

**The Military Order of the World Wars  
2008 National Convention  
Columbus, Georgia  
July 30 to August 3, 2008**

**2008 Joint Session, Pre-Convention GS Meeting and 2008 National Convention  
Friday, August 1 & 2, 2008  
MINUTES**

Col James D. "Jim" Elmer, Commander-in-Chief (CINC), opened the Joint Session of the 2008 Pre-Convention General Staff (GS) Meeting and the 2008 National Convention at 0804 hours and followed with an Invocation, Advancing of the Colors, reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, the singing of our National Anthem by Mrs. Ernestine Young, Posting of the Colors, and the reading of the Order's Preamble.

CINC Col Elmer gave his opening remarks and introduced and welcomed all visiting dignitaries. Col Elmer congratulated and thanked his staff, the committees, and individuals who worked diligently during the year to accomplish many of the goals set forth by him at the beginning of his tenure. He was very impressed by the "teamwork" of all, which produced significant gratifying results to the many and varied tasks assigned to them. The CINC witnessed first-hand, on his visits to the Order's Youth Leadership Conferences (YLCs), the excellent work the Directors are doing and was enthused by the comments given by the young adults attending these conferences. He called upon every echelon of the Order and each Companion to continue their support and also work to expand these youth conferences, Massing of the Colors events, and the Law & Order Chapter programs.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chief of Staff BG Bultman requested a motion and vote from the National Convention to dispense with the reading of the minutes (page 5-Convention Book) of the 2007 Joint Session of the 2008 Pre-Convention GS Meeting and the first session of the 2008 National Convention meeting (Overland Park, KC, Kansas) and that the report be accepted and approved as written, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention.

Chief of Staff BG Bultman requested a motion and vote from the members of the GS to dispense with the reading of the minutes (page 12-Convention Book) of the 2009 Midwinter GS meeting (Huntsville, Alabama) and that the report be accepted and approved as written, **motioned, seconded and approved** by the General Staff.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The National Judge Advocate General, LT Stuart M. Cowan, presented the rules of the Convention (page 20-Convention Book) and requested a motion to have these rules accepted as presented, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention.

CINC Col Elmer nominated two Companions for General Staff Emeritus (page 151-Convention Book) Companions COL Richard A. Colson, Phoenix, Arizona, Chapter and Maj John G. Brady, LTG John M. Wright, Jr., California, Chapter. CINC Col Elmer requested a motion and vote from the GS to approve the election of these two Companions, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the General Staff.

CINC Col Elmer then presented the MOWW Citations (National & Membership) (pages 148 & 149-Convention Book,) to Companions and thanked them for their recruiting efforts and service to the Order.

CINC Col Elmer presented his Commander-in-Chief "End-of-the-Year" Report (page 21-Convention Book): He presented an overview of his "End-of-the-Year" Report and asked if there were any questions, there being no questions the CINC requested a motion to accept his report as written, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention. CINC Col Elmer presented a report on the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the General Staff which he Chaired (page 62-Convention Book). He presented an overview of the work the EXCOM did in the past year and thanked all EXCOM members for their outstanding service on this very important committee. No action was taken on this report.

Chief of Staff BG Bultman presented his Chief of Staff report (page 26-Convention Book) highlighting some of the more important items which occurred during the year for the Order and the National Headquarters. BG Bultman then told the Convention that the small Headquarters staff was dedicated to providing excellent service to all levels of the Order and to every Companion of the Order. The Chief of Staff requested a motion to accept his report as written, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention.

CINC Col Elmer provided the Senior VCINC and the four VCINCs an opportunity to say a few words and update their written reports.

Senior VCINC LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel remarked that there was no more he could add to his written report (page 30-Convention Book). He thanked all committees that he had oversight responsibility of for their excellent work for the Order during the year and he thanked his General Staff Officers (GSOs) for their dedication and hard work. No action was taken on this report.

