



# MOWW CONSTITUTION

AS ADOPTED AT THE ORGANIZATION CONVENTION, DETROIT, MI (1920), AND AS REVISED  
AT SUBSEQUENT CONVENTIONS, INCLUDING THE EL PASO, TX (2010), NATIONAL CONVENTION

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## ARTICLE I

### NAME

The name of the organization shall be *The Military Order of the World Wars*<sup>®</sup>. It shall also be known as *MOWW*<sup>®</sup>. The name of the Order's magazine shall be the "*Officer Review*<sup>®</sup>".

## ARTICLE II

### MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Classification of Membership. Members shall be classified as Annual, Perpetual, Senior, Hereditary, Dual (which includes multiple memberships) and Memorial. The first five (5) classifications shall comprise the active membership of the Order as hereinafter set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws.

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

c. Senior Membership. Senior Membership shall be those members who have attained the age of seventy (70) years and whose membership in the Order has been in good standing for thirty (30) years. Individuals with memberships in more than one (1) chapter must possess the aforementioned qualifications within each chapter in order to be eligible for Senior Membership status. Senior Members shall be exempt from any and all further payment of dues whatsoever. Since Perpetual Membership in this Order is a higher classification than Senior Membership, and exempt from any and all dues payment as such, nominations of Perpetual Members for Senior Member status will not be considered.

d. Hereditary Membership. Hereditary Membership is open to citizens of the United States of America who are of good moral character and repute, and who are:

- 1) The spouse of a present or former member, or
- 2) The surviving spouse of a deceased or former member, or
- 3) The spouse, descendant, or adopted child of an officer who is, if living, or who would have been, if deceased, eligible as a member, or
- 4) The descendant or adopted child of a member; or in the case of failure of lineal issue or adopted child, or
- 5) A descendant or adopted child of a sister or brother of a member.

e. 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 the National Headquarters' receipt of a contribution to the Perpetual and Memorial Membership Fund in the sum prescribed in the Bylaws, the name of such member shall be inscribed in the records of the Order as a Memorial Perpetual Member.

f. Dual Membership. Dual Memberships, i.e., memberships in two or more chapters, are authorized to individual members, provided that such individual members meet annual national dues requirements or Perpetual Membership contributions for each membership.

g. Honorary Membership. Honorary Membership in the Order may not be conferred upon any person. The foregoing shall not affect the status of Honorary Members duly elected prior to 1957.

SECTION 2. Admission to membership is by election to a chapter in the manner pre-scribed in its Bylaws. An applicant shall pledge himself to conform to the Order's Constitution and Bylaws and use his/her best endeavors to promote the purposes and interests of the Order. Membership becomes effective upon receipt and verification of the application and associated fees by the National Headquarters.

SECTION 3. Each chapter shall be the judge of its individual members with respects to election, resignation, expulsion and conduct unbecoming an officer, or other behavior not in conformity with the National Constitution and Bylaws, provided that any action by a chapter may be appealed by the affected member to the General Staff for adjudication. Nothing herein stated or implied shall preclude initiation of similar action by the General Staff whenever a chapter fails to take action which the General Staff considers warranted. No resignation shall be accepted from a member indebted to the Order.

SECTION 4. An applicant for membership rejected by one chapter shall not be admitted to another chapter except by the written permission of the Commander-in-Chief. Transfer of membership from one chapter to another shall be in accordance with the procedure determined by the National Headquarters.

SECTION 5. Reinstatement in membership may be effected as provided in chapter Constitutions or Bylaws and in the National Bylaws.

### ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. The Order shall be organized into Regions, States, Departments and Chapters.

a. 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 ten (10) living members.

b. Whenever a Region, Department, or Chapter falls below the minimum standards required for designation or charter as specified above, at its next meeting the General Staff shall revoke such designation or charter, unless in the collective opinion expressed by a majority vote of those present, extenuating circumstances warrant the temporary continuance of such designation or charter until the next meeting. In the event of revocation of designation of a Region as such, the General Staff shall reassign the geographical area involved to another Region. Upon revocation of the charter of a Department for the reason cited above, the Commander-in-Chief may, subject to confirmation by the General Staff at its next meeting, appoint a commander for the State or Territory concerned. In case of revocation of a Chapter charter under the same circumstances, the Commander-in-Chief may, in his discretion, appoint a commander pending reorganization or reactivation of such Chapter.

SECTION 2. Supreme authority and direction of the Order are vested in the Order in convention, subject only to the Order's Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 3. Resolutions and regulations of an administrative nature adopted by the General Staff or Order in convention shall be retained on file in National Headquarters and remain in effect until rescinded.



SECTION 4. The *MOWW Policy Handbook* is the official policy repository for the operation of The Military Order of the World Wars. The National Headquarters shall be responsible for all changes to the *MOWW Policy Handbook*; this includes coordinating with the appropriate committee(s), as appropriate.

