

THE OFFICER REVIEW®

MARCH-APRIL 2022

Youth Leadership In Action





Education is the Soul of Society

"Education is simply the soul of society as it passes from one generation to another."

—G.K. CHESTERTON

G.K. Chesterton was a late 19th and early 20th century English writer and philosopher whose quote above more than adequately defines the Order's *raison d'être*. Of all the outreach programs the Order supports, Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC) and Youth Leadership Seminars (YLS) are, arguably, the most important outreach programs we offer.

Fostering leadership skills in high school students and educating them in civics, the constitutional framework of our government, capitalism, and entrepreneurship prepares them to assume consequential positions in our society in the future. This issue of *The Officer Review* highlights the Order's efforts in fostering the promotion and execution of these important outreach programs.

MOWW leadership is focused on revitalizing the Order at a time when veterans' organizations are having difficulty in maintaining and growing their organizations. YLCs and YLSs play a major role as one part of an integrative effort to renew the Order. Along with marketing, rebranding, and website development and modernization, the Order is concentrating on improving and publicizing our premier outreach programs as hallmarks of our organization.

What can chapters do to improve these programs, thereby enhancing the Order's visibility? Firstly, current YLCs and YLSs need to be strengthened and promoted. Secondly, new YLCs and YLSs should be developed where feasible. Thirdly, all chapters should consider developing and executing a one-day YLS, which is far less difficult to plan and execute than a multi-day YLC. Fourthly, create an environment that is attractive to new, younger officers who might participate with their children in these outreach programs.

Leadership is actively pursuing ways to improve the number and quality of YLCs and YLSs across the Order. Further, we are interested in creating a new outreach program that will highlight the Order's desire to educate future leaders of America while simultaneously being attractive to new, younger, potential Companions. Your ideas, help, and involvement in this effort are needed and welcomed.

Sincerely,

LTC MICHAEL A. OKIN, MD, USA (Retired)
Commander-in-Chief, MOWW & CEO, MOWW, Inc

MOWW OFFICERS

Commander-in-Chief & CEO, MOWW, Inc.

LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (Ret)
maokin1953@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

BGen Victor S. Pérez, USA (Ret)
Perezv56@gmail.com

Vice Commanders-in-Chief

CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret)
ed_gantt@hotmail.com

LTC Charles R. Conover, Jr., USA (Ret)
charlierconover@gmail.com

Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret)
ruizmarlon08@gmail.com

Lt Col David J. Worley, USAF (Ret)
worleymoww@earthlink.net

Immediate Past CINC

BGen Frederick R. Lopez, USMCR (Ret)
flopez23@cox.net

Chief of Staff, & COO, MOWW, Inc.

Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)
chiefofstaff@moww.org

Treasurer General & CFO, MOWW, Inc.

LCDR Paul B. Webb, USN (Ret)
treasurergeneral@moww.org

Judge Advocate General

CPT Harold Greenberg, JD, USA (Fmr)
harold@hglaw.pro

Surgeon General

CPT Robert E. Mallin, MD, USA (Fmr)
bobmallinmd@gmail.com

Chaplain General

LCDR Debra F. Rogers, Ed.D., USN (Ret)
crogersdf68@yahoo.com

Historian General

LTC Arthur B. Fowler, USA (Ret)
af3@verizon.net



HQ MOWW

435 North Lee Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-683-4911
www.moww.org



OFFICER REVIEW®

WWW.MOWW.ORG

This issue of The Officer Review is dedicated to Lieutenant General Robert L. "Sam" Wetzel, US Army Retired, former Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the World Wars, who passed away in January of 2022. He "Made It Happen."

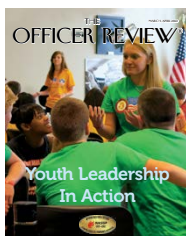
Patriotic Education

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| LTC Michael A. Okin, MD, USA (RET) | 2 | Commander-in-Chief Perspective <i>Education is the Soul of Society</i> |
| Mr. Jonny Phan | 4 | YLC Student Testimonial <i>YLCs Help Students To Get Ahead</i> |
| Lt Col David L. Dunlap, USAF (Ret) | 5 | Patriotic Education <i>Youth Leadership Conferences</i> |
| Patriotic Education Committee | 6 | MOWW Youth Leadership Conferences <i>2022 Nationwide Schedule</i> |
| Lt Col David L. Dunlap, USAF (Ret) | 25 | Patriotic Education <i>Now & Then</i> |

MOWW Convention

- | | |
|----|---|
| 26 | 2022 Convention <i>Jacksonville, Florida</i> |
| 27 | 2022 Convention Registration |
| 28 | 2022 Convention Agenda |
| 29 | 2022 Convention Tours |

-
- | | |
|----|---|
| 30 | Past Commander-in-Chief Obituary <i>PCINC LTG Robert Lewis "Sam" Wetzel, USA (Ret)</i> |
|----|---|



On The Cover

Team-building at the Huntsville YLC.



YLCs Help Students To Get Ahead

YLC STUDENT TESTIMONIAL BY JONNY PHAN

At the San Diego Youth Leadership Conference (SDYLC) participants take part in a variety of activities that involve public speaking, teamwork, and learning about the nuances of city counseling, entrepreneurship, and the American heritage. Students are assigned into respective “Patriotic” groups to function as a team for the rest of the conference. Participants have an unforgettable experience developing valuable skills from the focused workshops, group discussions, and debates while cherishing memories from friendships and bonds outside of their own schools.

Students learn about civics and historical events that influenced our country. A mnemonic device helps them memorize the Bill of Rights. These amendments, as well as Constitution knowledge that the students learned before arriving at the YLC (Requirements to be President, Senator, etc.) are subject material in a Jeopardy-style game show run by the student instructors.

Patriotic groups start a business from scratch and compete for their business to be chosen based on their business plan, marketing, and creativity. At the end, groups present their business to a panel of judges.

The goal of SDYLC is for students to expand their leadership knowledge and apply it back to their communities. As a result of the YLC experience, students are prepared to become better citizens and future leaders of our country.

Jonny Phan attended the San Diego Youth Leadership Conference at the University of California, San Diego

► **San Diego Youth Leadership Conference (SDYLC**x)** University of CA; San Diego CA When: June



Youth Leadership Conferences

LT COL DAVID L. DUNLAP, USAF (RET)
CHAIR, PATRIOTIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE (MOWW)

This issue of The Officer Review is focused on the Order's Patriotic Education Program and primarily on the Order's Youth Leadership events. The Order was established to promote the welfare of our nation—most notably, "To promote and further patriotic education in our nation." Our strongest and longest-lasting impact is helping today's youth gain a deep appreciation for the United States of America, our economic system, and acquire the leadership skills required to continue this great experiment in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

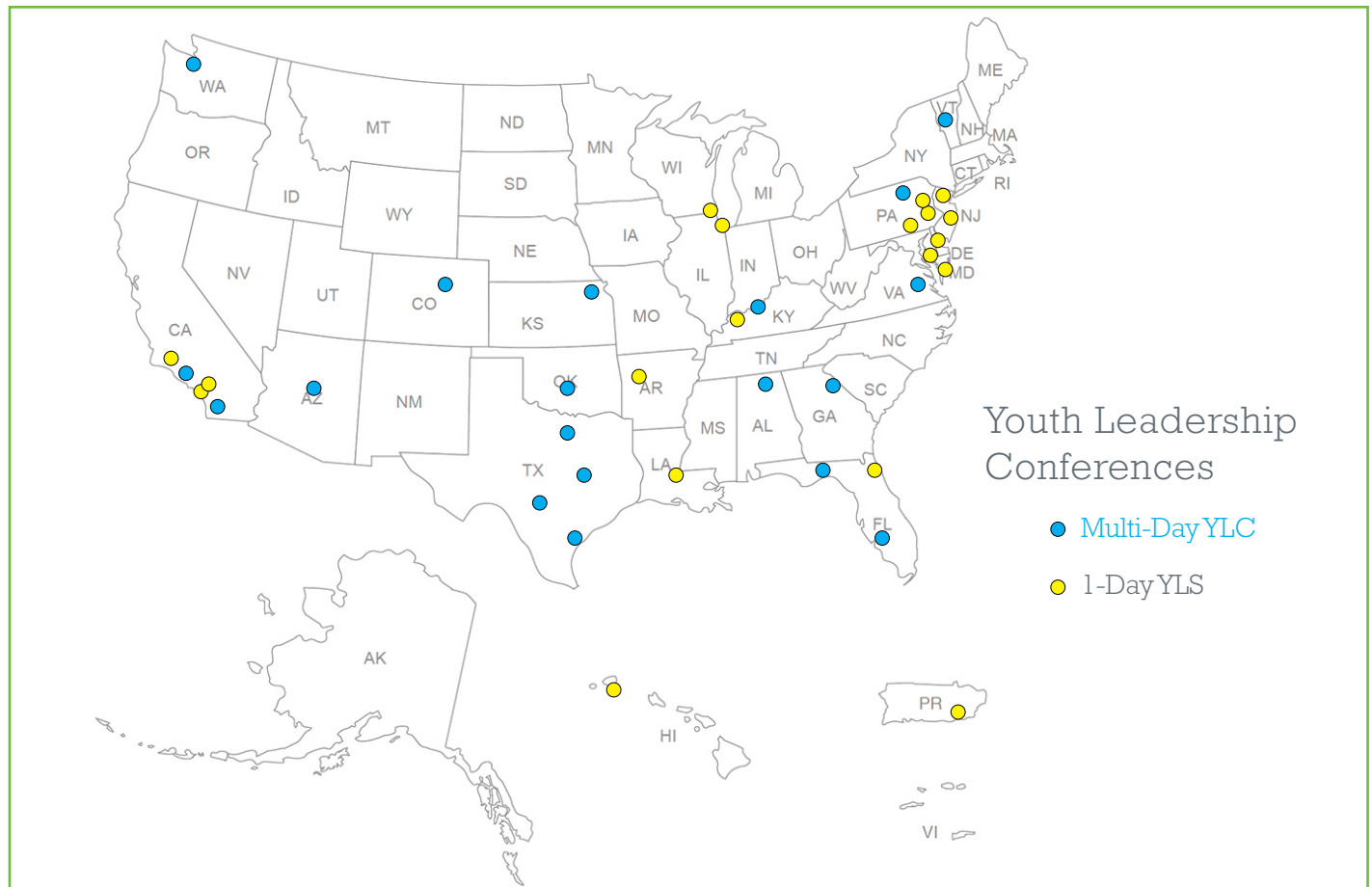
MOWW's Patriotic Education Program consists of the following three elements; Youth Leadership Conferences (YLC), Youth Leadership Seminars (YLS), and Massing of Colors events. These programs are conducted almost exclusively by MOWW chapters and their members.

