



APRIL 2021  
BULLETIN

# The Military Order of the World Wars ~ Phoenix Pacesetter Chapter

## WHAT'S NEW: Commander's Time



*Greetings Companions, Families, and Friends of the Order:*

Greetings, everyone!! There is better news, as locally and nation-wide COVID shots can now be given to those 16 years and older. Hopefully, you have taken advantage of all your options, especially those veterans AND families being able to get shots at their local VA Hospital. Again, this pandemic is serious, so be aggressive in obtaining an appointment for your COVID vaccines. We want to be able to conduct AZYLC (preferably) or some form of a Youth Leadership Seminar (YLS) this year. We will need every Companion involved to have done their part and are fully vaccinated.

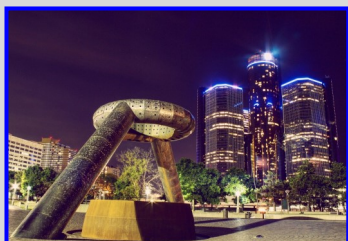
Again, in the interest of survival as a Chapter, and our extensive effort to do Patriotic Education you need to seek members! As I stated last month, we needed 6 new members! As a result, we invited two speakers to talk to our Chapter at our Quarterly Meeting held on 27 MAR 2021. If you didn't join us, you missed one of our better meetings!!! The speakers were very, very good. Our first speaker was Tom Sheets, Colonel Retired, USMC, who is executive officer of the Southwest Veterans Foundation of the South West Chamber of Commerce (SWVCC). They are heavy into supporting organizations that need help in doing business here and also helping Veterans and veteran-owned businesses. They are so good that we, as a Chapter, as a 501(C)19, and AZYLC, as a 501(C)3, are considering joining them because of all the great things they do for veterans and our youth. We, of course want him to join our organization and Jeanne Blaes, our Senior Vice Commander and the host of the Chapter Zoom meeting invited him to join and offered to pay for the first year and he said yes! In addition, we had another outstanding speaker, CPT (Ret) Steven Fife, SAI of Caesar Chavez HS JROTC, who gave an outstanding demonstration of how to use the Near Pod style of conducting remote classes with his cadets. He was invited to speak by our ROTC/JROTC Committee Chair, MAJ (Ret) Kirk Loving. CPT Fife stated he was interested in helping us with AZYLC. We also invited him to join our chapter and again Jeanne provided the first-year payment. We will follow up to see if we can get him to go Perpetual as well. Kirk Loving was also just selected to be a member of the AZ Veterans Service Commission! Congratulations, Kirk! We also have a couple more we are working on, including Joey Chavez, a AZYLC graduate and Team Leader who is graduating from ASU and being Commissioned in MAY. I have the honor of swearing him in as a 2LT and hopefully convincing him to join our Chapter. Other JROTC news is one of our supported JROTC HS Shadow Mountain HS has been selected to convert from USAF JROTC to US Space Command JROTC. We have had several graduates of Shadow Mountain HS who attend AZYLC and had become Team Leaders.

In Scouting, we will be doing something new. Jeanne and I will attend and present a MOWW Eagle Scout Certificate to Anya Lang, of Troop 3226 in Scottsdale, as one of the first female Eagle Scouts that we have the honor to present an MOWW certificate to!!! We also provided MOWW Gold Award Certificates to 11 Girl Scout awardees.

Hope you all voted on your choice of how MOWW conducts our 2021 Convention to be held in Dearborn, MI—whether Hybrid or in person. Debbie and I voted to do it in person, if possible, but we would participate in hybrid convention, if necessary.

We need all of us to step up and help maintain all the good things we do for our Chapter and the youth we support. We need new and innovative ideas from you, the Companions with experience and knowledge! Prepare something yourself or look for speakers that can help us do that!!