VCINCs CAPT William W. "Bill" Dibble (page 32-Convention Book), Col Frederick J. "Fred" Graves (page 35-Convention Book), COL Philemon A. "Phil" St. Amant II (page 38-Convention Book), and COL Billie L. Stephens (page 41-Convention Book) all remarked they too had nothing significant to add to their written reports. However, each VCINC echoed the Senior VCINC's sentiments of appreciation and gratitude for a job "well done" to the GSOs and Committee Chairs for whom they had oversight during the year. No action was taken on these reports.

Treasurer General COL Hall Worthington gave an overview of the FY07-08 (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008) budget and his report (page 42-Convention Book). He informed the Convention that the Order completed the year within budget and he complemented the National Headquarters staff for their "due diligence" of the Order's funds. He emphasized the importance of Chapters returning their MOWW IRS Certification Postcard/Letter and the importance of all Chapters indicating that their chapter has completed their annual "financial review" requirement. He then stated that returning the IRS postcard/Letter, especially reporting on their chapter's annual Financial Review are now mandatory requirements for each Chapter. He updated the Convention on the Order's Honor Donor Wall program. No action was taken on this report.

Budget Committee Chair, Sr. VCINC LTG Wetzel provided the assembled delegates a review of his Committee report (page 53-Convention Book) and a comprehensive review of the proposed FY08-09 budget (draft # 1 printed in the Convention Book on pages 54 & 55). He informed the convention that the Budget Committee started their committee discussion with a draft # 1 and pointed out specific areas where the expenditures were drastically reduced to meet the requirements of the projected income. He also indicated that incomes from the MOWW funds, as in the past, are down considerably. Support for the CINC's solicitation program is the Order's best means for making up losses and he urged Chapter, Department, and Region Commanders to emphasize to all Companions the importance of making a donation to this solicitation.

Sr. VCINC LTG Wetzel informed the Convention that MOWW HQs salaries were overstated by \$4,000 and that he would like to amend Draft # 1 by decreasing Expense line item 6125 (HQs salaries) by \$4,000 and adding \$2,000 to Expense line item 6117 (PEC Support) and \$2,000 to Expense line item 6210 (National HQs Office Support), **motioned, seconded, and approved**. Following Sr. VCINC LTG Wetzel's report and additional discussions on the proposed draft FY 08-09 budget # 1 (as published in the Convention Book and amended by the Convention), CINC Col Elmer requested a motion to accept the FY 08-09 proposed draft Budget # 1, as presented and amended, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention.

CINC Col Elmer then requested a motion to approve the FY 08-09 "Budget Resolution" as corrected (page 56-Convention Book), as prescribed by Chapter II (F), Budget Committee, which reads as follows: "That upon approval of the FY 2008-2009 budget (just presented) and this Resolution, approved by the National Convention, neither the budget nor this Resolution may be amended or changed without the approval of the General Staff or the Executive Committee of the General Staff, on their behalf." There being no arguments, for or against the Resolution, CINC Col Elmer asked for a motion to approve the Resolution, as presented, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention.

The Chair of the MOWW Board of Trustees, CDR Jack Fetner II, referred the delegates to his written report in the delegates' book (page 143-144-Convention Book) and asked if there were any questions; there being none, his report was completed. No action was taken on this report.

Following his Committee report, CDR Fetner II requested a motion to approve the "Report of Corpus for the MOWW Funds" (page 144-Convention Book), setting corpus for MOWW Perpetual and Memorial (PM) fund at \$4,073,438 as of June 30, 2008, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention.

CINC Col Elmer announced that he was appointing VCINC Colonel Philemon A. St. Amant II to be the "Parliamentarian" for the remainder of the 2008 Nation Convention.

