

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

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CHAIR, CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

In keeping with the MOWW Constitution (Article VIII, Section 3) and MOWW Bylaws (Article 8, Section 3), the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendments for consideration by all Companions of the Order. The Committee recommends their adoption and expressly presents them for consideration by, and the vote of, the delegates to the MOWW Convention to be held in San Antonio, TX, in August 2026.

Proposed MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Amendments Recommended for Adoption by the Committee:

1. Proposed Amendment to the MOWW Constitution, Article III, Section 2 and Section 3.

Current Language: Article III Organization

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adopted by the General Staff or Order in convention will be retained on file at HQ MOWW and remain in effect until rescinded.

Proposed Language: Article III Organization

SECTION 2. Supreme Authority. The supreme authority and direction of the Order are vested in its legislative body, the National Convention, acting in accordance with the Order's Bylaws.

SECTION 3. Resolutions and Regulations. Resolutions and regulations adopted by the General Staff or by the delegates at the National Convention will be retained on file at HQ MOWW and remain in effect until rescinded.

Rationale: The term "in convention" is unnecessarily vague. It is only used in these two places. The rest of the time, "MOWW Convention," or "National Convention" is used. Article IV, National Convention, states that the National Convention is the legislative body of the Order, indicating that it is here where the supreme authority and direction of the Order rests. By replacing "in convention" with "National Convention," the meaning is clear and consistent throughout the document.

This change, together with the proposed Article 7, National Convention, and Article 8, Electronic and Hybrid Meetings, of the Bylaws, renders the proposal that was tabled at the 2025 National Convention unnecessary, allowing virtual, hybrid or in-person only meetings. This gives the Order's leadership the opportunity to involve more Companions as virtual delegates to the National Convention.

Submitted by: Ken McCreedy

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2. Proposed Amendment to the MOWW Constitution, Article II, Section 1. Membership

Current Language: 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 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). [Section revised by National Convention in 2024 and 2025.]
- 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 in 2019, 2024 and 2025.] 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 a veteran who is, if living, or who would have been, if deceased, eligible as a member, or

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- 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 a veteran 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 eight uniformed services. [Section revised by National Convention in 2021, 2024 and 2025.]
- 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 veteran who was a member of the Order at the time of their death, upon a deceased veteran 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. [Section revised by National Convention in 2024 and 2025.]
- 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.

Proposed Language: ARTICLE II Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility criteria. Those eligible for membership include citizens of the United States of America of good moral character and repute who are at least 18 years old and are either:

- A. Veterans, defined as those who have served or are serving honorably on Active Duty in the Uniformed Services of the United States, to include Active Duty for Training, in the Armed Forces of the United States of America (Active, Guard, or Reserve), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), or the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), or
- B. Hereditary Members, defined as family members of veterans within two degrees of consanguinity. This includes parents and grandparents, spouses, siblings, children and grandchildren, whether the relationship is by birth, adoption, or marriage.
- C. The chapter must maintain 75% veteran membership to meet IRS requirements for a 501c19 organization.

SECTION 2. Classification. Veteran and Hereditary Members may be classified as Regular, Perpetual, Senior, Dual (which includes multiple memberships) and Memorial. The first four (4) classifications will

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comprise the active membership of a Chapter and the Order. The dues for each classification will be as published in the Policy Manual.

- A. Regular Membership is open to Veterans and Hereditary Members who choose to renew their membership on an annual basis.
- B. Perpetual Membership is open to new Veteran and Hereditary Members, and current Regular and Senior Members, who choose to become members in perpetuity with their names permanently inscribed in the records of the Order. Once the Perpetual membership fee is paid in full, Perpetual Members are exempt from annual dues.
- C. Senior Membership is open to Regular Members who have attained the age of seventy (70) years and have been members in good standing for thirty (30) years. Senior Members will be exempt from any further payment of dues. Since Perpetual Membership in this Order is a higher classification than Senior Membership, and already exempt from all dues payment, nominations of Perpetual Members for Senior Member status will not be considered.
- D. Dual Membership is simply membership in two or more chapters, which is authorized to individual members, if such individual members meet annual national dues requirements or Perpetual Membership contributions for each chapter membership. For companions with dual membership, the requirements for attainment of Senior Member status are applied separately to each chapter membership.
- E. Memorial Perpetual Membership may be conferred upon a deceased veteran who was a member of the Order at the time of their death, or upon a deceased veteran 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 MOWW National Policy Manual, the name of such member will be inscribed in the records of the Order as a Memorial Perpetual Member. This membership classification is designed to allow chapters to honor deserving individuals who were not already Perpetual Members at the time of their death with inscription in the records of the Order as a Memorial Perpetual Member.
- F. 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.