Youth Leadership Conference®. Multi-Day Youth Leadership Conferences (YLCs) are funded educational conferences providing US high school students the chance to develop leadership skills via patriotic education. YLCs are approved as meeting National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) program standards and included in the List of Approved Contests and Activities for Students. YLC classes are led by skilled instructors and supervised by well-qualified team leaders and counselors.

Classes are participatory. The goal is 50% of class time is dedicated to leadership; 30% of class time devoted to the US government, US history and the US Constitution, Patriotism, and Americanism; and 20% dedicated to the Free Enterprise System and the US economy. These conferences often involve partners represented by its Resolutions of Cooperation, e.g., Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership, the National Sojourners, and the Joe Foss Institute.

Youth Leadership Seminars (YLS). MOWW Youth Leadership Seminars (YLS) are one-day educational seminars similar to the YLC. Shorter duration, YLSs are focused on specialized topics such as Civics, Law & Order, Flag Education, etc.

Currently, we have 20 YLCs and 15 YLSs across the nation, as noted on the map below by a blue dot for a YLC and a yellow dot for a YLS. Each YLC and YLS event adheres to established standards and is uniquely based on the venue (universities, schools, churches, government facilities, or historical museums), location, duration of the event, emphasis on workshops and activities, and resources available. Each of these Youth Leadership events is listed in the YLC/YLS Schedule on the PEP page of www.moww.org and represented by a description or article in the pages that follow.



PATRIOTIC EDUCATION

2022 YLC SCHEDULE

(Downloadable application and schedule reside at the moww.org Patriotic Education Program Page)

| DATES | YLC CODE | YLC NAME | DIRECTOR | EMAIL | PHONE |
|--------------|-----------|---|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| Jan 28-30 | NEYLC | New England YLC Norwich University; Northfield VT | LTC Jarvis | mjarvi43@gmail.com | 802-272-1935 |
| Feb 25-26 | AUGYLC | Augusta YLC Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church; Augusta GA | LTC Engen | augustamoww@comcast.net | 706-733-7682 |
| Mar 22 & 23 | GPYLC**x | Great Plains YLC Topeka Police Dept Training Center; Topeka KS | COL Boursaw | jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org | 785-608-1982 |
| Mar 25-27 | NEYLC2 | New England YLC Norwich University; Northfield VT | LTC Jarvis | mjarvi43@gmail.com | 802-479-1271 |
| Mar 30-Apr 3 | SOAYLC* | Spirit of America YLC Valley Forge Freedom Foundation; Valley Forge PA | LTC Kirlin | skirlin@aol.com | 610-742-2547 |
| Apr 22 & 23 | KYYLC1** | Kentucky YLC1 Blue Grass Challenge Academy; Fort Knox KY (Youth Challenge Program) | BG Estes | davidestes@bbtel.com | 270-307-7148 |
| Apr 28-May 1 | AIYLC**x | American Independence YLC Jamestown 4-H Education Center; Williamsburg VA | Col Townsley | townsley2369@gmail.com aiylc.org | 757-478-7467 |
| May 17-21 | TALYLC**x | Tallahassee YLC Southgate Campus Centre; Tallahassee FL | Brittany (Link) Clark | brittany.link@hotmail.com www.ylfinc.org | 727-643-1036 |
| Jun 6-9 | OCUYLC | Oklahoma Christian YLC (OCU) Oklahoma Christian University; Edmond OK | LTC Mathews | rwmathews@live.com | 405-200-9379 |
| Jun 19-23 | LEXYLC | USS Lexington YLC Aboard USS Lexington; Corpus Christi TX | Col Woods | bcwnav@hotmail.com | 830-496-0060 |
| Jun 20-23 | SDYLC**x | San Diego YLC University of CA; San Diego CA | Charles Dare | cdare@sdylc.org | 858-848-9661 |
| Jun 20-24 | TOYLC** | Thousand Oaks YLC California Lutheran University; Thousand Oaks CA | Col Knotts | jeknotts@ccvf.org | 805-402-7784 |
| Jun 20-24 | RMYLC | Rocky Mountain YLC University of Colorado (UCCS); Colorado Springs CO | Col Shambach | shambachsm@msn.com | 719-447-5505 |
| Jun 25-29 | SUYLC | Schreiner University YLC Schreiner University; Kerrville TX | CAPT Dombeck | debdombeck@gmail.com | 830-377-1783 |
| Jun 26-30 | NWYLC | Northwest YLC Pacific Lutheran University; Tacoma WA | Col Gibson | dave_digib@comcast.net | 360-412-5146 |
| Jun 29-Jul 2 | FMYLC | Florida-South YLC Florida Gulf Coast University; Fort Myers FL | Bob Smith | bobsmith8724@gmail.com | 405-414-8724 |
| Jul 5-9 | AZYLC** | Arizona YLC Arizona State University West; Glendale AZ | Jeff Schrade | schradey@gmail.com | 602-531-2104 |
| Jul 10-14 | TWUYLC | Texas Wesleyan University Texas Wesleyan University; Forth Worth TX | LTC Paul Faidley | paulfaidley@yahoo.com | 817 992 0947 |
| Jul 19-23 | TAMUYLC | Texas A&M YLC Texas A&M University; College Station TX | MG Bunch | gbunch76@gmail.com txpef.org | 804-721-3818 |
| Sep 23 & 24 | KYYLC2 | Kentucky YLC2 Blue Grass Challenge Academy; Fort Knox KY (Youth Challenge Program) | BG Estes | davidestes@bbtel.com | 270-307-7148 |
| Oct 27-30 | HSVYLC | Huntsville YLC US Space & Rocket Center; Huntsville AL | LtCol Dunlap | dunlapdl97@gmail.com | 256-651-1983 |



PATRIOTIC EDUCATION

2022 YLS Schedule

(Downloadable application and schedule reside at the moww.org Patriotic Education Program Page)

| DATES | YLS CODE | YLS NAME | DIRECTOR | EMAIL | PHONE |
|-----------|------------|---|----------------|--|--------------|
| Feb 19 | PH-YLS | Philadelphia YLS Roxborough High School; Philadelphia PA | LTC Kirlin | skirlin@aol.com | 610-742-2547 |
| Feb 26 | NJ-YLS** | New Jersey YLS Camden High School; Camden NJ | LTC Kirlin | skirlin@aol.com | 610-742-2547 |
| Mar 2 | GLA-YES | Greater Los Angeles YES Crescenta Valley HS; La Crescenta CA | LTC Worley | worleymoww@mindspring.com | 818-723-4014 |
| Mar 5 | PHSub-YLS | Philadelphia YLS Owen J. Roberts High School, Pottstown, PA; Fairless Hill, PA | LTC Kirlin | skirlin@aol.com | 610-742-2547 |
| Mar 12 | PR-YLS* | Puerto Rico YLS State Capital Building; San Juan PR | COL Quinones | pantera.quinones1@gmail.com | 787-923-4661 |
| Mar 12 | DE-YLS**x | Delaware YLS Delaware Military Museum; Wilmington DE | LTC Witte | carl.witte@hotmail.com | 610-742-0560 |
| Mar | CP-YLS | Cantigny YLS Cantigny Park; Wheaton Illinois | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Apr 5 | L&O-YLS* | Law & Order YLS Maryland Court of Appeals; Annapolis MD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Apr 19 | N-FL-YLS | North Florida YLS Jacksonville FL | CWO4 McCuiston | davidmcc44@outlook.com | 423-402-1643 |
| May 21 | NJ-YLS2 | New Jersey2 YLS Oakcrest High School; Mays Landing NJ | LTC Kirlin | skirlin@aol.com | 610-742-2547 |
| Jun 4 | BR-YLS | Baton Rouge YLS LSU Army ROTC Classroom; Baton Rouge LA | COL LeGrande | c.legrande@cox.net | 225-772-7381 |
| Jun 12-19 | GLNS-YLS** | Naval Station Great Lakes Naval Station Great Lakes; IL (JROTC only) | COL Peck | colpeck@yahoo.com | 847-452-7619 |
| Jun 16 | HI-YLS* | Hawaii YLS Oahu Veterans Center; Honolulu HI | Col Seal | seal.jasonc@gmail.com | 808-277-7536 |
| Jun (TBD) | TX-H-YLS | Houston YLS TBD | Col O'Driscoll | aggieod1977@gmail.com | 713-254-5871 |
| Jun (TBD) | AR-YLS | Central Arkansas YLS Arkansas National Guard Museum, Camp Robinson; Little Rock AR | LTC McGarry | papashaunmcgarry@gmail.com | 225-936-8254 |
| Oct 8 | PR-YLS | Puerto Rico YLS State Capital Building; San Juan PR | COL Quinones | pantera.quinones1@gmail.com | 787-923-4661 |
| Oct 15 | DE-YLS2 | Delaware YLS Delaware Military Museum; Wilmington DE | LTC Witte | carl.witte@hotmail.com | 610-742-0560 |

