**COMMANDER’S REMARKS (10 April 2025)**

We will have our next General Membership Meeting on Saturday, 19 April 2025, starting at 11:30 A.M. at our new venue which is the Black-eyed Pea Restaurant, 5180 S. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80113. It is located near the corner of Broadway and Belleview next to Starbucks. This is the same location where MHMOA held their luncheon meetings. There will be a featured speaker who has not yet been selected.

To get there (The Black-Eyed Pea Restaurant), if you are coming from I25, drive west on Belview to Broadway take a left turn on Broadway, then turn left at the first break in the center divider and you will be there. If you are coming from west of Broadway, drive east on Belleview until you come to Broadway, take a right turn, then turn left at the first break in the center divider and you will be there. If you get lost, you can call me at 303-981-5519 (cell) and I will try to get you un-lost.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our luncheon on Saturday, 19 April 2025.

Coy D. Ritchie, D.M.

LCDR, USN (Ret)

It is nobler to serve than to be served

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 **STAFF MEETING (10 April 2025)**

This meeting was conducted at Frances Long’s home and was called to order by Chapter Commander Coy Ritchie at 1105 hours. Also attending were Capt Dennis Orr, HPM Pat Ritchie, and HPM Francis Long. The invocation was offered by HPM Frances Long followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The minutes of the staff meeting on 6 March 2025 were approved on a motion by Capt Dennis Orr and seconded by HPM Pat Ritchie.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer’s Report as of 31 March 2025 was submitted by LCDR Ritchie. The General Fund in our checking account at the U.S. Bank opened with a balance of $2,435.19. We received the Perpetual Member dividend of $ 846.57 and then disbursed $60.00 for the application fee for SMSgt Steven Seiler’s membership fee. The General Fund balance is now $3,221.76. The ROTC Fund, Patriotic Education Fund, and Scout Fund had no activity. The total in the checking account is now $3,226.79. ENT Credit Union Account: Business Savings earned $0.02 interest for a balance of 132.87 and the 5-Month Certificate earned $49.18 in interest for a balance of $8,049.18. The total ENT Credit Union balance is $8,182.05 The Treasurer’s Report was approved on a motion by Capt Dennis Orr and seconded by HPM Pat Ritchie.

The staff approved reimbursing LCDR Ritchie the amount of about $150 for the expense of mailing JROTC and ROTC certificates and medals.

Scouts: The Gold Award and Eagle Award lists of recipients have not yet been received.

ROTC/JROTC: The ROTC and JROTC medals and certificates have been mailed to the universities and high schools. Now we will start attending the awards ceremonies and presenting the awards.

Patriotic Education: RMYLC is scheduled for 16-20 June 2025. Some nominations of students in the Denver Metro area have been received.

Public Safety and Law and Order: Capt Orr is working on a program for our April luncheon with a possible speaker from ICE.

Region XIII and Dept. of the Rocky Mountains: There will be a Region XIII meeting in June conducted by Zoom.

Membership: We still need at least one additional new member. Keep recruiting!

Program/Speaker: Nothing new to report.

Hospitality: The next General Membership Luncheon will be on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at the Black-eyed Pea Restaurant starting at 1130 hours. We will order from the menu.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Nothing to report

Next Staff Meeting: Thursday, 8 May 2025, starting at 1100 hours at the home of HPM Frances Long.

Benediction: Given by HPM Frances Long.

Adjournment LCDR Ritchie adjourned the meeting at 1205 hours.

Submitted by HPM Frances Long, Adjutant.

 **COMING EVENTS (April & Later)**

* **STAFF MEETING (8 May 2025)**
	+ (Thursday), 11:00 A.M.
	+ Location: Frances Long’s Home
* **MOWW NATIONAL CONVENTION**

 **(5-10 August, 2025)**

* + Location: Tucson, Arizona
* **MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

**(19 April 2025)**

* + (Saturday), time 11:30 A.M.
	+ Location: The Black-eyed Pea Restaurant, 5180 S. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80113.
	+ Menu: Order from the menu.
	+ Program: A speaker is being arranged.

**PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP MEETING SPEAKER**

 **(15 FEB 2025)**

The featured speaker was Major John Atland, USA (Ret) who served as an intelligence officer during his Army service. His topic was “Intelligence is the Foundation for Law Enforcement;”



LCDR Coy Ritchie (R) presents MAJ John Atland, USA (Ret) (L) with the MOWW Coin of Excellence and congratulates him on his excellent presentation on intelligence as the foundation for law enforcement.