Rationale: The current Membership description section of the Constitution is very poorly written, confusing, contradictory and does not correctly describe how we operate.

First: it lists all descriptors as classifications, making it seem like Hereditary is a different classification of membership, yet Hereditary Members can be Regular, Perpetual, Senior, Dual, or Memorial Members as well, so this does not seem to make sense. To remedy this, the new language breaks out two sections – eligibility criteria and classification. A companion is either a veteran or hereditary member under eligibility criteria, then both veteran and hereditary members can fall under each of the classifications in the following section.

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Second: sorted out all eligibility criteria into the first section and left just the descriptions of the classifications in the second section.

Third: the current Hereditary criteria description is very convoluted, contradictory and not entirely consistent with the IRS criteria. The new language makes it simpler, straightforward and in compliance with the IRS criteria.

Fourth: inserted the 75% veteran membership requirement.

Fifth: added a sentence at the end of the Memorial Perpetual Membership classification to clarify its purpose.

Submitted by: Carrie Nielson, CAPT, USN, Retired, Commander, Puget Sound Chapter

3. Related Recommended Amendment to MOWW Bylaws Article 1 Finances

Current Language:

SECTION 2. Payment of Regular (Annual) Membership Dues. Each Regular and Hereditary Member shall, on or before the anniversary date of their joining, pay to MOWW, Inc., national dues in an annual amount to be established by the MOWW Convention upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the General Staff and published in the MOWW Policy Manual.

SECTION 3. Payment of Perpetual Membership Dues.

- A. An individual who directly joins the Order as a Perpetual Member (officer veteran or Hereditary) and remits the full Perpetual Membership contribution at the time of application shall be exempt from all National and local dues.
- B. *No Change proposed*
- C. *No Change proposed*

SECTION 4. Perpetual Membership Dues Payment Options.

- A. The amounts of the one-time contributions of Perpetual Members (including Hereditary Perpetual Members) shall be established by the National Convention upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the General Staff and published in the MOWW Policy Manual. [Section revised by National Convention in 2023.]
- B. *No Change proposed*
- C. *No Change proposed*

SECTION 5. Chapter Cadre Dues.

- A. Ten dollars (\$10.00 US) for each new Regular or Hereditary annual dues-paying member shall be remitted to a cadre organized under the Bylaws, Article 2 (Charters), Section 6.
- B. *No change proposed*

Proposed Language:

SECTION 2. Payment of Regular (Annual) Membership Dues. Each Regular Member shall, on or before the anniversary date of their joining, pay to MOWW, Inc., national dues in an annual amount to be

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established by the MOWW Convention upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the General Staff and published in the MOWW Policy Manual.

SECTION 3. Payment of Perpetual Membership Dues.

- A. An individual who directly joins the Order as a Perpetual Member and remits the full Perpetual Membership contribution at the time of application shall be exempt from all National and local dues.
- B. *No change.*
- C. *No change*

SECTION 4. Perpetual Membership Dues Payment Options.

- A. The amounts of the one-time contributions of Perpetual Members shall be established by the National Convention upon recommendation of the Executive Committee of the General Staff and published in the MOWW Policy Manual. [Section revised by National Convention in 2023.]
- B. *No change.*
- C. *No change*

SECTION 5. Chapter Cadre Dues.

- A. Ten dollars (\$10.00 US) for each new Regular annual dues-paying member shall be remitted to a cadre organized under the Bylaws, Article 2 (Charters), Section 6.
- B. *No change.*

What changed:

Bylaws, Article I, Section 2

After "Each Regular..." deleted "and Hereditary ..."

Bylaws, Article I, Section 3, Paragraph A

After "...as a Perpetual Member", deleted "(officer veteran or Hereditary)"

Bylaws, Article I, Section 4, Paragraph A

After "...contributions of Perpetual Members..." deleted "(including Hereditary Perpetual Members)"

Bylaws, Article I, Section 5, Paragraph A

After "...for each new Regular..." deleted "or Hereditary"

Rationale: If the main Membership Constitution amendment passes, then Regular and Perpetual memberships should always be assumed to include both Veteran and Hereditary members.