KEY:

* Virtually conducted event

** In-person only, waiting for the venue to resume having events/students

**x In-person only, canceled for this year



► **New England YLC (NEYLC)** Norwich University When: January and March



Since 2009, New England YLCs have promoted, encouraged and aided American youth in learning leadership fundamentals, developing and applying leadership skills and a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of patriotism and the free enterprise system. We focus on the history of the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the struggle to make our Nation's government "more perfect" with "liberty and justice for all." We test budding leadership and teamwork skills by activities and projects—wall climbing, reviewing and rendering verdicts on actual Supreme Court cases, and leadership problem-solving exercises using decision matrices. These activities use real-life problem-solving techniques that culminate in team presentations. We do all this using state-of-the-art technical resources and facilities available at this University.

Norwich University (NU), the NEYLC venue, founded in 1819, is the oldest private military college in the US, and is the birthplace of ROTC. NU ROTC cadets serve as instructors, mentors, and counselors. This is the only YLC that is jointly sponsored by a university and as such, enjoys the extensive support of students, staff and faculty to provide a rich learning experience. As one of several on-campus opportunities for prospective students to experience life on a civilian military college, we attract students from all around the country. Consult the Norwich website: www.norwich.edu/ylc for more information.

► **Augusta Youth Leadership Conference (AUGYLC)** Trinity on the Hill United Methodist Church When: March



This two-day, non-overnight YLC provides an opportunity for local youth to focus on leadership skills and learn from professionals in various fields regarding appreciation of American heritage, patriotism and the free enterprise system.

Augusta, the second-largest city in Georgia, is home to Fort Gordon, the National Cyber Security Headquarters, and the Masters Golf Tournament, to name just a few. This YLC has a wealth of experienced, accomplished experts in the area to call upon and mentor developing leaders among today's youth.

We stress the importance of asking questions. We interface with a US Attorney, a local judge, a former Augusta Mayor, and a Vietnam-era POW. We have a boisterous Q&A with a panel of professionals followed by small group discussions. We also have many supporting services and one of those is food. Not only do we get delivery and eat pizza, we hear from a franchiser who explains what it is to be an entrepreneur and another who addresses leadership challenges in the business world.



We have small-group discussions on the following topics: Morals and Ethics, Free Enterprise, the American Government, and The Leadership Role of the USA in World Affairs. Assigned to a group, students rotate to and engage in the discussions. An adult leader briefly introduces a discussion area, presents a related question, and members (students) answer based on their experiences. Students develop positions and present them to their fellow students and the rest of the YLC audience. Discussions and other conference-focused materials are facilitated using workbooks provided to each student and used for note-taking and reference. As a non-overnight YLC, attendees live close enough to the YLC to commute via their parents/guardians.

Subsequently, the most noteworthy students are selected to be sponsored by our chapter for attendance to another YLC event (to be determined annually).

“The heavy emphasis on patriotism and leadership among the senior staff and guest speakers was a major strength and I believe exceeded the stated goals in those areas.”

► **Philadelphia Youth Leadership Seminar (PH-YLS)** Roxborough High School; Philadelphia PA When: February

► **Suburban Philadelphia Youth Leadership Seminar (SP-YLS)** Owen J. Roberts High School, Pottstown, PA When: March

This YLS, which rotates among schools in suburban Philadelphia, focuses on Leadership, American Heritage, and Free Enterprise. Students prepare presentations and participate in student activities. Leadership is approached as “leading from behind (or anywhere really)” and active followership. The key points include the elements of active followership, a case study, discussion, and an explanation for creating good followers and that leaders must explain why, welcome challenging questions, seek regular feedback, delegate responsibility, utilize team experts, and share credit with the team.

A representative from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains presents the story of the Four Chaplains and their life-saving sacrifice during the sinking of the USAT Dorchester during WWII.

We examine the Free Enterprise System, factors affecting it and government regulations controlling it. Students then participate in a Shark Tank-like exercise. They work together to produce a new product or service, create a prototype, prepare a business proposal presentation two minutes in length, and pitch the product to a panel of MOWW Sharks in an attempt to receive funding. The panel evaluates their presentations on organization and development, delivery, visual aids, and overall quality. The winning team is awarded a \$100 prize and MOWW Recognition Certificates. The event includes a working lunch.



► **New Jersey Youth Leadership Seminars** When: February and May



2019-05 NJ-YLS Group Photo

► New Jersey Youth Leadership Seminar (NJ-YLS)
Camden High School; Camden NJ
When: February

► New Jersey2 Youth Leadership Seminar (NJ-YLS2)
Oakcrest High School; Mays Landing
When: May

► **Delaware Youth Leadership Seminar (DE-YLS**x)** Delaware Military Museum; Wilmington DE When: March

► **Delaware Youth Leadership Seminar (DE-YLS2)** Delaware Military Museum; Wilmington DE When: October



The Delaware Chapter sponsors Youth Leadership Seminars for students from varied youth development programs. They take place at the Delaware Military Museum. The Delaware Chapter has a formal affiliation with the Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation, the parent of the Delaware Military Museum.

JROTC Cadets representing seven schools, the Civil Air Patrol, and Black Jacks (a Pershing Rifle Group affiliate) participated in a YLC conducted in March 2019. The Cadets opened the event with a flag-raising ceremony. After a light breakfast, the cadets gathered in the Museum Conference Room for a welcome, program introduction, and a fun ice breaker. They listened to presentations on leadership, supported by discussion and exercises sessions. Cadets shared experiences about their respective programs and exchanged thoughts on how lessons learned could be applied.

After lunch the Cadets were divided into groups for a scavenger hunt. Each team had to find information from the displays in the Museum. Teams shared with the large group historical events they learned from the exercise.

The Chapter has affiliations with the Wm E. Tayler Division U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and the New Castle Delaware Air National Guard Cadet Squadron. Pictured at right are Sea Cadets participating in an awards and memorial service sponsored by the Delaware Chapter. A YLS with the Sea Cadets and CAP is schedule for 10 and 20 March, 2022.



► **Great Plains Youth Leadership Conference (GPYLC)** Topeka Center for Advanced Learning & Careers, Topeka KS When: March

The Great Plains Youth Leadership Conference draws presenters from Topeka, the Kansas State Capitol--a community rich in resources and highly successful business leaders. Instructors include senior law enforcement officials, state and local government leaders, Fort Riley, McConnell AFB, Fort Leavenworth, and the WWII Museum in Kansas City.

Leadership is explored in-depth with some of the following presentations: "Ethical Behavior in Leadership" by local clergy; "Leadership in Civil Government" by the Topeka Mayor; "Leadership in Law Enforcement" by Superintendent, Kansas Highway Patrol; and "Interwar: A Discreet Giant" by a School of Advanced Military Studies professor at Ft. Leavenworth. Our presenters have included a US Marshal for the State of Kansas, a General George Patton re-enactor who, as General Patton talks about himself and his leadership style, John M Curatola, Ph.D., a professor at the School of Advanced Military Studies at Ft Leavenworth, and Lt Col David Young, Director of Staff for the Kansas ANG. Dr. Curatola described the rise of the US as an international power between WWI and WWII, and Lt Col Young demonstrated how rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, robotics, genetic engineering, and nanotechnology are changing our world.

In addition to interaction with presenters, students apply leadership skills and work in teams to accomplish tasks. One of the group activities involves students working together to build a tree using nothing but newspapers. Another activity is developing or modifying a product or service and subsequently developing a short presentation to market the product to a panel of staff members and mentors like the TV program "Shark Tank."