CDR Dick Minor



## 2021 MOWW Convention

3-8 August 2021

DoubleTree by Hilton Detroit-Dearborn,  
Detroit, MI



In a 1 MAR 2021 letter addressed to all Companions of the Order, Brig Gen Arthur B. Morrill III, Chief of Staff & COO, MOWW, Inc, announced that the Order will hold its 2021 MOWW Convention in August 2021. Due to the ongoing issues of gathering together during the pandemic, the Executive Committee of the General Staff (EXCOM) has decided that it will meet on 16 APR 2021 to decide if the 2021 MOWW Convention will be an in-person or virtual convention. Of course, this will be based on current COVID-19 Pandemic facts and circumstances. Once the EXCOM makes its decision, the CINC will notify all Companions via the MOWW chain of command on the outcome.

During the interim, the in-person 2021 Convention Agenda and Tours can be downloaded in PDF format at <https://www.moww.org/convention/>. An in-person 2021 MOWW Convention registration form will be circulated/posted if the EXCOM decides that an in-person MOWW Convention will be held. If the EXCOM decides to hold a virtual 2021 MOWW Convention, then the virtual convention agenda will be displayed and there will be no registration requirements or cost.

Keep a look out for more details at the [moww.org](http://moww.org) web site.



Gift a  
**MEMBERSHIP!**

*Recruiting viable and active membership for our Phoenix Chapter continues to be a primary goal for our 2021 FY. You can help by recruiting from your friends and families, plus give someone a Gift of Membership. Remember, when talking to potential members, make sure that you are able to tell them about the*

*benefits that they will receive as members and let them know of the outreach programs that we are involved in. Also, be aware of the following:*

**To Join:** Potential members can complete a Membership Application or go to <http://www.moww.org/> and click on the "BECOME A MEMBER" tab at the top left of the screen. Just fill in the form ... and, remember, on the JAN 2018 form a new member can use a **credit card** to pay!

### **Membership Categories:**

- ★ Regular (Annual) Membership @ \$40.00/year
- ★ Regular Perpetual Membership @ 1 x \$350.00 or 4 x \$87.50 quarterly installments
- ★ Veteran Regular (Annual) Membership @ \$40.00/year
- ★ Memorial Perpetual @ 1x \$200.00
- ★ Hereditary (Annual) Membership @ \$40.00/year



**AZ LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** The AZ State 55th Legislature 1st Regular Session began on Monday, 11 JAN 2021; it is scheduled to adjourn on 24 APR 2021. Because adjournment is less than a month away, legislative actions will start to move FAST! Dozens of bills are awaiting final votes in Committee of the Whole (COW) and "Third Read" in both the Senate and House, so our attention must focus more strongly on phone calls and emails to our representatives and potential swing votes. Upcoming / Active AZ Bills can be found at: <https://legiscan.com/AZ> The AZ Legislative calendar can be viewed at <https://www.azleg.gov/>. ADVS Military and Veterans Legislative updates for the current 2021 can be found posted at <https://dvs.az.gov/legislative-updates>.

**News from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.** *The following information was extracted from the April 2021 edition of the VA Benefits Newsletter*



### **Beware of Tax Refund Theft**

Did you know that Veterans and service members are more likely to be the target of online scams than civilians? This tax season be on the lookout for scammers, who use identity theft, impostor scams, and other deceptions, to commit fraud. Find out how to keep your information and money safe from scammers! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

### **Buy Your Home with VA**

The down payment requirement of buying a home can sometimes put homeownership just out of reach. VA-guaranteed home loans require little to no down payment. Choose the VA home loan program when buying your home!

### **Train for a Career in Tech**

With the VA's [Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses \(VET TEC\)](#) pilot program, you can learn skills and find a new career. Learn how you can receive training in information science, computer programming, computer software, media application, and data processing.

### **New Veterans' Group Life Insurance Rates**

Premiums for Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) have lowered by an average of 7% across all age groups to make life insurance even more affordable. VA also temporarily extended application deadlines for VGLI to offer more flexibility to transitioning service members. [LEARN MORE](#) about the new VGLI rates. *\*Eligibility is limited to those veterans transition from military to civilian life.*

### **Watch VA Benefits News**

You can now watch the new VA Benefits News on [YouTube](#)! Each month, senior VBA leaders will discuss initiatives and updates to benefits and services that directly impact you and your family.