Submitted by: Carrie Nielson, CAPT, USN, Retired, Commander, Puget Sound Chapter

Supporting Amendment to the MOWW Policy Manual, Chapter 1, Section E, Membership Categories and Dues, Paragraph 3, Membership Categories and Dues

Current Language:

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3. Membership Categories and Dues.

- a. Veteran and active-duty membership categories and dues.
Veteran Regular @ \$60.00/year (one-time payment)
Veteran Perpetual @ 1 x \$500.00
Veteran Perpetual @ 4 x \$125.00 Qtrly (new members will be charged a transaction fee for each payment)
Veteran Perpetual (1st year commission/warrant) @ 1 x \$200.00 (one-time payment)
- b. Hereditary membership categories and dues.
Hereditary Regular @ \$60.00/year (one-time payment)
Hereditary Perpetual @ 1 x \$500.00
Hereditary Perpetual @ 4 x \$125 Qtrly (new members will be charged a transaction fee for each payment)
- c. Memorial Membership dues rates are established in the MOWW Bylaws. Memorial Perpetual (Veteran & Hereditary) @ 1 x \$250.00.

Proposed Language

3. Membership Categories and Dues.

- a. Regular @ \$60.00/year (one-time payment)
- b. Perpetual @ 1 x \$500.00
Perpetual @ 4 x \$125.00 Qtrly (new members will be charged a transaction fee for each payment)
Perpetual (1st year commission/warrant) @ 1 x \$200.00 (one-time payment)
- c. Memorial Membership dues rates are established in the MOWW Bylaws. Memorial Perpetual @ 1 x \$250.00.

Rationale: We do not need separate categories for Veteran and Hereditary. Dues are simply based on whether you are a regular or perpetual member.

Submitted by: Carrie Nielson, CAPT, USN, Commander Puget Sound Chapter

Recommendation: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommends adoption of this amendment and the supporting amendments. The proposed amendment is clearly written and provides a simpler, more precise articulation of MOWW membership requirements without altering the requirements themselves.

Additionally, the current language in Article II, Section I, contains provisions that conflict with IRS Code 501(c)(19) membership criteria. Specifically, it authorizes hereditary membership beyond the permitted two degrees of consanguinity (parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, and sibling). Subparagraphs D.4) and D.5) are inconsistent with IRS guidelines for veterans' organizations. Subparagraph D.4) extends eligibility to descendants of all members regardless of a qualifying veteran connection, while subparagraph D.5) improperly includes nieces and nephews, who fall outside the allowable degree of relationship.

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4. Proposed Amendment to MOWW Constitution and Bylaws - Eliminate Article IV to the Constitution Revises Bylaws Article 7 and adds Article 8 (new) to the Bylaws.

Current Language: MOWW Constitution, 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 II. 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 Convention, meetings of the General Staff, all Region, Department and Chapter meetings and assemblies, and whenever it can be done appropriately at other gatherings and ceremonies of the Order.

SECTION III. 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 Command-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.

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- C. In the event of an emergency declaration, the EXCOM will determine what additional business will be performed when on 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.

Current Language: MOWW Bylaws, Article 7, Order of Business

SECTION 1. Parliamentary Procedure Governance. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) shall govern parliamentary procedure in all meetings, assemblies, and conventions of the Order. If any nominee or candidate for office fails to receive a plurality vote, they shall not be considered elected to such office.

SECTION 2. General Staff Meeting Agendas.

- A. The order of business at General Staff (GS) meetings shall be in accordance with an agenda prepared by the Chief of Staff, pursuant to the direction of the Commander-in-Chief. In the absence of an agenda directed by the Commander-in-Chief, the order of business at General Staff meetings shall be:
 - 1) Call to order
 - 2) Invocation
 - 3) Pledge of Allegiance
 - 4) Reading of the preamble
 - 5) Roll Call
 - 6) Approval of minutes of preceding meeting and action thereon. Reports by the Commander-in-Chief, Chief of Staff, Treasurer General and other officers
 - 7) Reports of Committees
 - 8) Unfinished business
 - 9) New business
 - 10) Benediction and adjournment
- B. The national flag of the United States of America and organizational flag of the Military Order of the World Wars shall always be displayed when the General Staff and/or the Executive Committee of the General Staff are in session.

SECTION 3. National Convention Agendas.