► **Greater Los Angeles Youth Education Seminar (GLA-YLS)** Crescenta Valley High School; Los Angeles CA When: March

The Greater Los Angeles YES (GLA-YLS) focuses on leadership in presentations and application. Attendees learn about character and ethics based on a lesson plan from the Medal of Honor Foundation and examine and discuss a Personal Leadership Philosophy. They participate in three different team-building exercises to practice and internalize what was presented and discussed. The first exercise focuses on communication and is outdoors. The other activities are an indoor survival exercise and a capstone exercise conducted indoors and outdoors. The seminar concludes with a leadership discussion that emphasizes concrete examples, including those inherent to the activities just completed, a wrap-up of the event and its take-aways, a survey, and a coin presentation. This YLS uses many of the same resources as the Thousand Oaks Youth Leadership Conference, a 5-day event that embraces the standard YLC curriculum mix, not just leadership.



► **Cantigny Youth Education Seminar (CP-YLS)** Cantigny Park, Wheaton Illinois When: March



The one-day Cantigny Youth Leadership Seminar, funded through the Colonel Robert McCormick Foundation and co-partnered by MOWW Chicago Chapter and Waukegan High School JROTC, is held at the 1st Infantry Division Museum. The museum and park were established by Colonel McCormick, publisher and owner of the “Chicago Tribune,” as a permanent memorial honoring those who, like he, fought in the Division during WWI and is named for the site of the first United States battle of World War I in France. A great venue for a YLC or YLS, Cantigny recently featured WWI centennials and will help celebrate the centennial for Waukegan JROTC, the oldest and most continuous Army JROTC unit in the nation.

There are resources and support nearby that add flavor and distinction the CP-YLS. Our speakers include a Medal of Honor (MoH) recipient from the Vietnam War, the highest-ranking Army Reserve General of Asian American heritage, a 105-year-old WWII veteran and MOWW member who established the Chicago Chapter’s YLC Fund. The MoH recipient also presents an autographed copy of his book *Zero to Hero* to many students attending. Born in 1944, our Army Reserve General, was interned with his parent at Manzanar, became an officer via ROTC at the University of Illinois, served in Korean War, and was badly combat-wounded in Vietnam. He now assists veterans with moral injuries as a result of combat. And yes, we tour the museum, viewing and sensing the history of the 1st Infantry Division from WWI to the present.

► **Spirit of America Youth Leadership Conference (SOAYLC)** Valley Forge Freedom Foundation; Valley Forge PA When: March



Through experiential learning and critical thinking exercises, Freedoms Foundation inspires the next generation to take up the responsibilities of citizenship and develop character. Today’s youth—tomorrow’s leaders—must become the responsible citizens the United States needs, and this responsibility begins with a deep understanding of the principles on which the American government was founded.

The Spirit of America Youth Leadership conference is a four-day residential program for high school students interested in cultivating a better understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship through thought-provoking, engaging activities. Led by an experienced faculty and staff, participants explore the democracy in which we live, their leadership skills and engage in the issues of contemporary American life.

Activities include a Mock Congressional Debate, a Free Enterprise Challenge, Leadership Workshops and visits to Valley Forge and Historic Philadelphia.



► **Law and Order Youth Leadership Seminar (L&O-YLS)** Maryland Court of Appeals; Annapolis MD When: April

The Law and Order YLS (L&O-YLS) is a one-day event providing great insight/awareness of the United States legal system. The particulars of the event are determined by the court's docket and typically cannot be scheduled more than six weeks in advance. After check-in to the YLS at the Court of Appeals, we meet with the Chief Judge for a focused but extensive discussion. We then as observers attend an oral arguments session per the court's docket that is open to the public. Extensive research is required for most court cases and an in-house library supports that research. We tour the Court of Appeals library with the library director serving as the guide. During lunch we eat and get acquainted. Afterward we meet with a Maryland County State's Attorney and Public Defender for an interactive panel discussion and gain an understanding of the purpose of those offices and how they function. We then transition from the legal system to an interactive discussion with a DEA officer. We wrap up with an interesting presentation by a forensics expert followed by a final Q&A and presentation of certificates. The L&O YLS is great way to introduce students interested in a future career in law enforcement or the legal profession.



► **Kentucky Youth Leadership Conference (KYYLC)** Bluegrass Challenge Academy & Patton Museum, Fort Knox KY When: April

Since 2005, the 2-day KYYLC has been a twice-a-year event for 16-18-year-old highschool dropouts to find a new direction in their lives. The event focuses primarily on leadership and American heritage, and patriotism.

On the first day, the students tour the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Museum with museum staff. While there as a flashback to 1776, students sign a copy of The Declaration of Independence and gain an appreciation for the US Constitution. They learn that these documents are a key foundation of our country and an awareness of every citizen's responsibilities toward the perpetuation of the Bill of Rights to protect our freedoms.

On the following day, students tour the General George Patton Leadership Museum and watch a movie about the General's life and experiences. Then each student participates in a museum scavenger hunt to find examples of General Patton's top six leadership imperatives and present those imperatives to all students.



“I loved this conference. And I am so blessed to have received the opportunity to attend. Thank you so much for providing an amazing camp at which I learned to become a better leader and a patriot.”



► **American Independence YLC (AIYLC**x)** Jamestown 4-H Education Center; Williamsburg VA When: April



The AIYLC experience is an extraordinarily fun-filled and educational one. The students are provided with a cost-effective program that enlightens them on how to use critical thinking techniques to assist with making choices that impact their future. In addition, they gain insight into varying leadership personalities and their effect on determining roles as a leader or follower illustrated with the trademarked Winning Colors lecture.

American history could not be more fun than to take a walk back in time with historical characters like John Rolfe, or speak to a current public servant or businessperson. Students have greatly enjoyed the overview of the US Constitution with an exercise to develop and defend a new amendment or law. All this, coupled with a visit to historic Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown Settlement, bring American history to life.

Additionally, our conference wades deep into financial programs with a game and lectures providing the realities of life through explanations of investment terms, insurance, and life experiences such as rent, food, and clothing. After completing these studies, students develop a briefing that encompasses personality traits and financial management.

Finally, patriotism is emphasized every morning and evening with our flag ceremonies and their learning of the National Anthem.

The Williamsburg 4-H provides the perfect setting to host the conference. The food is outstanding! The interaction that takes place between students—learning from and about each other—culminates into lifelong friendships. AIYLC... a wonderful learning experience like no other!



► **Tallahassee Youth Leadership Conference (TALYLC)** Southgate Campus Centre; Tallahassee FL When: May



In May, this YLC is held at Southgate Campus Centre, Tallahassee, Florida. The YLC is funded by the Youth Leadership Foundation, an IRS tax-exempt foundation incorporated in the state of Florida for the sole purpose of conducting youth leadership conferences (YLCs) under the sponsorship of the MOWW. The Tallahassee YLC has conducted 43 conferences attended by 2,976 carefully selected students from dozens of high schools in Florida.

Students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and represent an accurate cross-section of Florida's citizenry. Attendees spend three nights in a college dormitory where all teaching, sleeping, and dining take place. Although not associated with Florida State University, the YLC venue is immediately adjacent to the FSU campus, providing some exposure to college life.

This YLC focuses on teaching enhanced leadership skills,



encouraging a greater sense of patriotism, and examining the role of free enterprise in a democratic society. To attain these goals, numerous experts from many different backgrounds and life experiences engage the students in lectures, interactive discussions, and participatory exercises. Highlighting the YLC is the tour of the state capitol and the Florida Supreme Court. Students who have graduated from the conference are motivated and eager to take home and share their experiences. One student said, "You will see me again someday, and you will like what I have become."

“I think this conference is very inspirational and I really enjoyed my time here and I am inspired to be a greater leader that can treat everyone with kindness.”

► **Baton Rouge Youth Leadership Seminar (BR-YLS)** LSU Army ROTC Classroom; Baton Rouge LA When: June

The annual 1-day Baton Rouge YLS was conducted at the Louisiana State University ROTC Headquarters. The venue gives us access to a college-level environment for instruction and small team interaction. The theme, "Preparing for Life Through Leadership," emphasized the importance of goal setting, ethical decision making, team building, and leadership skills in opening and enhancing career opportunities. The seminar leveraged peer group interaction to facilitate training through exercises in basic leadership skills, ethical decision-making, American heritage and patriotism, and free enterprise.

Leadership is presented and discussed covering its what, why, basics, and processes that improve your chances of excelling in whatever you choose as your life's work, and giving back within the community. Practicing what was conveyed, getting acquainted through introductions, and selecting team leaders gives students team interaction experience. Four team building activities, "Lost as Sea", "New Planet", "Our Constitution", and "Elements of Free Enterprise" support team decision making and each of those activities is followed by a results brief by each of the teams. Focus on ethical decision making and leadership mentoring add to the attendees understanding of leadership. Then we proceed to the United States of America and how it operates—the US Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and obligations of citizenship.

Our instructors are local professors, authors, judges, and business managers, as well as, MOWW Companions. Youth Merit Awards were presented to students excelling in leadership skills and team exercise participation to the top students from each team.



► **Southwest Youth Leadership Conference (OKCYLC)** Oklahoma Christian University; Edmond OK When: June



This 4-day YLC, held on the university campus in Edmond, can accommodate up to 60 students. The city of Edmond is rated one of the “top 100 places to live.”