**HR 1276 SAVE LIVES Act.** On 24 MAR 2021, President Biden signed HR 1276 SAVE LIVES Act which authorizes the VA to provide vaccines to Veterans not enrolled in VA Healthcare. Go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to view the full text of a press release from the VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs.



The SAVE LIVES Act expands the VA's legal authority to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all Veterans, regardless of their VA health care enrollment status, as well as Veteran spouses, caregivers and some beneficiaries. The SAVE LIVES Act also removed some of the legal limits on the medical care VA can provide to Veterans, based on health care eligibility and priority groups. The expanded authority depends on readily available COVID-19 vaccine supply and requires VA to continue to prioritize vaccinations and healthcare delivery for our nation's Veterans enrolled in VA care.

Those eligible to receive vaccines under the expanded authority include:

- ◆ Non-enrolled Veterans as defined in the new legislation, including those without service-connected disabilities and who have incomes above VA's threshold.
- ◆ Overseas Veterans who rely on the Foreign Medical Program.
- ◆ Veteran caregivers who are enrolled in either the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers or the Program of General Caregiver Support Services.
- ◆ Veteran caregivers enrolled in certain Geriatrics and Extended Care Programs, such as Veteran Directed Care, Bowel and Bladder, Home Based Primary Care and VA's Medical Foster Home Program.
- ◆ Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs recipients.
- ◆ Veteran spouses.

*continued on page 4*

**HR 1276 SAVE LIVES Act.** *continued from page 3*

In March and April 2021, the VA will conduct pilots of COVID-19 vaccination for individuals specified in HR1276 at select VA medical centers. These pilots will work through critical steps in the process including communications, operations including space and staffing, systems for registration, enrollment, and scheduling, documentation, and data transmission.

Interested Veterans, their caregivers and Veteran spouses who qualify under the legislation can go to the va.gov webpage at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/> to get more information about COVID-19 vaccines at VA. Updates will be provided regarding the availability of vaccine supply and other resources.

**MEDIC's BAG Stress Management: 3 Simple Tips to Swiftly Reclaim Your Calm**

Stress Awareness Month has been recognized every April since 1992, but this year it seems particularly important. Learning to cope with our stress and finding healthy ways to deal with these situations can go a long way in living a healthy and positive life.



Everyone gets overwhelmed sometimes. But too much stress can be hard on your health - so it's important to find ways to offset those negative effects. These healthy habits can help you stay cool under pressure, even when you're pressed for time:

1. **Sweat more, stress less.** Symptoms of stress can create a vicious cycle between your mind and body. Exercise helps to break this cycle by relieving tension and releasing feel-good brain chemicals that fight the effects of stress.
2. **Take a break to breathe.** When stress strikes, try a few minutes of deep breathing. Breathe in for a count of 5, hold for 5, and exhale for 5. Repeat 10 times or until you start feeling more calm, grounded, and focused.
3. **Unplug to recharge.** Your phone needs time to recharge, and so does your brain. Disconnecting from digital noise for a little while each day can help you stress less, sleep better, and spend time doing more rewarding activities.

It is important to remember that when you feel too overwhelmed, you should reach out and discuss your problems with a parent, friend or another trusted source. Avoid drugs and alcohol. AND Recognize when you need more help – know when to talk to a psychologist, social worker or counselor if things continue.

Extracted from <https://business.kaiserpermanente.org/thrive/monthly-health-topics>



If you are a military veteran and are thinking about doing harm to yourself or another, call the **Veterans Crisis Line** to reach caring, qualified responders with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Many of them are Veterans themselves. To access help on the web go to: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

**Scout Me In.** Since first announcing plans to accept girls into its programs back in 2017, the Boy Scouts of America has worked to make it happen on all fronts. By February 2019, they had opened all levels to female applicants and also changed their name to Scouts BSA to reflect the shift. [Scouts BSA](https://www.scouts.org) is the traditional Scouting experience for youth in the fifth grade through high school. Service, community engagement and leadership development become increasingly important parts of the program as youth lead their own activities and work their way toward earning Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.



