



MILITARY ORDER  
OF THE WORLD WARS

# MOWW Constitution

15 AUGUST 2023, AS AMENDED IN MOWW CONVENTION  
OPR: CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

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## **MOWW PREAMBLE**

### **To The Constitution Of The Military Order Of The World Wars**

- ★ “To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- ★ To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
- ★ To promote and further patriotic education in our Nation;
- ★ Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- ★ To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the Armed Forces;
- ★ To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science, and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of National Security for the United States of America;
- ★ To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
- ★ To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;
- ★ And to transmit all these ideals to posterity, under God and for our Country, we unite to establish The Military Order of the World Wars"

## **ARTICLE I                      Name**

SECTION 1. Organizational Name. The name of the organization will be “The Military Order of the World Wars®.” The organization is also known as the “Military Order®” and “MOWW®.”

SECTION 2. Magazine Name. The name of the Military Order’s magazine will be *The Officer Review*®.

## **ARTICLE II                      Membership**

SECTION 1. Membership Classification. Members will be classified as Regular, Perpetual, Senior, Hereditary, Dual (which includes multiple memberships) and Memorial. The first five (5) classifications will 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 the United States 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 published in the Policy Manual to the Perpetual and Memorial Membership Fund through the National Headquarters. New members will be exempt from all annual dues for the fiscal year in which they join the Order through Perpetual Membership, and all Perpetual Members will be exempt from future annual dues in perpetuity. [Section revised by National Convention in 2023.]
- C. Senior Membership. Senior Membership will 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 to be eligible for Senior Membership status. Senior Members will be exempt from any further payment of dues whatsoever. Since Perpetual Membership in this Order is a higher classification than Senior Membership, and exempt from 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 at least eighteen (18) years of age (effective 30 September 2019), and of good moral character and repute. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2019.] They must also be:
  - 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.
  - 6) The parent of an officer who is, if living, or who would have been, if deceased, eligible as a member, provided that the parent is a veteran of any of the seven uniformed services. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2021.]
- E. Dual Membership. Dual Memberships, i.e., membership in two or more chapters, are authorized to individual members, if such individual members meet annual national dues requirements or Perpetual Membership contributions for each membership.
- F. 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 Headquarters MOWW's receipt of a contribution to the Perpetual and Memorial Membership Fund in the sum published in the Policy Manual, the name of such member will be inscribed in the records of the Order as a Memorial Perpetual Member.
- G. Honorary Membership. Honorary Memberships in the Order may not be conferred upon any person. The foregoing will not affect the status of Honorary Members duly elected prior to 1957.

SECTION 2. Membership Admission. Admission to membership is by election to a chapter in the manner prescribed in its Bylaws. Applicants will pledge themselves 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 Headquarters MOWW.

SECTION 3. Chapter Member Assessment. Each chapter will 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 MOWW Constitution and Bylaws, if any action by a chapter may be appealed by the affected member to the General Staff for adjudication. Nothing herein stated or implied will preclude initiation of similar actions by the General Staff whenever a chapter fails to act, which the General Staff considers warranted. No resignation will be accepted from a member indebted to the Order.

SECTION 4. Application Rejections. An applicant for membership rejected by one chapter will not be admitted to another chapter except by the written permission of the Commander-in-Chief. Transfer of membership from one chapter to another will be in accordance with the procedures determined by Headquarters MOWW.

SECTION 5. Reinstated Memberships. Reinstatement in membership may be effected as provided in chapter Constitutions or Bylaws, and in the MOWW Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE III**                    **Organization**

SECTION 1. Organizational Design. The Order will be organized into Regions, Departments and Chapters.

- A. No Region may be organized with fewer than five chapters. Departments must have two or more chapters. States with no chapters will not have a department commander, although any region commander may appoint an ad hoc working group comprised of region Companions to promote the establishment of a cadre or chapter in such states. No chapter may be organized with fewer than ten (10) living Members who reside within the applicable region.” [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2016, 2020 and 2021.]
  
- B. Whenever a region, department, or chapter falls below the minimum standards required for designation or charter as specified above, the General Staff will revoke such designation or charter at its next meeting 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 will 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 Territory concerned. In the 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. The 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. Resolutions and regulations of an administrative nature adopted by the General Staff or Order in convention will be retained on file at HQ MOWW and remain in effect until rescinded.

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



## **ARTICLE IV            National Convention**

SECTION 1. Legislative Body. The legislative body of the Order will be the National Convention.