- A. The order of business at National Conventions shall be in accordance with an agenda prepared by the Chief of Staff, pursuant to direction of the Commander-in-Chief. In the

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absence of an agenda directed by the Commander-in-Chief, the order of business at National Conventions shall be:

- 1) Opening ceremonies, to include the call to order, invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, reading the Preamble, Welcome, Commander-in-chief's address, and the first resolution
- 2) Minutes of the previous convention
- 3) Reports of National Officers
- 4) Report of the Board of Trustees
- 5) Report of the General Staff
- 6) Report of the Executive Committee of the General Staff
- 7) Reports of standing committees (except the Legislative and Resolutions Committee, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee)
- 8) Reports of Ad Hoc Committees
- 9) Report of the Legislative and Resolutions Committee
- 10) Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- 11) Report of the Nominating Committee and the election of National Officers
- 12) Unfinished business (to include citations and installation of officers not to be installed at the banquet)
- 13) New business
- 14) Annual banquet (to include installation of certain officers)
- 15) Benediction and adjournment

SECTION 4. National Convention Memorial Service.

- A. National Conventions shall include an ecumenical memorial service, including the presentation of the national flag of the United States of America. Any specific religious faith group of persons in attendance at a National Convention that desires to participate in an additional worship or celebration service during the convention should contact the chaplain General in advance for arrangements.
- B. The national flag of the United States of America and the organizational flag of the Military Order of the World Wars shall always be displayed when the Convention is in session.

Proposed Language: The Constitution and Bylaws will be consolidated and reorganized into a revised Article 7 and a new Article 8 in the Bylaws; Article IV of the Constitution will be eliminated.

ARTICLE 7, Order of Business

SECTION 1. Parliamentary Procedure Governance. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern parliamentary procedure in all meetings, assemblies, and conventions of the Order.

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SECTION 2. General Staff meeting agendas shall be prepared by the Chief of Staff, pursuant to the direction of the Commander-in-Chief.

SECTION 3. Display of Flags. The national flag of the United States of America and the organizational flag of the Military Order of the World Wars shall always be displayed at all meetings, assemblies, and conventions of the Order.

SECTION 4. The Pledge of Allegiance to the national flag of the United States of America will be recited at the opening of all MOWW Convention, meetings of the General Staff, all Region, Department and Chapter meetings and assemblies, and whenever it can be done appropriately at other gatherings and ceremonies of the Order.

ARTICLE 8, National Convention

SECTION 1. The National Convention is the legislative body of the Order.

SECTION 2. The National Convention will meet annually at such places and dates as approved by the previous National Convention in accordance with the Bylaws.

SECTION 3. Powers of the National Convention. Delegates attending the National Convention shall have the power to elect National Officers, pass resolutions, and approve amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order.

SECTION 4. Voting Members. The delegates of the National convention shall include:

- A. Statutory Delegates (per Article V, section 4 of the MOWW Constitution)
- B. Delegates as designated and accredited by chapter commanders, with each commander entitled to designate two (2) delegates at large and one additional delegate for every twenty-five (25) members or major fraction thereof. These members must be in good standing as of the prior 30 June. A member may represent only one chapter. Proxy votes are not allowed.

SECTION 5. Quorum. A quorum will consist of a majority of the delegates in attendance physically or virtually at the National Convention, but not less than twenty-five (25).

SECTION 6. Call to Convention. The Call to National Convention shall be published no later than eight months prior to the event in the MOWW Review. Chapter Commanders shall forward a list of accredited delegates to National HQ no later than 30 days prior to the start of the National Convention.

SECTION 7. National Convention Agenda. The order of business at National Conventions shall be in accordance with an agenda prepared by the Chief of Staff pursuant to direction of the Commander-in-Chief.

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SECTION 8. National Convention Memorial Service. The National Convention shall include an ecumenical memorial service to remember Companions who passed away the previous year. Any specific religious faith group of persons in attendance at the National convention who desire to participate in an additional worship or celebration service during the Convention should contact the Chaplain General in advance for arrangements.

SECTION 9. The Chief of Staff is responsible for providing written minutes of the National Convention and collating annual reports from National Officers for publication in the MOWW Almanac for that Operating Year.