This month, our Chapter will present an MOWW certificate to a female Eagle Scout at Troop 3226 from Cross in the Desert UMC in Phoenix, a rank that only around 6% of all scouts ever achieve.

## CHAPLAINS CORNER: JESUS PRAYS FOR US

*I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one.*  
JOHN 17:20–21

There is an old fable about a man who, at the hour of his death, gathered his sons around him. He gave them a bunch of sticks, tied into a bundle, and asked the oldest son to try and break them. The son struggled to break the sticks in half, but failed. One by one his brothers failed as well. Then the father untied the bundle and handed them each one stick, asking them to break it. Easily they snapped the limbs in half. The moral of this lesson? In unity is strength.



In today's prayer, Jesus prayed for the unity of believers. It is hard to imagine, but just hours before Jesus' betrayal, trial, and crucifixion He was thinking about...you. In verse 20 of our text, He transitions from praying for His disciples to praying for all believers. His one request is that believers everywhere may be one.

When believers from all different races and ethnicities, ages and backgrounds are united, the world will begin to believe that Jesus is indeed the Christ (vv. 21, 23). Jesus goes on to pray for believers to not only be tolerant with one another but also to be connected and attached to one another, just as the Father is to the Son (v. 22). Jesus imagines that the unity among believers is as strong as the unity that is within the Trinity.

Jesus' prayer crescendos with His desire that we will one day be with Him. Knowing what He was about to endure, His final thoughts were about us being unified with other believers and one day being united with Him (v. 24). Christ's prayer for us was that we would be completely committed to being united with Jesus and one another on both sides of eternity.

✿ This week, have a conversation with a Christian who is different from you. Maybe you differ in ethnicity, political persuasion, or socio-economic class. Learn something new about this brother or sister in Christ, and pray together for unity. ✿

**PRAYER:** Father, we grieve that sometimes we elevate the differences between believers above our shared relationship to you. Grant us a servant's heart to strengthen ties with others—particularly those who are different from us.

*Written by Chris Rappazini for 6 APR 2021. This spiritual reading can be found at the following webpage:* <https://www.todayintheword.org/issues/2021/april/daily-devotional/jesus-prays-for-us/>



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW!** Will you make a time commitment and volunteer to help our Chapter fill the many vacancies that we have in our Staff and Chair positions? Several of the following positions have been vacant for over a year! **Please, won't you help?**

\* **CHAPLAIN** We are looking for someone who is supportive & serving, who always seems to be able to motivate & initiate meaningful use of each individual's beliefs and attitudes; current or former civilian cleric or military Chaplain or a lay representative **(this is a critical staff position)**

\* **STAFF JAG** Do you know of a current or former civil or military Attorney; someone with a background in legal affairs? **(this is a critical staff position)**

\* **HISTORIAN** Our Historian will capture the history of the Chapter in publications, photos, documents, etc.

\* **COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** VETERANS AFFAIRS, MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS, and LAW & ORDER



<https://www.facebook.com/militaryorder>  
<https://www.moww.org/>

## Military Order of the World Wars Phoenix Pacesetter Chapter

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### Pride of the Valley of the Sun!

**"It is nobler  
to serve  
than to be  
served"**

Newsletter Editor  
 Jeanne J. Blaes, PhD  
 COL (Ret) USA



<http://www.facebook.com/mowwphoenixchapter/>



## MOWW Preamble

- To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and flag;
- To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;
- Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our national government and the Constitution of the United States;
- To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the armed forces;
- To promote the cultivation of military, naval, and air science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of national security for the United States of America;
- To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
- To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of memorials of the World Wars; and
- To transmit all these ideals to posterity; under God and for our country, we unite to establish ...

The Military Order of the World Wars.

## 2021 Chapter Meeting Schedule & Important Dates:

- ♦ **18 JUN 2021** ~ AZVHOF Patriotic Awards, Double Tree, Scottsdale
- ♦ **26 JUN 2021** ~ Chapter Staff Meeting Zoom; Presentation: TBD
- ♦ **JUN or JUL 2021** ~ AZYLC TBD
- ♦ **11 SEP 2021** ~ Chapter MOC

**Happy Birthday  
APRIL Babies!**



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