What does this YLC do for the students? It provides them an opportunity to jump-start their understanding and application of leadership skills, helping them become leaders or better leaders. These segments of the YLC will improve their understanding of American heritage, the free enterprise system that has fueled America’s success, and show attendees how to achieve goals.

Local experts provide presentations, answer questions and lead discussions. A board member from the Cherokee Freedmen Association explains how the US legal system and tribal law compare with US law (sovereign issue). Attendees learn a few models of leadership and why the corporate world values character training as a key to good leadership. There are panel discussions on practical leadership issues followed by conversations on terrorism after touring the Oklahoma National Memorial and Museum.

An Oklahoma County District Court Judge presides over a mock trial based on Aesop’s fable “The Fox and the Crow” and discusses the merits of the case. There are also team activities to exercise and improve leadership skills. Assigned to teams, attendees participate in workshops delving into leadership, setting goals, solving problems, and presenting results. Teams develop a product/service, a plan to finance it and market it to a panel of judges. Teams enjoy competing in “fields of friendly strife” (e.g., ping pong, volleyball).

“I gained the skills and knowledge needed to be a great leader, be successful, have patriotism and never give up.”

► **Naval Station Great Lakes** When: June | JROTC Only



The six-day JROTC Leadership Camp at the Great Lakes Naval Station is conducted as a NJROTC event and a bona fide MOWW Youth Leadership Seminar (GLNS-YLS). The event is for JROTC cadets and focuses on leadership and patriotism. It concentrates on sailing and navigation both in the classroom and on the water. Cadets train and practice sailing on Lake Michigan. The YLC includes a tour of the Navy Museum and the Great Lakes Training Center. Each cadet rotates through command positions and hears from Navy leaders about how leadership has made the US Navy a global force for good.

The schedule devotes a day to presentations and activities that, except for touring the First Division Museum, are similar to those for the Cantigny YLS.

Cadets are evaluated, and MOWW recognizes the top ten out of the 250 cadets.

NJROTC Leadership Camp 2019. Credit:PO1 Amanda Kitchner



► **USS Lexington, Youth Leadership Conference (SWYLC-LEX)** USS LEXINGTON Museum in Corpus Christi Bay, TX When: June

Since 1998, the 5-day, 4-night USS LEXINGTON YLC has afforded over 1,000 high school students from Texas and Oklahoma a unique 'historical' platform to learn leadership, patriotism, and our American free enterprise system. The students explore the ship from the bridge to engine rooms, especially after the museum closes each night. The "LEX," an aircraft carrier extensively used during WWII and nicknamed "The Blue Ghost," is itself an incredible learning venue.

The emphasis of this YLC is on "students leading" and "students doing." Functioning as six small groups of 10-12 students and with minimal oversight by a YLC graduate serving as a group counselor, the groups determine how to accomplish assigned duties under a short deadline. They also lead discussions, prepare projects and presentations, and then present them to the YLC. The projects include a "Mock Trial," conducted by a real District Court judge. Students also learn firsthand about the US Constitution by arguing for and against cases involving students' rights. Team-building activities and competition are part of the agenda, helping students develop important leader and follower skills.

There are very few lectures, but they resound well with our students and adults. The most acclaimed presentation is by a Military Officer who was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. He shares his experiences (including his torture and interrogations) in detail and answers a myriad of questions. Another highly student-rated presentation focuses on economics and is followed by student groups investigating the effects of a minimum wage on employment. Most participants gain a newfound understanding of economics and love it.

Due to COVID, the USS Lexington was not open for overnight events in 2020 and 2021. For 2021 we temporarily changed our YLC venue to Schreiner University in Kerrville. We plan to return to the Lexington for 2022 but may remain temporarily elsewhere.



► **San Diego Youth Leadership Conference (SDYLC**x)** University of CA; San Diego CA When: June



The San Diego YLC is described in a testimonial by a student leader and may be found on page 4 of this issue of *The Officer Review*.



► **Hawaii YLS (HI-YLS*)** Oahu Veterans Center; Honolulu HI When: June



This annual and inaugural one-day seminar is hosted by the MOWW Gaylord Dillingham Chapter, HI, and funded through the Leadership Challenge. This YLS focuses on developing young leaders' skill sets by learning and immediately practicing leadership principles. Participating young adults will enjoy more success in all aspects of their lives, learning leadership principles and skills. They will make better-informed decisions, with more confidence, while forming new relationships and building self-esteem. They will recognize that failure can and should move them a step closer to success. Participants are also more likely to take responsibility for themselves and their lives, take on the complex challenges presented during high school, college years, and beyond, and embrace those challenges with a can-do attitude. This YLS focuses on leadership traits and principles proven by the United States Marine Corps, and is balanced with evidence-based teen psychology, experiential learning activities, and a fun, humorous delivery that allows participants to absorb information quickly.

► **Thousand Oaks Youth Leadership Conference TOYLC)** California Lutheran University; Thousand Oaks CA When: June



The TOYLC, coming up on its 28th year, is held at California Lutheran University (CLU). It is a four-day event emphasizing team building and leadership skills in addition to the basic precepts of the YLC curriculum. Up to 60 students from Northern and Central California participate, typically assigned to six teams. Each student has a one-day "leadership opportunity," allowing them to learn and grow as dynamic leaders and followers.

Early in the conference, students create long-term "Life Goals" and share them with each other. They then learn the basics of character-based leadership skills through lessons derived from Medal of Honor recipients via a curriculum provided by the Medal of Honor Foundation. During the rest of the conference, students take on seven "team leadership challenges." They must come together as a cohesive unit and each day build upon lessons learned from previous leadership challenges through their daily acquired skills. By the time students conduct their final leadership challenge on the sands of one of our local beaches, their team-building skills developed during the conference are notably evident.

The event also includes field trips. Students tour Port Hueneme Naval Base and the Ronald Reagan Presidential



TOYLC 2018: BG Dan Pemberton and Capt Rosy Nolan (WWII vet); Below: Lt Col Dave Worley explaining personal leadership philosophy.



Library to gain appreciation and knowledge for our military as well as one of our greatest presidential leaders. This YLC is usually scheduled to include Flag Day. The meaning and care of the flag are presented and brought to life by WWII veterans who convey their sense of America. Students are fascinated hearing about the veterans' personal military experiences.

The conference concludes with an Awards Dinner that includes a Color Guard, Flag Folding Ceremony, and POW/MIA Table Ceremony, all conducted by attending students. Award categories include individual participation, team awards, and the Top Student Award.



► **Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference (RMYLC)** University of Colorado (UCCS); Colorado Springs CO When: June

Since 1990, the 5-day Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference has provided rising high school seniors throughout Colorado an outstanding immersion in leadership, patriotism, and the free enterprise system. Located on a college campus with Pikes Peak and the Front Range Mountains as a backdrop, students are provided the optimal inspirational setting for this conference.

The overall goal is to improve students' leadership abilities as well-informed citizens to benefit their schools and communities. Students identify leadership areas they want to improve and are placed in situations to help with that development. Much of the YLC is a team activity where participants develop their teamwork with inter-group competition. Our participants hear and interact with civic, educational, military, and other professionals who inspire and challenge students to be impactful leaders. Activities include flag raising and lowering ceremonies, team building and communication exercises, essay writing and student-led discussion sessions. Student teams conduct an exercise involving current critical topics facing our country. Each team presents a skit to persuade their fellow students of their solution, using various governmental and non-governmental levers of power.

The conference culminates with a graduation banquet where parents and family members learn about the transformative experience their students had during this action-packed week. The YLC Leadership Staff consists of students who are RMYLC graduates. They help develop, train for and conduct the conference, with adults in stand-by role. Students come excited and leave excited, motivated and ready to apply what they have learned.

RMYLC: Militiaman recounts history. Below: Group Building: Preparing Shelter for an "Alien Invasion."



► **Schreiner University #1 YLC, (SCHYLC1)** Schreiner University; Kerrville TX When: June

► **Schreiner University #2 YLC (SCHYLC2)** Schreiner University; Kerrville TX When: July



Activities during this YLC are student-centered, using cooperative and discovery learning. Students are divided into small groups and given challenging projects focusing on leadership, patriotic activities, and free-market principles. The students also participate in physical team-building activities to build camaraderie that furthers their leadership skills in fun-filled competitive games. They learn to budget their time and other resources to accomplish their assigned tasks.

A unique activity for the Schreiner YLC includes a field trip to the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX, to learn important 20th Century US History. There, they gain a better appreciation for how the US and its allies dealt with the challenge of that century.

Another special feature of the Schreiner YLC, the students meet and learn from a living POW from the Vietnam War who spent over six years in captivity. The students experience living history through this gentleman. His powerful message of perseverance, patriotism, and overcoming adversity was impactful to the students as well as the counselors.

► **Northwest Youth Leadership Conference (NWYLC)** Pacific Lutheran University; Tacoma WA When: June



The Northwest Youth Leadership Conference (NWYLC), now in its 30th year, has provided outstanding leadership training, patriotic education, and free enterprise exploration to teens from all over the Northwest United States. To date, over 3000 students have gained valuable training for future success. The YLC is a well-designed balance of excellent subject matter, speakers that engage student's minds, outdoor activities that challenge their problem solving and field trips to important locations in the Puget Sound. One field trip explores the Washington State Capitol with its three branches of government. Another field trip to McChord AFB allows the students to explore a C-17 aircraft. Some highlights from the last conference that excited everyone attending: a confidence-building course, a Salute to the American Flag, Ethics and Morality of Leadership and a Personal Leadership story from an Auschwitz survivor.