- A. The MOWW Convention will meet annually at such places and dates as approved by the General Staff. Each chapter will 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 only represent one chapter. Proxies will not be allowed. A duly-accredited alternate may attend and vote in the absence of a delegate.
- B. Members of the General Staff will also be delegates.
- C. A quorum will consist of a majority of the accredited delegates in attendance at the convention, but not less than twenty-five (25).

SECTION 2. Convention Opening Ceremonies. The Pledge of Allegiance to the national flag of the United States of America will be recited at the opening of all MOWW 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.

SECTION 3. Convening in Emergency Conditions. This section provides alternative procedures for convening the Order in emergency conditions that prevent the in-person gathering of Companions. [Section added by National Convention approval in 2022.]

- a. Determination of an Emergency. In the event of an emergency that threatens the successful execution of the MOWW Annual Convention, the Commander in Chief (CINC), CEO & Chair of Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM) will convene the EXCOM to discuss the nature of the emergency and to determine whether to issue an emergency declaration. The CINC will provide the EXCOM with his/her recommendation and rationale. After the discussion, the EXCOM will determine whether or not an emergency exists by majority vote.
- b. Upon determination that an emergency situation exists, alternative means of conducting the convention will be determined by the EXCOM. They will consider alternatives to an in-person convention, which could include on-line meeting software tools, conference call, or other alternatives.
- c. In the event of an emergency declaration, the EXCOM will determine what additional business will be performed when not in convention. At a minimum, the Election of National Officers and voting on Constitution & Bylaws Amendments shall be performed.
- d. To carry out elections, and confirmation of delegate responses to proposed amendments, the EXCOM will select a method of voting that is secure, anonymous, and readily available to all authorized delegates. These procedures are detailed in the Policy Manual.

## **ARTICLE V                      Officers**

SECTION 1. National Officers. A National Officer of the Military Order is a functionary of the Commander-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer of MOWW, Inc., to whom is delegated some part of the Order's sovereign power. The term "National Officer of the Order" is not a title, but a term of classification for a certain type of official. The National Officers of the Order consist of the:

- A. Commander-in-Chief
- B. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
- C. Vice Commanders-in-Chief (four each)
- D. Chief of Staff (ex officio without a vote)
- E. The MOWW Board of Trustees
- F. Treasurer General
- G. Judge Advocate General
- H. Surgeon General
- I. Chaplain General
- J. Historian General
- K. General Staff Officers (Currently Appointed). [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2019 and 2023.]
- L. Past Commanders-in-Chief
- M. Chairman, Council of Area Commanders [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2021.]

SECTION 2. Selecting National Officers.

- A. The MOWW Convention will elect the following officers each year. Each of the following National Officers will hold office for one year or until his successor is duly elected and qualified.
  - 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
- B. The Commander-in-Chief and the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief may appoint no more than ten General Staff Officer Members-at-Large. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2019 and 2022.]
- C. The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW, Inc.) will have only one Board of Trustees comprised of three trustees nominated by the Commander-in-Chief (CINC) and confirmed to hold three-year terms by the General Staff at annual Convention. In addition, the CINC will nominate one of those three members as the Chair, MOWW, Inc., Board of Trustees, and the General Staff in convention will confirm that CINC nomination annually. Trustee terms of office will overlap by one year to promote continuity of operations and financial stability. With one exception, no member of MOWW's Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM), i.e., MOWW, Inc., Board of Directors, may be a member of the MOWW, Inc., Board of Trustees, and vice versa. That sole exception is a trustee's membership in the Council of Past Commanders-in-Chief (CPC), e.g., a Past CINC's election as the Chair, CPC, will not preclude their membership on the MOWW, Inc., Board of Trustees. *[Amended in 2018 MOWW Convention]*
- D. The newly elected Commander-in-Chief (CINC) will nominate to the General Staff, at the post-convention meeting of the General Staff, candidates for the positions listed below. These officers will be elected each year by the General Staff at its annual Post-Convention meeting. They will 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 will 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 (EXCOM) who will have full authority to approve the hiring of a Chief of Staff for an indefinite term. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2022.]

- B. The Chief of Staff will receive such compensation as may be determined by the Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM). [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2022.]
- C. The Chief of Staff will be an ex officio member of the General Staff and its Executive Committee (i.e., without vote). The termination of appointment of the Chief of Staff must be accomplished by a majority vote of the Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM). [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2022.]

SECTION 4. Statutory Delegates. A delegate is a Companion in good standing sent or authorized to represent other Companions at a chapter meeting, department, or region conference or a MOWW Convention by voting on national or sub-element candidates for office, proposed amendments to the MOWW Constitution and the MOWW or sub-element bylaws, etc. The statutory delegates to the MOWW Convention constitute the General Staff and consist of: [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2021.]