Rationale: This amendment is an effort to streamline the Constitution and Bylaws, bringing like-subjects together. Robert's Rules of Order, 12th Edition, 58.6 states that the bylaws should authorize a periodic convention, define its powers, fix its quorum, specify voting members, prescribe qualification of delegates and alternates, establish a basis of determining their number, specify a method of electing them, defining how and when a call to convention is sent, and defining the operation and organization of the convention. Parts of these requirements are currently set forth in the Constitution, other parts in the Bylaws. This change brings everything into the Bylaws per Robert's.

Article IV, Section II requirement that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited at the opening of the Convention, becomes a generic requirement for all meetings, assemblies, and conventions of the Order (moved to Article 7, Order of Business, of the Bylaws).

Article IV, Section III, Convening in Emergency Conditions is eliminated (assuming that the Bylaws are amended to allow Electronic and Hybrid Meetings per Proposed Amendment 1 to the Bylaws). If this amendment is voted down, this Section should become part of Article 8, National Convention , in the Bylaws .

Article 7, Order of Business, Section 1 of the Bylaws eliminates the last sentence addressing plurality votes (which has nothing to do with Parliamentary Procedure). We recommend relocating this clause to the Constitution's Article V, Section 2, Selecting National Officers (Proposed Amendment 3 to the Bylaws).

Article 7 of the Bylaws, Section 2A, General Staff Meeting Agendas, proposes eliminating the outline agenda of meetings since the previous clause says that the CINC shall direct the Chief of Staff to prepare an agenda. There is no need to dictate what one would look like in the absence of such action.

Article 7 of the Bylaws, Section 2B, directing that the national flag and MOWW flag be displayed at meetings of the General Staff has been eliminated and replaced by a general requirement added to Article 7 of the Bylaws requiring all meetings, assemblies and conventions of the Order feature displays of the national flag and MOWW flag.

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Article 7 of the Bylaws, Section 3A, National Convention Agendas, has been shortened, with the order of business in the event that the CINC and Chief of Staff fail to prepare an agenda eliminated. The Bylaws direct the Chief to prepare an agenda pursuant to the direction of the CINC; we can rightly presume that this will be done.

Article 7, Section 4, National Convention Memorial Service, has been included as part of the new Article 8, National Convention. The requirement to display the national flag and MOWW flag is now covered by the general requirement to do so at all MOWW meetings.

Finally, the new Article 8, National Conventions, includes all the topics cited in Robert's that should be described in discussing the National Convention, including periodicity, powers, composition of voting members, quorum, call to convention, agenda setting, planning and preparation, and minutes.

Submitted by: Ken McCreedy

Recommendation: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommends approval of this amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order.

5. Proposed Amendment MOWW Constitution Article V, Section 2 and MOWW Bylaws Article 7, Section 1.

Current Language: Constitution, ARTICLE V, Officers

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.

Current Language: Bylaws, ARTICLE 7, Order of Business

SECTION 1. Parliamentary Procedure Governance. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) shall govern parliamentary procedure in all meetings, assemblies, and conventions of the Order. If any nominee or candidate for office fails to receive a plurality vote, they shall not be considered elected to such office.

Proposed Language: Constitution, ARTICLE V, Officers

SECTION 2. Selecting National Officers.

- A. The MOWW Convention will elect the following officers each year. If any nominee or candidate for office fails to receive a plurality vote, they shall not be considered elected to such office. Each of the following National Officers will hold office for one year or until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

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Proposed Language: Bylaws, ARTICLE 7, Order of Business

SECTION 1. Parliamentary Procedure Governance. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) shall govern parliamentary procedure in all meetings, assemblies, and conventions of the Order.

Rationale: The placement of this clause under Parliamentary Procedure Governance is perplexing. It is moved to a place where it logically belongs, Selecting National Officers.

Submitted By: Ken McCreedy

Recommendation: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommends approval of this amendment as a way to streamline the logic of the Constitution.

6. Proposed Amendment to MOWW Bylaws to add: Article 9, Electronic and Hybrid Meetings

Current Language: None

Proposed Language: ARTICLE 9 Electronic and Hybrid Meetings

SECTION 1. Authorization. Meetings of the National Convention, the General Staff, the Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM), Standing and Ad Hoc Committees, and other official bodies of the Order (including, but not limited to, Regional Conferences and Department and Chapter meetings) may be conducted by electronic means (e.g., video conferencing, teleconferencing, or other remote communications technologies) or in a hybrid format (combining in-person and virtual participation), provided that the platform used enables all participants to hear and, where applicable, see one another simultaneously. The presiding officer of each authorized body has the authority to determine whether or not any meeting of such body will be conducted by electronic means or in a hybrid format, consistent with the standards established in the MOWW Policy Manual.