The grand finale, with many MOWW Companions attending, was the patriotic awards banquet. Good food, activities, learning, fun, and friendship were appreciated by all who attended the NWYLC. Every student who has attended the NWYLC has gone home inspired to use their knowledge to make a positive difference in their communities and schools.

See <https://mowwpugetsoundchapter.org/north-west-youth-leadership-conference/>

The Arizona Youth Leadership Conference, founded in 1991, adheres to the YLC core curriculum mix and specifically focuses on the US Constitution, Free Enterprise, Leadership, Communications, Robert's Rules of Order, and Responsible Citizenship. Students hear from and interact with speakers who are credentialed by education or experience, including living history, and are devoted to sharing what they've learned. Each student applies what's presented through team-building games, exercises, and problem-solving and presents the results. They do so in a friendly environment conducive to growing skills and learning with peers. Activities include small group discussions, debates, skits, and mixers complete with pizza or ice cream.

Students are assigned to groups as delegates and issued a group T-shirt. Groups function as a team for most of the YLC. After a historical lead-up to the Constitutional Convention, students role-play as the Founders (delegates) at the convention and use Roberts Rules of Order as they work to create their own Constitution. They are then challenged with a Living Freedom Seminar (Bill of Rights issues) and enter a Constitutional Issue debate. Leadership focus includes using communication skills, oral and written, and producing and performing scenario skits. Each team creates a flag design representing what they learned. Students conduct US Supreme Court mock trials on the *Kelso vs. New London* case (Eminent Domain) with a practicing judge presiding.

Evening social activities are planned and chaperoned. Students eat in the University dining room and live in the student dorms on gender-separate floors. This YLC can accommodate up to 64 students.



“*I have learned many valuable lessons here and I am excited to go and try them out in the world.*”



► **Southwest Youth Leadership Conference, Texas Wesleyan University (SWYLC-TWU)** Fort Worth Texas When: July



Since 1990, up to 60 high school students annually have come from North Texas and Arkansas to participate in this extraordinary 5-day YLC conducted on the university campus in Fort Worth.

The city, the 15th largest in the United States, the surrounding area, and the area's strong MOWW presence, provide a large and diverse pool of professional resources and support to make this YLC a great opportunity for students seeking to become knowledgeable leaders. Potential speakers include accomplished and notable professionals: business executives and government officials, small business owners, educators, engineers, authors, and active, retired and former military, including Medal of Honor recipients and former Prisoners of War. The list includes law enforcement experts, and professors who complement the YLC curriculum.

In addition to hearing and interacting with these professionals, students work together in workshops and activities to apply what they learned. They develop solutions and products and present results to the YLC at large. As a group they create and produce a talent show that is both educational and entertaining. Students even organize a formal banquet featuring a noted speaker and recognize the conference's outstanding students. Parents and guests are invited to participate. During the YLC, students get to socialize and form lasting friendships. The event is just plain fun, but it provides learning beyond the formal classroom to help attendees embrace and steer their future.



► **TAMU Youth Leadership Conference (TAMUYLC)** Texas A&M University; College Station Texas When: July



Nicknamed "Howdy!," the Youth Leadership Conference at Texas A&M University brings high achieving, driven high school students together to refine their leadership skills to cultivate solid and patriotic leaders in our nation. Students develop lifelong friendships and learn about the US government and the nation's free enterprise system.

The students learn from firsthand experience and participation in lectures with successful community leaders and university professors and conducting mock trials of court cases. Leaders such as former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros and Business Executive Marc Liebman, among others, discuss the essential qualities of leadership. At the same time, Judge Richard Stewart presides at the mock trial of the court case *Carla Jensen v. White Star Lines*, challenging participants to develop creative arguments for debate.

Students were unable to travel to the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library for the field trip this year but should be able to next year. Nevertheless, they experienced the exceptionalism of the Aggie Spirit throughout the program. The counselors mentored the students while the directors inspired each young leader, collectively cultivating a unique, engaging environment where individual strengths and weaknesses were discovered and addressed.

Upon departure, the youth were empowered to use their talents for change; they connected with lifelong friends, and in the future, cannot help but greet one another with a warm smile and a loud, Howdy!



► **Kentucky Youth Education Seminar (KY-YLS)** The University of Louisville, Louisville KY When: October/November

The 1-day Kentucky YLS has annually provided up to 230 high school students from Kentucky and Indiana the opportunity to learn about leadership in a free society, the free enterprise system, principles of democracy, the Constitution and Bill of Rights, and civic responsibilities associated with preserving American rights and freedoms. The subjects are also discussed for clarity and to gain an appreciation for their importance in today's political environment and applicability to one's personal life, and respect for one another's rights.

Louisville, the largest city in Kentucky and the 29th largest in the United States and just across the Ohio River from Indiana, has local resources and support to make for a great success-in-a-free society education event. The focus and perspectives are presented by a National Champion Basketball Coach, a county Juvenile Court Judge, attorneys, an economics professor, Louisville's Deputy Police Chief, the university's ROTC Professor of Military Science, and former or retired military officers. Attendees greatly benefit from the depth and diversity of experience of these sharers of information. Students also develop speaking, writing and leadership skills, and have many opportunities to apply what they have learned.

They leave the seminar with great memories, having had meaningful exchanges with dynamic speakers and Q&A panelists, and valuable life skills enhancing the attendee's chances of success in the future as a leader and a citizen contributing to the perpetuation of the United States of America.



► **Puerto Rico Youth Leadership Seminar (PR-YLS1)** State Capitol, San Juan, PR When: May and October



The annual Puerto Rico YLS (PR-YLS), put on by the MOWW Puerto Rico Chapter, is for high school students who want to get a jumpstart in learning about leadership and applying it within their respective communities and as they pursue careers.

We address what leadership is, different types, characteristics, and the things leaders need to consider and do. We also address serving country and community with distinction as a leader and a follower, and the satisfaction, rewards, and sacrifice in doing so. We also are responsive to our island community with a special emphasis on natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunami, and disease pandemics), preparedness and response. Attendees work together to recognize and appreciate sacrifice during trying times. The primary means for sharing this information is by a presentation by credentialed subject matter experts, interaction with them, facilitated discussion, and activities in which attendees work to a team solution.

In response to COVID in 2020, we conducted our seminar by video teleconferencing from the Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area facilities serving as the control and broadcasting center for remote speakers and 64 students attending. The theme of our YLS was “Leadership Under Turbulent Times,” focusing on the leadership applied and needed to prepare and respond to natural disasters that have confronted Puerto Rico in recent years. This PR-YLS was a first for the event itself and MOWW and demonstrated the value of having dedicated central control for staging, cueing, conducting seamless question and answer sessions after presentations, and enabled observation by other MOWW Companions, including MOWW national officers.

“Major strength of the YLC is the interaction you have with other students during the conference.”

► **Huntsville Youth Leadership Conference (HSVYLC)** US Space & Rocket Center; Huntsville AL When: October



The Huntsville area has an extensive missile, defense, space, robotics, and medical presence, including manufacturing, supporting trades, media production, and academia. Like other YLCs, this one immerses students in leadership, patriotism, and free enterprise with subject matter experts and student-led and student-accomplished workshops and activities, but also takes advantage of Space Camp training and facilities and local technology presence.

Attendees experience the Space Camp Aviation Challenge “Introduction to Flight” Program, which includes an orientation to flight, hands-on flying F/A-18 and T-38 jet simulators, and taking on obstacles at Space Camp’s Leadership Reaction Course under the oversight and assessment by its counselors.



Then & Now

LT COL DAVID L. DUNLAP, USAF (RET)
CHAIR, PATRIOTIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE (MOWW) AND DIRECTOR, HUNTSVILLE YLC

In 2010 Bram Gyga was a sophomore at Excalibur Christian School, a home school association in Huntsville, Alabama, when he attended the Huntsville Youth Leadership Conference at the US Space and Rocket Center. He excelled and served as a 2011 YLC Division Leader, and during his senior year, served as the 2012 YLC Program Leader. During his years with the YLC, Bram also worked as a crew member of a lawn care service and later served as a fast-food delivery driver. Of his YLC experience, he says, "I am a firm believer in the YLC. I believe that the YLC was one of the most influential experiences that shaped my adult life, both personally and professionally. I truly owe a lot to the YLC."

After distinguishing himself during two years at a community college and one year at the University of Alabama Huntsville, Bram earned Presidential Nominations for the Air Force and Naval Academies as well as Congressional and Senator nominations to the Air Force Academy. He chose the US Air Force Academy and reported basic training in July 2014.

At the Academy, Bram was selected and achieved distinction as a soaring instructor pilot in 2015, served the 94th Flying Training Squadron as a Flight Commander for 34 cadets, and served on a six-member USAF Aerobatic Demonstration Team from 2016 until his 2018 graduation. Bram also served as Squadron 17's Flight Commander overseeing 30 cadets and the Squadron Superintendent overseeing 120 cadets during his junior and senior years.