## ARTICLE IV NATIONAL CONVENTION

SECTION 1. The legislative body of the Order shall be the National Convention.

a. The National Convention shall meet annually at such places and dates as approved by the General Staff. 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.

b. Members of the General Staff shall also be delegates.

c. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the accredited delegates in attendance at the convention, but not less than twenty-five (25).

SECTION 2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the national flag of the United States of America shall be recited at the opening of all National Conventions, meetings of the General Staff, at all Region, Department and Chapter meetings and assemblies, and whenever it can be done appropriately at other gatherings and ceremonies of the Order.

## ARTICLE V OFFICERS

SECTION 1. National Officers.

a. The Officers of the Order, who constitute the General Staff, consist of the:

- 1) Commander-in-Chief
- 2) Past Commanders-in-Chief
- 3) Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
- 4) Vice Commanders-in-Chief (four each)
- 5) Treasurer General
- 6) Assistant Treasurer General
- 7) Judge Advocate General
- 8) Assistant Judge Advocate General
- 9) Surgeon General
- 10) Assistant Surgeon General
- 11) Chaplain General
- 12) Assistant Chaplain General
- 13) Historian General
- 14) Assistant Historian General



- 15) Members of the MOWW Board of Trustees
- 16) Region, State, Department and Chapter Commanders
- 17) General Staff *Emeritus* members
- 18) General Staff Members-at-Large (appointed and elected)
- 19) Chairpersons of all National Committees
- 20) Directors of Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) sanctioned by the Order (if not otherwise members of the General Staff)
- 21) Chief of Staff (*ex officio* without a vote)

## SECTION 2. Selecting National Officers.

a. The National Convention shall elect the following officers each year. Each of the following National Officers shall hold office for one year or until his successor has been duly elected and qualified. Members already properly designated as *Emeritus* members of the General Staff shall not be eligible for election as General Staff Members-at-Large:

- 1) Commander-in-Chief
- 2) Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
- 3) Vice Commanders-in-Chief (four each, with no two of whom coming from any one region)
- 4) Treasurer General
- 5) Judge Advocate General
- 6) Surgeon General
- 7) Chaplain General
- 8) Historian General
- 9) General Staff Members-at-Large (five (5) of the ten (10) members)

b. The Commander-in-Chief shall appoint five (5) of the ten (10) General Staff Members-at-Large.

c. The members of the Board of Trustees of the funds of the Order shall be elected to three (3)-year terms by the by the General Staff at the Post-Convention Meeting of the General Staff, with one member being nominated by the Commander-in-Chief and elected by the General Staff in each year. In addition, one of the three members of the Board of Trustees should be nominated by the Commander-in-Chief and elected by the General Staff to be Chair of the Board of Trustees for the following year.

d. The newly-elected Commander-in-Chief (CINC) shall nominate to the General Staff, at the post-convention meeting of the General Staff, candidates for the positions listed below. These officers shall be elected each year by the General Staff at its annual Post-Convention meeting and shall serve until the following National Convention.

- 1) Assistant Treasurer General
- 2) Assistant Judge Advocate General
- 3) Assistant Surgeon General
- 4) Assistant Chaplain General
- 5) Assistant Historian General



### SECTION 3. Chief of Staff.

a. The Order shall have a Chief of Staff, selected and recommended by a search committee consisting of the Commander-in-Chief (presiding), the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, the four Vice Commanders-in-Chief, and the Chair of the Council of Past Commanders-in-Chief. The search committee will nominate its selectee to the full Executive Committee of the General Staff for confirmation and subsequent election by the full General Staff for an indefinite term.

b. The Chief of Staff shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the General Staff.

c. The Chief of Staff shall be an *ex officio* without a vote member of the General Staff and its Executive Committee (i.e., without vote). To secure continuance in office, the termination of appointment of the Chief of Staff may be accomplished only by a majority vote of the full General Staff.

### SECTION 4. State Commander.

a. A State Commander shall be appointed by the Region Commander and will assume their State Commander duties on 1 July of each year. In the event an appointment is not made, the Vice Commander-in-Chief with the state within their area of responsibility will appoint a State Commander. The Region Commander will be responsible for notifying National Headquarters prior to 30 June of their State Commander appointments.

b. Region Commanders may remove appointed State Commanders who neglect or fail to perform the duties of the office properly—with concurrence of the Vice Commander-in-Chief having this area of responsibility.

SECTION 5. Department Commander. In those States having a Department organization, the Department Commanders shall be elected by the chapters and take office prior to 1 July of each year.

SECTION 6. Vacancies in any elective office or in the Executive Committee of the General Staff may be filled for the unexpired term at the request of the Commander-in-Chief with approval of the General Staff by the most expeditious means of mail, telephone, fax, email, or other means of communication.

SECTION 7. Any member of the General Staff or appointee of the Commander-in-Chief who neglects or fails to perform the duties of their office properly may be removed by a majority vote of the General Staff.

## ARTICLE VI THE GENERAL STAFF

SECTION 1. The General Staff shall administer the affairs of the Order between National Conventions.

SECTION 2. 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.