Capt Deborah A. "Debbie" Kash, Chair, Membership Committee, gave a brief overview of her report (page 74-Convention Book). She then discussed the final membership report (page 75-79-Convention Book) and raised concerns about the poor retention of annual dues-paying Companions, especially those being lost for Non-Payment of Dues (NPDs). She further reported that if the Order is going to have "success" in reaching the membership goal set by the CINC each year, a solution to poor retention, especially NPDs, will have to be found. No action was taken on this report.

Sr. VCINC LTG Wetzel, chair, Policy Planning Committee gave an overview of his report (page 91-Convention Book). He informed the Convention that the Committee has completed their work on Strategic Plan 2010, Revision B was completed and he requested that there be a motion to approve "Revision B" as presented, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention. He informed the Convention that a copy of "Revision B" will be put on the MOWW web site or be available from MOWW National Headquarters upon request.

CAPT William W. "Bill" Dibble, Jr., Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws (C&BLs) Committee gave his report (page 58-Convention Book), and outlined the ground rules for the presentation of proposed changes to the C&BLs. He stated that only those proposed amendments, with a recommendation "FOR" by the C&BLs Committee, will be brought before the Convention delegates for a vote. However, any recommended C&BLs change that was received by the Committee and published in *Officer Review* magazine can be discussed from the Convention floor. To review all of the proposed changes submitted to the Committee and the specifics of each change, Companions were to review the May 2008 issue of the *Officer Review* magazine (page 13). There was a request for a motion to accept his report as presented, **motioned, seconded and approved** by the National Convention.

CINC Col Elmer turned-over the control of the Convention to CAPT Dibble to conduct the Convention vote on the proposed changes to the C&BLs as follows:

*(Note: Constitution Amendments Required Approval of Three-quarters (3/4) of the Delegates Voting)*

**(C-2)** Amend Article III, Organization, Section 1(a), to read as follows: “The Order shall be organized into Regions, States, Departments, and Chapters. No Region may be organized with fewer than five chapters. No Department may be organized with fewer than two chapters. No Chapter may be organized with fewer than fifteen (15) living members”—**PASSED**.

**(C-3)** Amend Article IV, National Convention, Section 1(a), by changing the first line to read as follows: “The legislative body of the Order shall be the National Convention, which shall meet annually at such places and date as approved by the General Staff”—**PASSED**.

**(C-4)** Remove Article IV, National Convention, Section 3, by eliminating this section—**PASSED**.

**(C-5)** Amend Article V, Officers, Section 1(a), to read as follows: “The Officers of the Order who constitute the General Staff shall consist of the following: the Commander-in-Chief, the Past Commanders-in-Chief, the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, the four Vice Commanders-in-Chief, the Treasurer General and Assistant Treasurer General, the Judge Advocate General and Assistant Judge Advocate General, the Surgeon General and Assistant Surgeon General, the Chaplain General and Assistant Chaplain General, the Historian General, and Assistant Historian General, the member of the Board of Trustees of the funds of the Order, the Region, State, Department, and Chapter Commanders, the General Staff Emeritus members, and the ten General Staff Members-at-Large (appointed and elected). The Chairmen of National Committees and the Directors of the Youth Leadership Conferences sanctioned by the Order, if not otherwise members of the General Staff, are also members of the General Staff while serving in those capacities. The Chief of Staff is a member as an ex-official without a vote”—**PASSED**.

**(C-6)** Amend Article V, Officers, Section 2(d), to read as follows: “The newly elected CINC shall nominate to the General Staff candidates for the positions of Assistant Treasurer General, Assistant Judge Advocate, Assistant Historian General, Assistant Surgeon General, and Assistant Historian General, who will be elected each year by the General Staff at its annual Post-Convention meeting and shall serve until the following National Convention”—**PASSED**.

**(C-7)** Amend Article VI, The General Staff, Section 2, to read as follows: “The General Staff shall hold an annual Post-Convention General Staff meeting, plus any other meetings during the year, as may be needed, at such places and dates, as may be determined by the Executive Committee of the General Staff. A special meeting of the General Staff may be called by the Commander-in-Chief, as needed. A notice of this special meeting shall be sent to all members of the General Staff by email/mail within one week of the request for the meeting”—**PASSED**.