- A. Commander-in-Chief
- B. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
- C. Vice Commanders-in-Chief (four each)
- D. Chief of Staff (ex officio without a vote)
- E. The MOWW Board of Trustees
- F. Treasurer General
- G. Judge Advocate General
- H. Surgeon General
- I. Chaplain General
- J. Historian General
- K. General Staff Officers (No more than 10, Appointed). [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2019 and 2022.]
- L. Past Commanders-in-Chief
- M. Chairman, Council of Area Commanders
- N. Assistant Treasurer General
- O. Assistant Judge Advocate General
- P. Assistant Surgeon General

- Q. Assistant Chaplain General
- R. Assistant Historian General
- S. Region, Department and Chapter Commanders
- T. General Staff Emeritus Members
- U. Chairs of all National Committees
- V. Directors of Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) sanctioned by the Order (if not otherwise members of the General Staff)

SECTION 5. Department Commander. All department commanders will be elected by their subordinate chapters. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2023]

SECTION 6. Elective Vacancies. 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 using the most expeditious means of mail, telephone, fax, email, or other means of communication.

SECTION 7. Removal from Office. 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. Administering the Military Order's Affairs. The General Staff will administer the affairs of the Order between National Conventions. Administering the affairs of the Order does not constitute authority of the General Staff or Executive Committee of the General Staff to amend the Order's Constitution or Bylaws since such authority is exclusively vested in the voting delegates of the National Convention as the legislative body of the Order. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2016.]

SECTION 2. General Staff Meetings. The General Staff will 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 will be sent to all members of the General Staff by email/mail within one week of the request of the meeting.

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

A. The Executive Committee of the General Staff will 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 Area Commanders [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2016]
- 9) General Staff members appointed by the Commander-in-Chief (three (3) each)
- 10) Chief of Staff (*ex officio* without a vote)

B. The Executive Committee (EXCOM/MOWW, Inc., Board of Directors) will have full power and authority to manage the business of the Order, to include making decisions required of the General Staff between the General Staff's meetings, except for the following:

- 1) Incurring an obligation (Article VII, Section 2, Para A.).
- 2) Creating a loan (Article VII, Section 2, Para B.).

There will be at least two (2) meetings of the Executive Committee each year. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2022.]

- C. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Commander-in-Chief (CINC) and will be called by the CINC upon receiving written request from three (3) members of the EXCOM. A quorum of the EXCOM will 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 the CINC considers to be of an emergency or time-sensitive nature.

#### SECTION 4. Emeritus Members.

- A. National Officers 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 will 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, above. Service not to exceed one (1) year in each of the following offices may applied for one (1) year of service as a General Staff Officer, the senior staff officer of a Department or any elected Chapter officer. Members 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. Considering 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, Departments or Chapters.
- B. The names, insignia, emblems or records of the Order, its Regions, Departments or Chapters will 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, Department, Chapter, National Officer or member of the Order will obligate the Order financially, either directly or by implication, without specific authorization by the General Staff in 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. Trademark Use. The trademarked names (e.g., The Military Order of the World Wars®, the Military Order®, MOWW® and Office Review®), and the trademarked insignia or emblems of the Order (also registered), will 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 Manual.

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

- A. No Chapter, Department, National Officer, or member of the Order will solicit funds in the name of the Order without first securing the approval of the EXCOM. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2023.]
- 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 EXCOM. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2023]
- C. The vote in such cases may be taken by mail or email ballot.

SECTION 5. Military Titles. No member of the Order will 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. Constitutional Amendments. 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 by 15 March of each year. At the Committee's considered judgment, proposed amendments may be forwarded to the delegates to the MOWW Convention or not. Proposed amendments so submitted to the Committee but not recommended by the Committee for consideration at the next annual MOWW Convention may again be proposed from the floor during convention. No other amendments from the floor will be considered with the exception of those tabled from the previous convention. [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2021.]

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

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

SECTION 4. Maintaining the Constitution and Bylaws. The Chief of Staff will be responsible for maintaining, publishing and distributing the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws of the Order. The Chief 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 will not be considered as substantive in the interpretation of the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE IX                      Distribution of Assets**

SECTION 1. MOWW Dissolution. Upon dissolution of the Order, the Executive Committee of the General Staff will, 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. Such organizations must be qualified 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 will determine.

SECTION 2. Disposal of Assets. Any such assets not so disposed of will 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 will determine, which conduct established national or regional patriotic and leadership education programs.