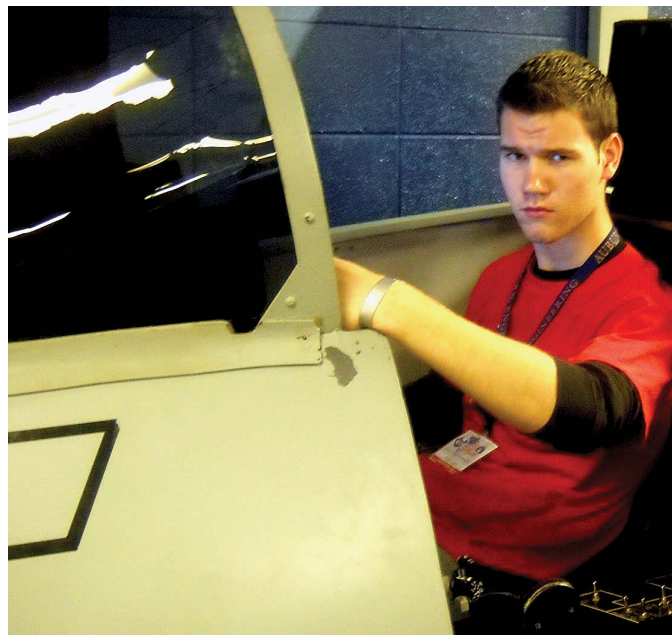
While at the Academy, Bram was selected as a member of the Academy's 'In the Stairwell' a cappella group during his Freshmen year and performed as a member until his graduation. Through effort and time management above the standard cadet workload, the talented group rehearsed both singing and choreography performed for military and civilian audiences. The group was most notably recognized in 2017 as Season 12 semi-finalists on America's Got Talent.

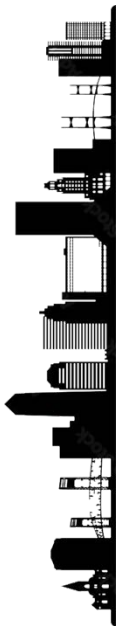
In May of 2018, Bram graduated from the US Air Force Academy with a Management degree, had earned the Distinguished Management Major Award, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Upon completing the long 12 months of undergraduate pilot training, Bram received the Leadership and Flight Commander awards and was given orders to fly the C-130J Super Hercules at Ramstein AFB, Germany - his number one choice of assignments.

Bram's many accomplishments can be traced back to his experience at the Huntsville YLC. He has applied himself during and after his YLC days. He continues to demonstrate himself as a leader. The sky is the limit for this young airman.

See Bram perform with 'In the Stairwell':
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUCtmYA5leo>





Join Us

102ND NATIONAL CONVENTION

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA ☀ 2-7 AUGUST 2022

"PRESERVING THE PAST WHILE EMBRACING THE FUTURE"

HOTEL

SOUTHBANK MARRIOTT HOTEL

1515 PRUDENTIAL DR, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

RESERVATION DATES: 2-7 AUGUST

RESERVATIONS: 904-396-5100

RESERVATION LINK:

[HTTPS://WWW.MARRIOTT.COM/EVENTS/START.MI?ID=1644439502791&KEY=GRP](https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1644439502791&key=GRP)

ADA ROOMS CONTACT JIM HANEY: 813-220-8758

ROOMS BEFORE/AFTER CONVENTION CONTACT PATRICIA MYERS: 904-421-4481



2022 MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION IS HOSTED BY REGION VI AND THE NORTHEAST FL CADRE

Registration

COMPANION & ATTENDEE NAMES

➤ **Companion:** Rank, Full Name & Service: _____

Chapter Name: _____ Region: _____ Location: _____

Current Office(s) (List all): _____

Phone (H): _____ (C): _____ Email _____

Home Address: _____

➤ **Companion Spouse/Guest:** Rank & Full Name: _____

Current Office(s) (List all): _____

Phone (H): _____ (C): _____ Email _____

➤ **Non-Companion Spouse/Guest:** Rank & Full Name: _____

Phone (H): _____ (C): _____ Email _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Companion: NLT 1 Jul 21: **\$285** / person (After 1 Jul 21: **\$310** /person) \$ _____ x _____ ppl = \$ _____

Non-Companion: NLT 1 Jul 21: **\$250** / person \$250.00 x _____ ppl = \$ _____

★ Register by 1 June 2022 to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card to the Chart House restaurant located in the Hotel.★

BANQUET LUNCHESES & DINNERS – Please choose for all attendees

Welcome Banquet (3 Aug) (Buffet)

Awards Luncheon (5 Aug) Beef: _____ Chicken: _____ Fish: _____ (# of Each)

CINC Banquet (6 Aug) Beef: _____ Chicken: _____ Fish: _____ (# of Each)

➤ Special Dietary Requirements

*Please use this line for Vegetarian or Special Diet meals. If necessary, the Host Chapter may call you before the event.

CONVENTION TOURS – See Tours & Events Information sheet for complete information

Hidden Hills Golf Club – Golfer with Buffet Lunch (2 Aug) # _____ x \$65.00 \$ _____

Buffet Lunch for Non-Playing Guest (2 Aug) # _____ x \$28.00 \$ _____

Tour 1: St. Augustine Experience (3 Aug) # _____ x \$75.00 \$ _____

Tour 2: Jacksonville River Tour (4 Aug) # _____ x \$50.00 \$ _____

Tour 3: Jacksonville Experience (6 Aug) # _____ x \$35.00 \$ _____

Event 1: Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp AAA Baseball Game (5 Aug) # _____ x \$60.00 \$ _____

TOTAL

1. Make convention registration checks payable to: **MOWW Region VI** TOTAL: \$ _____

2. Mail registration, check & completed form to: **MOWW Region VI; P. O. Box 6309; Sun City Center, FL 33571**

3. **Point of Contact:** Maj. Jim Haney, Phone: 813-220-8758 | Email: jhaney1@aol.com

TRANSPORTATION

Choose One: ☐ Flying ☐ Driving Hotel Arrival: Date/Time: _____

Arrival: Airline / Flight # / Date / Time: _____

Departure: Airline / Flight # / Date / Time: _____

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Hotel: Southbank Hotel at Jacksonville Riverwalk

• Booking Link: <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1644439502791&key=GRP>

• \$109.00 + tax/night (Breakfast is not included)

*Southbank Hotel at Jacksonville Riverwalk is a member of:



Hotel Reservation #: _____ Arrival: _____ Departure: _____

• As a courtesy, the Southbank Hotel may be available at the same rate before or after the convention dates.

○ You must call Patricia Myers at (904) 421-4481 to reserve for extended dates.

• Require ADA-Compliant Room (Limited Quantity Available): ☐ Yes ☐ No

○ Please call or email Jim Haney to book an ADA-Compliant room. (See above for contact information)



Agenda

2022 MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION

"PRESERVING THE PAST WHILE EMBRACING THE FUTURE"

| Tuesday, 2 August 2022 Dress: Casual | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| TIME | EVENT | LOCATION | ATTENDEES |
| 0800-1000 | Pre-Convention EXCOM Breakfast | (TBD) | EXCOM Members |
| 0900-1400 | Golf Tournament & Lunch | Hidden Hills Country Club | All Attendees |
| 1500-1700 | Council of Area Commanders (CAC) | (TBD) | CAC, CINC, SVCINC, CS |
| 1600-1700 | Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter Meeting | (TBD) | H-B Chap Members |
| Wednesday, 3 August 2022 Dress: Casual | | | |
| 0900-1700 | Tour 1: St Augustine Experience | | All Attendees |
| | LUNCH AS DESIRED | | |
| 1800-2100 | CINC Welcome Buffet | (Ballroom) | All Attendees |
| 2022 MOWW Convention | | | |
| Thursday, 4 August 2022 Dress: Casual (Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter Dinner: Mess Dress) | | | |
| 0700-0800 | Activity Walk / Yoga | | All Attendees |
| 0700-0830 | Council of Past CINC's Breakfast | (TBD) | CPC/CINC/SVCINC/CS |
| 0800-0810 | CINC Introduction | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 0810-0910 | MOWW History Presentation | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 0915-1215 | Tour 2: Jacksonville River Tour | | All Attendees |
| 0920-1020 | MOWW Brand Strategy | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 1030-1200 | Workshop: MOWW Website / Social Media | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 1200-1300 | LUNCH AS DESIRED | | |
| 1300-1445 | Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran Panel / Q&A | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 1500-1645 | Workshop: PEC: How to Start a YLC/YLS | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 1800-2100 | Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter Dinner | (TBD) | H-B Chap Members |
| | DINNER AS DESIRED | | |
| Friday, 5 August 2022 Dress Casual | | | |
| 0700-0800 | Activity Walk / Yoga | | All Attendees |
| 0800-1100 | Convention Business Session I | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 1130-1330 | MOWW Awards Luncheon | (Ballroom) | All Attendees |
| 1430-1515 | National Candidate presentations | (PORT) | All Companions |
| 1430-1630 | Teller Meeting | (TBD) | Tellers |
| 1530-1630 | National Delegate Voting | (PORT) | Nom Cmte Delegates |
| 1600-1645 | Non-Denominational Worship Service | (Ballroom) | All Attendees |
| | DINNER AS DESIRED | | |
| 1700-2200 | Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp AAA Baseball Game | | All Attendees |
| Saturday, 6 August 2022 Dress Casual (CINC Banquet: Mess Dress) | | | |
| 0730-0830 | MOWW Memorial Service | (Ballroom) | All Attendees |
| 0900-1200 | Convention Business Session II | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 1000-1400 | Tour 3: Jacksonville Experience | | All Attendees |
| | LUNCH AS DESIRED | | |
| 1300-1400 | MOWW Strategy Brief | (PORT) | All Attendees |
| 1415-1530 | Outreach Committee Breakout Meetings | (TBD) | Committee MBRs, Interested Companions |
| 1730-1800 | National Officer Photos | (TBD) | CPC/CINC/VCINC/CS |
| 1800-1850 | CINC Receiving Line & Reception | (TBD) | All Attendees |
| 1900-2100 | CINC Banquet | (Ballroom) | All Attendees |
| Sunday, 7 August 2022 Dress Casual | | | |
| 0800-1130 | Post-Convention EXCOM Breakfast | (TBD) | EXCOM Members |
| 0800-1130 | EXCOM Spouse/Partner Breakfast | (TBD) | Spouses/Partners |