**(C-8)** Amend Article VI, The General Staff, Section 4(a), by adding the words “and the Chief of Staff as an ex-official without a vote.” to the end of the last sentence—**PASSED**.

**(C-9)** Amend Article VII, Prohibited Matters, Section 3, to read as follows: “The names (Military Order of the World Wars, MOWW, and Officer Review) and the insignia or emblem of the Order shall not be used in any way outside of the normal business of the Order, without authority of the General Staff. The specific policy for use of these items will be published in the MOWW Handbook if this change is approved”—**PASSED**.

(Note: Amendments to the Bylaws Required Approval of Two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates Voting)

**(B-1)** Amend Article I, Finances, Sec. 9, by changing the first line to read as follows: “The Board of Trustees shall submit a report to the National Convention and the General Staff, upon request, listing the investments held in each of the funds (and their parts) entrusted to their care”—**PASSED**.

**(B-2)** Amend Article 1, Finance, Section 11 (b) to read as follows: “Annual dues paying Companions whose return address is indicated as APO or FPO will be forwarded a notice commending them for their service overseas in serving Our Country and will be advised that they are exempt from National and chapter dues until the Companion returns to CONUS. When the address of the Companion changes to one in CONUS, Headquarters will advise the Companion that the exception of dues has expired and annual dues are now required to be paid. If they fail to pay their annual dues the procedures shown in Section 11(a) to collect late dues will begin”—**PASSED**.

**(B-3)** Remove Article IV, Duties of Officers, Section 4 (b), The Treasurer General, by eliminating this section—**PASSED**.

**(B-4)** Remove Article IV, Duties of Officers, Section 5 (b), The Judge Advocate General, by eliminating this section—**PASSED**.

**(B-5)** Remove Article IV, Duties of Officers, Section 8 (b), The Historian General, by eliminate this section—**PASSED**.

**(B-6)** Amend Article IV, Duties of Officers, Section 10, to read as follows: “The duties of the members of the Board of Trustees of the funds of the Order are as prescribed in Article I, Sections 7, and 9 of these Bylaws”—**PASSED**.

**(B-7)** Amend Article VI Standing Committees, Sec. 1, to read as follows: “The Standing Committees of the Order, which (with the addition of the Executive Committee of the General Staff) shall also serve as Standing Committees of the General Staff and of the National Convention, shall be as follows: Boy/Girl Scouts, Budget, Chapter Activities and Awards, Constitution and Bylaws, Ethics, Financial Development, Historical and Archives, Homeland Security, Honors and Protocol, Information and Publicity and Magazine, Law and Order, Legislative and Resolutions, Membership, Memorials, National Convention and Seminars, National Security, Nominating, Patriotic Education, Policy Planning, ROTC”  
(Note: B-7 was amended to leave Homeland Security and Law & Order as separate committees)—**PASSED**.

**(B-7-1)** Eliminate the Endowments and Grants Committees and establishes a Financial Development Committee—**PASSED**.

**(B-7-2)** Combines the Awards and Chapter Activities Committees—**PASSED**.

**(B-7-3)** Combines the Homeland Security and Law and Order Committees—**FAILED**.

**(B-7-4)** Combines the Information and Publicity Committees and the Magazine Committees and establishes a sub-committee to specifically address the Order’s magazine *Officer Review*—**PASSED**.

**(B-7-5)** Combine the National Seminar Committee with the National Convention—**PASSED**.

**(B-8)** Amend Article VI, Standing Committees, Sec. 6, to read as follows: "Committees shall report their proceedings and progress at each National Convention and at such other times as may be requested by the General Staff or the Commander-in-Chief"—**PASSED**.

