. No vote was taken by the GS on this report.

For his closing remarks, CINC LTG Wetzel complimented the GS on the excellent work they accomplished at this GS meeting. He stated that the National Officers and Committees/Councils were working hard for the Order and that it appeared that all were being successful. He again thanked all National Officers, Committee/Council Chairs, and all other GS members and Companions in attendance for their dedication and hard work for the Order and for taking the time to attend the GS meeting and for working to 'make it happen.'

CINC LTG Wetzel concluded the GS meeting with a Benediction and adjourned the 2009 Midwinter GS Meeting at 1440 hours, Saturday, February 14, 2009.

THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE GENERAL STAFF AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE JOINT SESSION OF THE PRE-CONVENTION GS MEETING AND THE 2009 NATIONAL CONVENTION ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009, IN BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.