Tours



Golf Tournament at Hidden Hills Golf Club **(Tuesday, 2 AUGUST 2022; Tee Off: 0900)**

HHCC is a "6,892-yard public golf course with an Arnold Palmer Signature layout. It is known for its intriguing contours and rolling fairways that are lined with majestic pines and oaks." Raffle and Prizes for Top Teams, Longest Drive, and Closest to the Pin. Player cost includes cart, fees & Southern Comfort Buffet Lunch. *For more information: See Golf Flyer.*
Player Cost/person: \$65.00 | Lunch for Non-playing Guest: \$28.00/person



Tour 1: St. Augustine Experience - (Nation's Oldest Driving Tour) **(Wednesday, 3 AUG 2022, 0900-1700)**

A tour guide dressed in period costume will provide insight and stories into the early colonial years to the Victorian Flagler era. You will see the various architectural styles, narrow brick streets, and all the famous landmarks including the Mission Nombre de Dios, City Gate, Plaza de la Constitución, Cathedral Basilica, the 1888 Alcazar Hotel (now Lightner Museum), Flagler Memorial Church, the Ponce St Augustine Hotel, the famous Fountain of Youth archaeological park, and the Castillo de San Marcos. Attendees will be able to stretch their legs at lunchtime to shop, eat, and explore the Governor's House Cultural Center & Museum.
Cost/person: \$75.00



Tour 2: Jacksonville River Tour **(Thursday, 4 AUG 2022, 0915-1215)**

A short walking tour combined with a two-hour river cruise through Downtown Jacksonville sites. Beginning with a short, narrated walk along the Southbank Riverwalk, stopping at the Lone Sailor Statue for photos. Sail down the St Johns River, the longest river in Florida, with skyline views of Jacksonville, the old Navy shipyards, and many other notable sites. You will have the option of getting off the boat on the Northbank or the Southbank.
Cost/person \$50.00



Tour 3: Jacksonville Experience Driving Tour & Memorial Wall **(Saturday, 6 Aug 2022, 1000-1400)**

Starting in Downtown Jacksonville, hear the exploits of the city's namesake, Andrew Jackson, and the famous architects who descended upon the city after the Great Fire of 1901; how a banking center emerged with secret underground tunnels; and visit the historic Florida Theatre made famous by Elvis Presley. See the landmarks along the St. Johns River including Jaguar Stadium, St. John's Cathedral, Friendship Fountain, and City Hall; pay tribute to fellow veterans at the Jacksonville Memorial Wall. See the largest living thing in Jacksonville, the Treaty Oak. Enjoy Lunch and shopping in the Riverside/Avondale area to see the historic houses with their varied architectural styles.
Cost/person \$35.00



Event 1: Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp AAA Baseball Game **(Friday, 5 Aug 2022, 1700-2200)**

See the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp take on the Memphis Cardinals. Jacksonville is the AAA Affiliate of the Miami Marlins, and Memphis is the AAA Affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals. *All-You-Can-Eat Buffet is included.*
Cost/person \$60.00



LTG ROBERT LEWIS “SAM” WETZEL, USA (RET) 78TH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, 2008-2009

6 October 1930–20 January 2022

Lieutenant General Robert L. “Sam” Wetzel, US Army Retired, 91, of Columbus, Georgia, died January 20 surrounded by his loving family. He was born October 6, 1930, in Clarksburg, West Virginia, the eldest son of the late Columbus Lon and Ruth Kerr Wetzel.

After graduating from Washington Irving High School in 1948, Sam attended the United States Military Academy, West Point, graduating in 1952 with a BS in Engineering. Shortly afterward, he married Margaret Burkholder, with whom he had two children (Margaret and Bob).

Sam served two combat tours, first as an Infantry platoon leader in Korea and then as commander of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry in Vietnam. Later, while attending the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Sam met and married Eilene Christensen Long, a Vietnam widow with five young children (Chris, Ted, Patty, Cathy, and Mike).

Sam had a distinguished, 34-year career in the US Army, including: Aide to MG William Westmoreland, Superintendent of the US Military Academy; Chief of Staff to General Alexander Haig, Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Commanding General of Ft. Benning; Deputy



Lieutenant General Robert L. “Sam” Wetzel, US Army (Ret), with his wife, Eilene, at the National Convention of the Military Order of the World Wars

Commander-in-Chief US Army Europe; and ending his career as Commander of V US Army Corps in Frankfurt. Upon his retirement and after 11 years in his beloved West Germany, Sam received a distinguished honor for an American when the German armed forces performed its most important ceremony, the torchlight “Grand Tattoo.”

Sam loved soldiers; he was Infantry to the core. His motto was “Make it Happen.” He was named the first Chief of Infantry since World War II when he was selected to command the Infantry Center, Fort Benning. He was also the Honorary Colonel of the 31st Infantry Regiment and the Past National Commander, Military Order of the World Wars.

He held both the Spirit of the Infantry Award and the Doughboy Award.

On retirement from the military, Sam returned to Columbus, Georgia, where he started a consulting firm, Wetzel International. He was active in the Columbus community and maintained perfect attendance at Rotary for many years, attending meetings around the world. He was a beloved member of the Green Island Country Club “Hacker” golf group for 35 years, where he served as “Czar,” organizing pairings and play through blazing heat and freezing rain with military style precision. He

loved taking his grandchildren to Cottonmouth hockey games and hosting his annual Easter egg hunt amidst the azaleas in the yard.

He was a Perpetual Member of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW). He was affiliated with the Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter and the Columbus Chapter, GA. His MOWW service includes CINC, SVCINC and VCINC. He was Chair of the National Security Committee. He was Chapter Commander, Region V GSO, Region V Commander and National GSO. He was a member of the Homeland Security



In a video interview with the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Sam Wetzel displays a document bearing the names of US Army soldiers killed in action while under his command in Vietnam in part of 1968 and the early part of 1969, each of whom he prays for, 50 years later.



From 2008: Then-Commander-in-Chief LTG Wetzel on Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Committee. He recruited 23 members in one year and received the CINC MOWW Merit Award in 2004-2005.

Surviving Sam is his loving wife of 51 years, Eilene; his seven children: Margaret Wetzel Maxson, Robert Wetzel, Jr., (Donna Mills), Eileen "Chris" Long Henson (Ken), Theodore Long, Patricia Long Merritt (Butch), Catherine Long, Michael Long; his ten grandchildren: Joshua Wetzel, Jessica Staschak (Robert), Samuel Maxson (Ashley), Christopher Maxson, Kenneth Henson III, Evelyn Henson, Jacqueline Henson, Nell Henson, Theodore Henson, Herlihy Long, Benjamin Petree; and his five great-grandchildren.

On Friday, January 28, 1 pm, a funeral Mass was held at St. Anne's Catholic Church with live streaming. The graveside burial with military honors followed at Fort Benning Cemetery. The family received friends at the National Infantry Museum visitation following the burial. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Infantry Museum. ★





"IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED"

OFFICER REVIEW®

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS

HONORARY COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF

- ★ GAS John J. Pershing, USA
- ★ ADM William S. Sims, USN
- ★ GA George C. Marshall, Jr., USA
- ★ FADM Ernest J. King, USN
- ★ President Harry S. Truman
(COL, USA)
- ★ President Dwight D. Eisenhower
(GA, USA)
- ★ ADM Arthur W. Radford, USN
- ★ President Herbert C. Hoover
- ★ GA Omar N. Bradley, USA
- ★ President Ronald W. Reagan
(CPT, USAAF)
- ★ GEN William C. Westmoreland, USA
- ★ President George H. W. Bush
(LTJG, USN)
- ★ Gen Peter Pace, USMC (Ret)

www.moww.org

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)
chiefstaff@moww.org

Assistant Editor

Diana M. Beruff
officerreview@gmail.com