**(B-9)** Amend Article VII, Order of Business, Section 2, by deleting item 11, which states "Reading of minutes in summary for confirmation or correction"—**PASSED**.

There was then a **motion** from the floor to consider the proposed change not approved by the C&BLs Committee, **(C-1)** Amend Article II, Membership, Section 1 (a), by changing "Commissioned, flight, or Warrant Officer" to "Commissioned Officer, Flight Officer, Warrant Officer, or Non-Commissioned E-7/8/9." This motion was **seconded**. After an in-depth discussion there was a vote and the **motion failed**.

COL Richard E. "Dick" Minor, Chair, Patriotic Education Committee (PEC) gave a brief overview of his report (page 89-Convention Book) and an update on the Order's YLC program including the YLC Video, the Training of New YLC Directors, and the YLC schedule (multi & single day conferences). He raised concerns about not finding Companions to be new YLC Directors and also raised his concern about funding for the program for future years. He then presented an overview of the new "Policy for Risk Reduction and Loss Prevention" for all YLCs sponsored by the Order. He told the Convention that he would continue his efforts for developing a training program for all YLC staff and faculty (using the Boy Scouts of America program) and continue his work on doing "background checks" on all staff and faculty of all multi-day YLCs. No action was taken on this report.

CINC Col Elmer **recessed** the first session, Joint Session of the 2008 Pre-Convention GS Meeting and the 2008 National Convention at 1110 hours, August 1, 2008.

CINC Col Elmer **reconvened** the second session of the Joint Session of the 2008 Pre-Convention GS Meeting and the 2008 National Convention, at 0900 hours, August 2, 2008.

Past CINC COL Jack B. Jones, Chair, Nominating Committee, presented his oral report and discussed his report (page 85-Convention Book). He then announced the results of the balloting from the voting delegates in the Nominating Committee. He requested that after the results were read, that a motion be made for his report to be accepted and approved, as presented.

Commander-in-Chief:	LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel (A)
Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief:	COL Philemon A. "Phil" St. Amant II (A)
Vice Commanders-in-Chief:	Col Frederick J. "Fred" Graves (AF)
(4 elected)	CAPT Russell C. "Russ" Vowinkel (N)
	Col Clifford D. "Cliff" Way (AF)
	Colonel M. Hall Worthington (A)
Treasurer General:	LTC John H. Hollywood (A)
Judge Advocate General:	LT Stuart Cowan (N)
Chaplain General:	Major (Chaplain) Charlie Beasley (A)
Surgeon General:	Lt Col (Dr.) Kenneth Shanklin (AF)
Historian General:	Major John Brady (A)
General Staff Officers (5 elected):	COL Fred B. Darley (A)
	COL Christopher M. Smrt (A)
	LTC Guthrie H. Ashton, Jr. (A)
	CDR Robert L. "Bob" Rawls (N)
	Companion Mrs. Jennie McIntosh

There was a request for a motion to accept and approve the Chair of the Nominating Committee's report, as presented, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention.

CINC Col Elmer then conducted elections of National Officers. There was a **motion** by the National Convention that all candidates nominated be elected by acclamation, **seconded, and approved.**

CINC Col Elmer announced that the 2009 Midwinter General Staff (GS) meeting which had been previously approved for San Diego, California was changed to Huntsville Alabama and approved by the Executive Committee of the GS (EXCOM). He also announced that the 2009 National Convention would be in Baltimore, Maryland near Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Airport on August 11-16, 2009. He then announced that the 2010 National Convention currently scheduled to be held in Albuquerque/Santa Fe, New Mexico area was being nominated to be held in El Paso, Texas. After a discussion there was a **motion** to approve El Paso, Texas, for the 2010 National Convention, **seconded, and approved.**