 **THE 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 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**

 **TODAY IN NAVAL HISTORY**

 **21 FEBRUARY 1900**

 **“THE SAND PEBBLES”**

Factional turmoil in 1920s China surrounding the emergence of the Nationalist Chinese movement led multiple western nations to protect their citizens and commercial shipping on China’s rivers with naval forces. Richard McKenna’s novel *The Sand Pebbles*, as well as the 1966 Academy Award nominated film, depicts the trials of an enlisted sailor aboard a U.S. Navy Yangtze River gunboat during this civil unrest. Though McKenna’s story is fictional, his gunboat, “*San Pablo*,” is modeled after our contemporary Guam-class gunboats. McKenna’s plot draws from the exploits of a real gunboat, *USS VILLALOBOS (PG-42).*

*VILLALOBOS* entered the U.S. Navy in the Philippines. The former Spanish Navy steam-powered screw sloop was captured in the Spanish-American War and commissioned into our Navy on this date. Her retained Spanish Navy name remembers the explorer Ruy Lopez de Villalobos, who in the 1540s, charted and named the Philippine Islands for King Phillip II. She patrolled that territory for several years before being transferred to China Station. There, in June of 1903, under orders from Asiatic Fleet commander RADM Robley D. Evans, *VILLALOBOS* cruised up the Kan River, a tributary to the Yangtze, to check on the status of American traders and missionaries in Nanchang. Low river levels blocked her passage to Nanchang, and *VILLALOBOS* sent a whaleboat ahead. Having learned that all was well, the gunboat returned to Hankow, unaware that her mission had stirred international turmoil. Local Chinese authorities protested her visit as overstepping treaty provisions. RADM Evans countered with the bold statement that, “*Our gunboats will continue to navigate…inland waters of China, wherever Americans may be*,” and further stated that “severe and lasting” punishment would be dealt to anyone not showing “proper respect” to American citizens. The American minister in Peking chastised Evans’ statement, but Secretary of State John Hay overruled, endorsing the Asiatic Fleet commander as “proper and correct.” (In fact, *VILLALOBOS*’ foray into shallow waters had unknowingly violated a treaty between England and China, though the U.S. was not a signatory to that treaty).

By 1926*, VILLALOBOS* was a tired and rusting venerable. Yet, with the emergence of the Nationalist Chinese movement, *VILLALOBOS* was sent upriver to Changsha, again to protect American interests. Low river levels stranded her in Changsha over the Winter of 1926-27 while Nationalist attacks began focusing on foreign “intruders.” When Spring brought rioting to Hankow *VILLALOBOS*’ guns oversaw the evacuation of Americans, under orders to”…return and silence fire with suitable battery.” Elements of these incidents were woven by McKenna into the plot for his novel.

Watch for more “Today in Naval History”

CAPT James Bloom, Ret.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: McKenna himself

Was a 22-year Navy veteran with pre-WWII service on China Station. He retired in 1953 as a Chief Machinist’s Mate. Even in Spanish Navy service *VILLALOBOS* was under-powered and under-gunned and drafted deeply enough to complicate the patrol of inland waterways. In 1928, after 33 years of service in two navies, *VILLALOBOS* was decommissioned, towed out to sea, and expended for target practice. By then the need for purpose-built gunboats for Yangtze operations had been addressed with the development of the six *Guam*-class river patrol boats. Several of these including *GUAM (PG-43), PANAY (PG-45), LUZON (PG-47) and MINDANAO (PG-48)* would earn fame at the opening of World War II. Unlike McKenna’s depiction of “San Pablo” these gunboats were diesel powered.

 **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Applications may be obtained by contacting the Chair of the Membership Committee at 303-981-5519 or coyritchie@aol.com.

It is nobler to serve than to be served

 **THE CINC SOLICITATION**

The Commander in Chief is appealing to you to donate generously to the CINC Solicitation by donating in support of our Order’s patriotic and educational activities. He also asks that you encourage other Companions in your chapter to do so too. Our CINC Solicitation goal helps pay for activities such as:

* Supporting chapters via essential services (e.g., YLC insurance) and merchandise (i.e., products of all types)
* Existing awards, e.g., ROTC/JROTC Awards of merit, GSUSA Gold Award, and BSA Eagle Scout Certificates
* New awards, e.g., Outreach Service Medal and BSA Sea Scout, Quartermaster and Venture Scout Certificates
* Service Academy awards and military college awards
* Medals & certificates to ROTC/JROTC cadets & BSA & GSA scouts not supported by chapters
* Promotional material and program brochures for existing and start-up chapters

* The *Officer Review* magazine, which is MOWW’s only way to communicate with all Companions
* YLC Support via additional YLC issues of the O*fficer Review* that YLC Directors use for advertising & recruiting
* The MOWW website at [www.moww.org](http://www.moww.org), which the Order’s Companions use in support of every activity area
* MOWW Convention Support, including the Distinguished Service and National Commander Award programs

It is very easy to contribute, just open up the Order’s web page and at the very top next to the logo is the DONATE tab. You can also mail in your contribution when you receive the solicitation in the mail from MOWW HQ.