SECTION 3. Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM).

a. The Executive Committee of the General Staff shall consist of:

1) Commander-in-Chief (Chair)



- 2) Immediate Past Living Commander-in-Chief
- 3) Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
- 4) Vice Commanders-in-Chief (four (4) each)
- 5) Treasurer General
- 6) Judge Advocate General
- 7) Chair of the Council of Past Commanders-in-Chief
- 8) Chair of the Council of Region Commanders
- 9) General Staff members appointed by the Commander-in-Chief (three (3) each)
- 10) Chief of Staff (*ex officio* without a vote)

b. This Executive Committee shall have full power and authority to manage the business of the General Staff between its meetings. There shall be two (2) or more meetings of the Executive Committee each year.

c. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Commander-in-Chief, and shall be called by the CINC upon receiving a written request from three (3) members of the EXCOM. A quorum of the EXCOM shall consist of a majority of the voting members. The Commander-in-Chief may direct that a telephone ballot (confirmed by mail) or an email vote may be taken on any question that the CINC considers to be of an emergency or time-sensitive nature.

#### SECTION 4. *Emeritus* Members

a. A National Officer having served ten (10) years as such may be elected by the General Staff as an *Emeritus* Member thereof, with all the courtesies and privileges of members of the General Staff (e.g., attendance at General Staff meetings, wearing decorations and insignia of office, and exercising voting privileges), provided:

1) Such officers shall have attended at least a combination of ten (10) National Conventions and Mid-Winter General Staff meetings, and

2) At least five (5) of the ten (10) years must have been served as a General Staff Officer as defined in Article V, Section 1.a above. Service not to exceed one (1) year in each of the following offices may be substituted for one (1) year of service as a General Staff Officer: the senior staff officer of a Department or any elected Chapter officer. Companions who serve in more than one (1) office concurrently will receive credit for only one of those offices toward qualification for General Staff *Emeritus* member status.

b. In light of the life membership on the General Staff of all Past Commanders-in-Chief, they are ineligible for election by the General Staff as *Emeritus* Members thereof.

## ARTICLE VII

### *PROHIBITED MATTERS*

#### SECTION 1. Sectarian Matters and Partisan Politics.

a. The introduction or discussion of sectarian matters or partisan politics is prohibited in any meeting, assembly, convention or publication of the Order, its Regions, States, Departments or Chapters.



b. The names, insignia, emblems or records of the Order, its Regions, States, Departments or Chapters shall not be used for any sectarian, business or partisan political purpose, without specific written authorization of the General Staff in every case.

#### SECTION 2. Obligating the Order.

a. No Region, State, Department, Chapter, National Officer or member of the Order shall obligate the Order financially, either directly or by implication, without specific authorization by the General Staff—in any and every case.

b. No loan may be accepted and/or 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.

SECTION 3. The names (The Military Order of the World Wars<sup>®</sup>, MOWW<sup>®</sup> and *Officer Review*<sup>®</sup>) and the insignia or emblems of the Order (also registered) 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 is published in the *MOWW Policy Handbook*.

#### SECTION 4. Soliciting Funds and Accepting Gifts.

a. No Chapter, Department, State, National Officer or member of the Order shall 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.

SECTION 5. No member of the Order shall use a military title for personal identification, official written or verbal communications within the Order, or for external public events while representing the Order, other than the highest Federally-recognized earned rank in the Armed Forces of the United States, or other federal service as specified in Article II of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Any member or sub-division of the Order may submit a proposal to amend the Constitution of the Order by submitting such proposals to the Chair, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, at the address listed in the current National Directory of the Order not later than 15 February of each year. Proposals submitted after that date, but not later than 15 March of each year, may be considered if a majority of the members of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee finds that the subject of the proposal is an emergency matter and should be considered.

SECTION 2. The Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM) shall designate standard form requirements for the drafting of proposals submitted to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order, which shall be published in the *MOWW Policy Handbook*.

SECTION 3. The MOWW Constitution may be amended by the Order in National Convention by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the delegates voting, provided that the chapters and members of the General Staff are given notice of such proposed amendment at least sixty (60) days prior to the first session of the National Convention at which the proposed amendments are to be proposed for adoption.



SECTION 4. The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for maintaining, publishing and distributing the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order, and may name, re-name, title, re-title, number, re-number, letter or re-letter and/or order or re-order any article, section and/or sub-section in a uniform manner, provided that such a system adopted for differentiating the articles, section and sub-sections shall not be considered as substantive in the interpretation of the Constitution.

## ARTICLE IX

### *DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS*

SECTION 1. Upon dissolution of the Order, the Executive Committee of the General Staff shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Order, dispose of all of assets of the Order to such organization(s) that conduct established national or regional patriotic and leadership educational programs that shall qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) or Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code, as the Executive Committee of the General Staff shall determine.

SECTION 2. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the State in which the principal office of the Order is then located, exclusively to such organization or organizations, as such court shall determine, which conduct established national or regional patriotic and leadership education programs.