CINC Col Elmer announced that the 2011 National Convention site was "open" since Louisville, Kentucky, withdrew their interest in hosting this convention. He stated that it was important the leadership of the Order identify a site for the 2011 National Convention at the 2009 National Convention. In closing the reports on future National Convention and GS meeting sites there was a **motion** from the floor stating that if the 2009 GS meeting being held in Huntsville, Alabama, did not have good participation by Companions that the Order consider "suspending" future GS meeting until the Nations financial situation improves, **seconded, and approved.**

Chief of Staff BG Bultman led a discussion on four Chapters with less than 15 living members (Region I, New London, CT; Region IV, Southern, MD; Region VII, Monroe, LA; Region XIII, Ft Huachuca, AZ). After an in-depth discussion there was a motion to merge the Monroe, LA, Chapter into the Baton Rouge, LA, Chapter, this motion was second. However, during the discussion of this motion, there was an amendment offered to leave the Monroe, LA, Chapter open for one more year, the motion to amend was second, and failed, There was then a vote on the original motion and it passed.

There was then a **motion** to take no action "at this time" on the three remaining Chapters (New London, CT, Southern, MD, and Ft Huachuca, AZ) and to re-visit these Chapters membership concerns, if they still existed, at the 2009 Midwinter GS meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, **seconded, and approved.**

VCINC COL D. Michael Duggan, Chair, Legislative & Resolution Committee, gave a brief overview of his Committee report (page 70-Convention Book) and presented six (6) Resolutions for the Order to consider and vote to approve. After an in-depth discussion there was a request to approve all Resolutions (as amended), **motioned, seconded and approved** by the National Convention titled as follows: 1.) Domestic Energy Production; 2.) Support for The National Museum of The United States Army; 3.) USS Iwo Memorial; 4.) National Convention Sites; 5.) Salute to America's Service Men and Women; 6.) Preserve the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

CINC Col Elmer stated that since there are no further additions or changes in the written and oral reports provided to the National Convention, he was requesting a motion to accept all of the reports as written, published and presented, **motioned, seconded, and approved** by the National Convention.

CINC Col Elmer asked the Convention if they had any items "**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.**"

There was a **motion** from the floor to approved awarding President George H. W. Bush an Honorary Commander-in-Chief (he would be the Order's 12<sup>th</sup>) and a Gold Patrick Henry Award from the Order. The motion was **seconded** and during the discussion, Past CINC CAPT Stevens informed the Convention that the Council of Past CINCs initiated this effort to recognize him and has voted to support both of these awards for President G.H.W. Bush. In addition, current CINC Col Elmer and CINC-elect, LTG Wetzel both stated their support for these awards. The motion was **approved**. Past CINC CAPT Stevens said he would take the lead for the Order to setup a time to present these awards to President G.H.W. Bush, with some of the Past CINCs in attendance. He also stated that the Dallas, Texas, Chapter planned to sponsor him to join their Chapter as a Perpetual Member of the Order.

Additional issues where presented and discussed, however, no more votes were taken by GS or the National Convention during the "For the Good of the Order" discussions.

CINC Col Elmer adjourned the 2008 Pre-Convention GS Meeting and recessed the 2008 National Convention at 1030 hours, August 2, 2008.

CINC Col Elmer reconvened the 2008 National Convention by opening the CINC's Formal Banquet at 1900 hours, August 2, 2008.

The Order's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Admiral Vernon E. Clark, twenty-seventh Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), U. S. Navy. In his acceptance speech, Admiral Clark thanked the Order for the great award and especially thanked all who served and are serving our country in the military services.

CINC Col Elmer announced that COL Richard E. "Dick" Minor, Phoenix, AZ, Chapter, was the recipient of the Commander-in-Chief's Annual Award, given to the individual whom the CINC recognizes as having helped him the most during his tenure as CINC.

CINC Col Elmer gave his closing remarks and the evening concluded with the changing of Commanders from Col James D. "Jim" Elmer to LTG Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel.

After CINC LTG Wetzel's remarks he adjourned the 2008 National Convention Meeting at 2230 hours, August 2, 2008.

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