SECTION 2. Participant Rights and Responsibilities. Companions attending electronically or in a hybrid setting shall possess the same rights and responsibilities as those attending in person. This includes, but is not limited to, the rights to make motions, debate, vote, and be counted toward quorum, subject to the same rules of order and decorum.

SECTION 3. Voting Procedures. Voting at electronic or hybrid meetings may be conducted by voice vote, roll call, or secure electronic voting systems, including online platforms or telephonic voting, provided such methods ensure vote integrity, anonymity (when applicable), and accessibility. The presiding officer of each authorized body shall approve specific procedures for conducting electronic or hybrid meetings, consistent with the standards established in the MOWW Policy Manual.

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SECTION 4. Notice and Access. Notice of meetings conducted electronically or in hybrid format shall be issued in accordance with existing notice requirements in these Bylaws. Such notices shall include instructions for remote access and any technical requirements for participation.

SECTION 5. Quorum and Technical Disruptions. Participants attending electronically shall be counted toward quorum. In the event of widespread technical difficulties affecting participation or voting, the presiding officer may temporarily recess or adjourn the meeting.

Renumbered Articles (for final organization):

- Article 10 – Amendments (Previously Article 8; no content change)
- Article 11 – Indemnification (Previously Article 9; no content change)

Rationale: This new Bylaws article formally authorizes the use of electronic and hybrid formats for all official meetings of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), including those of the National Convention, General Staff, Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM), and all standing and ad hoc committees (including, but not limited to, Regional Conferences and Department and Chapter meetings). This approach ensures organizational flexibility and inclusivity while maintaining the integrity of deliberative and voting procedures across all levels of the Order.

Submitted by: Mike Farrell, Chief of Staff, MOWW

Recommendation. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee recommends adoption of this amendment. This brings our bylaws into alignment with Roberts Rules of Order (12th Edition), 9:30, which reads: “Except as authorized in the by-laws, the business of an organization or board can be validly transacted only at a regular or properly called meeting—that is, as defined in 8:2(1), a single official gathering in one room or area of the assembly of its members at which a quorum is present.” Heretofore, our bylaws have not authorized virtual or hybrid meetings as an option to in-person meetings (except the National Convention under Emergency Procedures).

Constitution and Bylaws Amendments Received but Not Recommended:

The MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Committee considered the following proposed amendments but did not recommend them for consideration for a vote by the delegates to the MOWW Convention to be held in San Antonio, TX, in August 2026. Although not recommended, IAW MOWW Constitution and Bylaws Article VIII, the proposed amendments may again be proposed from the floor during the annual convention so long as they are not duplicative of another amendment already proposed for consideration, per Roberts Rules of Order (12th Edition), 10:26:3, “No main motion is in order that presents substantially the same question as a motion that was finally disposed of earlier in the same session by being rejected, postponed, indefinitely, or subjected to an objection to the consideration that was sustained.”

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

7. Proposed Amendment to MOWW Bylaws, Article 6 (Committees and Councils), Section 1.

Current Language: ARTICLE 6 Committees and Councils

SECTION 1. Standing National Committees. Except for the Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM), the following committees shall serve as Standing Committees of the General Staff and of the National Convention: [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2025.]

- A. Constitution & Bylaws
- B. Education & Training [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2016]
- C. Ethics
- D. Finance [ADDED, 2018 MOWW Convention]
- E. Information & Publicity [Sub-section revised by National Convention approval in 2012.]
- F. Public Safety and Law & Order [Sub-section revised by National Convention approval in 2021]
- G. Legislative and Resolutions
- H. Magazine [Sub-section revised by National Convention approval in 2012.]
- I. MOWW-Pershing Rifles Group [Sub-section revised by National Convention approval in 2016]
- J. National Convention
- K. National Security
- L. National Youth Civics Summit [Sub-section revised by National Convention approval in 2025.]
- M. Nominating
- N. Patriotic Education
- O. Scouting [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2019.]
- P. Strategic Growth [Added by National Convention approval in 2021]
- Q. Strategic Planning

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

- R. Reserve Officer Training Corps/Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC/JROTC)
- S. Veterans Affairs [Sub-section revised by National Convention approval in 2015]

Proposed Language: ARTICLE 6 Committees and Councils

SECTION 1. Standing National Committees. Except for the Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM), the following committees shall serve as Standing Committees of the General Staff and of the National Convention: [Section revised by National Convention approval in 2025.]