Your donation supports patriotic activities only MOWW provides. *Please donate today!*

 **CHAPTER ACTION PLAN**

Each year our chapter is asked to prepare and submit a Chapter Action Plan to the Commander Region XIII. The Action Plan shows the actions to be taken by the chapter to support the MOWW Strategic Goals. Our Action Plan is shown below.

Reviewing the Action Plan may explain why we do certain things.

 **2024-2025 DENVER CHAPTER ACTION PLAN**

*Strategic Goal 1 (SG 1) Consistently develop and deliver attractive and high-impact community outreach programs and activities.*

#Improve planning for speakers at our meetings.

#A new member is chair of Law & Order Comm.

#Continue to Support the Colorado Springs YLC.

#Support Buckley SFB Retiree Appreciation Day.

*SG 2 Expand our impact through alliances and strategic partnerships with organizations that align with our mission.*

#Become a member of the United Veterans Coalition. Their membership includes practically all Veterans Service Organizations in Colorado. This will improve our visibility and communications with like-minded organizations.

*SG3 Increase visibility of the Order at the national and community levels through focused communications, marketing strategies, and local community engagement.*

#We have a social media presence through the Region XIII Hub and Spoke project.

*SG4 Annually grow engaged and sustainable MOWW membership.*

#Hold a general membership meeting every other month.

#Meet or exceed the small chapter recruiting goal of two new members.

#Recruit only military veterans to support the IRS 75% requirement.

#Encourage members to regularly attend general membership meetings.

*SG5 Increase adequate financial resources to fulfill Order’s mission.*

#Obtain at least one donation from a community civic organization or Chapter supporting organization.

#Solicit donations from Chapter members to support selected expensive programs such as ROTC/JROTC, Scouting and recognition awards for deserving Companions.

 *SG6 Increase the number of chapters and strengthen existing chapters.*

#Continue to support our succession plan & prepare Companions to assume leadership roles.

#Continue to identify, recognize, and nominate for awards our highly productive chapter Companions.

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 **POINTS OF CONTACT**

 **Denver Chapter (093), CO**

c/o Coy D. Ritchie

4198 S. Kirk Court

Aurora, CO 80013-6022

[www.mowwscv.com/publications](http://www.mowwscv.com/publications)

**Commander and Treasurer**

LCDR Coy Ritchie, USN (Ret)

4198 South Kirk Court

Aurora, CO 80013-6022

303-690-5118 (Res), 303-981-5519 (Cell)

coyritchie@aol.com

**Adjutant**

HPM Frances Long

278 S. Kearney Street

Centennial, CO 80111-4237

303-694-1079 (Res)

grannyfrancene@netzero.net

 **Commander, Rocky Mountains Department**

COL Steven A. Shambach, USA (Ret)

 shambachsm@msn.com

 **Commander, Region XIII**

 LTC Ken Robinson, USA (Ret)

 robinson4ken@gmail.com

 **DENVER CHAPTER STAFF**

Denver Chapter Executive Board-Elected Officers

Commander: LCDR Coy Ritchie, USN (Ret) 303-981-5519

1st Vice Cdr: Capt Dennis Orr, USAF (Former) 303-526-2156

2nd Vice Cdr: HPM Stephanie Ritchie 720-910-3647

Adjutant: HPM Frances Long 303-694-1079

Chaplain: HPM Frances Long 303-694-1079

Treasurer: LCDR Coy Ritchie, USN (Ret) 303-981-5519

 Denver Chapter Staff: Committee Chairs

Membership: LCDR Coy Ritchie, USN (Ret) 303-981-5519

Newsletter Editor “ “

Public Relations: “ “

Finance & Budget: “ “

RMYLC Board : “ “

ROTC & JROTC: HPM Stephanie Ritchie 720-910-3647

Scouting: HPM Stephanie Ritchie 720-910-3647

Programs: Capt Dennis Orr, USAF (Fmr) 303-526-2156

Law & Order: Capt Dennis Orr, USAF (Fmr) 303-526-2156

Hospitality: HPM J. Pat Ritchie 303-690-5118

Marshall HPM Stephanie Ritchie 720-910-3647