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- M. Nominating
- N. Strategic Growth [Added by National Convention approval in 2021]
- O. Strategic Planning
- P. Veterans Affairs [Sub-section revised by National Convention approval in 2015]
- Q. Youth Development Committee
- R. Youth Recognition Committee

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Rationale: This amendment eliminates the *Patriotic Education Committee*, *Scouting Committee*, and *Reserve Officer Training Corps/Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC/JROTC) Committee*, and establishes the *Youth Development Committee* and the *Youth Recognition Committee* as part of a proposed *MOWW Youth Character Development Program* to be implemented in OY 2026: this proposed realignment of the Order's youth programs is recommended by the *Youth Leadership, Civics, and Patriotic Education Ad Hoc Committee*. With this amendment, the current *Patriotic Education Committee* will be realigned as a National Coordinator element under the *Youth Development Committee*, and the *Scouting* and *Reserve Officer Training Corps/Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC/JROTC) Committees* will be realigned as National Coordinator elements under the *Youth Recognition Committee*.

A. **General Summary.** The charter of the *MOWW Youth Leadership, Civics, and Patriotic Education Ad Hoc Committee* was to determine the best avenues to broaden and realign our current MOWW youth and patriotic education programs: specifically, developing one impactful Youth Character Development and Recognition Program, with proper strategic planning and growth, as well as other managerial strategies, to ensure the MOWW possesses a premier *Youth Character Development (YCD) Program* nationwide. The goal of establishing a *Youth Character Development Program* parallels similar programs established by other *Veteran Service Organizations*. Consistent with *Strategic Goal One (SG 1): Consistently develop and deliver attractive and high-impact community outreach programs and activities*, the committee is recommending the streamlining of the Order's "internal" and "external" youth programs as described below.

B. **Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations.**

1. Program Name: Realign the Order's current *Patriotic Education, Scouting, and ROTC/JROTC Programs* under one umbrella *MOWW Youth Character Development (YCD) Program*. The committee established that the two major aspects of MOWW's youth outreach programs are the execution of our educational training efforts and our youth award support programs. Guidance for the administration and execution of the proposed *MOWW Youth Character Development Program* would be provided through updates to the current *MOWW Policy Manual*.
2. Internal and External Committees. These two committees form the foundation of the proposed *MOWW Youth Character Development Program* and facilitate the capability/capacity to grow and support current/additional youth programs and activities. Youth outreach elements that the Order currently supports, and the committee recommends supporting in the near future, are indicated below.
 - a. Youth Development Committee.
 - 1) *Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC)* and *Youth Leadership Seminars (YLS)*.
 - 2) *Massing of Colors (MOC)* Ceremonies.
 - 3) *Phoenicians Essay Contest*.
 - 4) The committee is also recommending that the following additions to the YLC/YLS Curricula need to occur: Civics, character development, classical teaching topics (Virtues, morals, ethics), and associated topics such as Vision, Mission, and SMART Goal creation, leadership theory, principles, and characteristics, lesson plans, and civics resources.
 - 5) Additional elements as required.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

b. Youth Recognition Committee.

- 1) ROTC/JROTC.
- 2) Scouting.
- 3) USN Sea Cadets Corps (USNSCC).
- 4) Civil Air Patrol (CAP).
- 5) Young Marines.
- 6) Law and Order Explorer Programs.
- 7) Additional elements as required.

3. **Synopsis:** Realigning the new *MOWW Youth Character Development (YCD) Program*, comprised of a Youth Development Committee (YDC) and a Youth Recognition Committee (YRC), significantly enhances our youth educational efforts, thereby influencing new, younger membership recruitment and chapter participation in our youth programs nationwide.

Submitted By: CWO4 David A. McCuiston, USN (Ret), Chairman, YLCPE Ad Hoc Committee

Recommendation: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee does not recommend approval of this amendment due to uncertainty as to whether the underlying program changes have been approved by the Commander-in-Chief (CINC) and the Executive Committee (EXCOM). The Committee commends the *Ad Hoc* Committee for its work in developing and submitting this proposal. It is anticipated that, by the time of the Convention, a final plan will have been established. At that time, the proposal, either in its current form or as revised—may be presented for consideration, allowing action on the matter this year rather than deferring it to a later date.