



The Greater El Paso Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars

IT IS NOBLER TO SERVE THAN TO BE SERVED

"Serving Youth, Community and Nation"

"The Scuttlebutt"

Command Staff 2022 - 2023

Commander:	CPT Bob Melson
Sr. Vice/Adjutant:	LtCol Buck Hamilton
Treasurer:	LTC Jesus Beltran
Chaplain:	Ms Laura Beltran
Marshall:	Mr Kevin Lassiter
Director at Large:	CPT Paula Mitchell
Newsletter Editor	LtCol Buck Hamilton
Webmaster	LtCol Buck Hamilton
Historian	LTC John Hamilton

To Contact a member of the Staff please email them at gep.moww@gmail.com

MASSING OF THE COLORS

The date of our Massing of the Colors has been set for 14 January 2023! The location will be in the EPCC Admin Center Auditorium. Setup will begin at 1100 and the event will start at 1300.

Please mark your calendar and attend this signature event of the Military Order of World Wars. Pass the date along to other VSOs and organizations with color guards.

Our speaker has not yet been confirmed and other details are not set so watch for further information. The Point of Contact for the event is CPT Jesus Beltran.

CHAPTER FUNDRAISING DRIVE

During the July planning meeting, the Staff voted to embark upon a money raising campaign to refill our coffers and to support the Chapter's efforts in supporting ROTC/JROTC, Scouting, and patriotic education.

Each of these programs require funds to provide proper recognition to the young men and women who participate in these activities. Medals, plaques, certificates and luncheons all cost money.

The Chapter has established an on-line Square account where you can use a credit card to donate money to these fundraiser. The Chapter's website (<http://www.elpasomoww.org/>) has a link "Our Square Fundraiser". Click on the link and it will take you to the site: <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLV7VKMHR3PGB/checkout/TIDY444UERJMQ27EI4ETMIH4>. Once there you can contribute. For those uncomfortable with using the web to donate, you may mail your check to:

Greater El Paso Chapter of MOWW
Post Office Box 640475
El Paso, TX 79904

The Chapter will be sending out "reminder" postcards and emails until 31 December. Our goal for this effort is the most ambitious in the Chapter's history. We have a goal of \$5,000. Donations are welcome from Companions, family, and anyone who wants to support our young people in ROTC/JROTC, Scouting and Patriotic Education.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS - The 2022-2023 Chapter Action Plan

A new year, a new beginning.

Chapter action plans have, in the past, closely followed the national action plan, with several strategic goals set forth to be met during the operating year. Because of the way in which they've been presented, those action plans have been looked on as linear lists, ordered by importance. This, it seems to me, is entirely wrong and leads to unsatisfactory results.

Instead, I prefer to group the action items into three principal goals, each with subordinate goals and all interdependent: Publicity, People and Programs. Without Publicity, our members and programs are invisible, unknown to our community; without People, our programs can't be conducted, and we have nothing to advertise; without Programs, there's nothing to advertise and our members have no reason to participate. **Strategic goals from the national Strategic Plan (2020-2025) are shown in boldface in the paragraphs below.**

Publicity/Public Relations(SG-4, SG-1(2)), Includes newsletters, social media, presence on the web and media relations. Goals:

1. Determine how we can more effectively get the MOWW message out to other community and veterans' groups and to the wider community using the tools available to us.
2. Reinforce chapter ties with Fort Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB and with city and county government.
3. Determine whether we should increase our reliance on digital communications or, especially to accommodate our older members, continue our present practice of "hard copy" communications as well.
4. Continue issuing press releases where appropriate; include links to other VSOs in the newsletter, ask other VSOs to include links to chapter and national web-pages in their publications.
5. Stay alert to additional PR actions we might take.

People consists of three sub-goals, each of importance not only to us but to the Order as a whole:

1. **Recruiting (SG-1(1))** The Order and the chapter exist because of our membership. We're faced with the need to find and enroll new members. We need to take a fresh look at our recruiting efforts and modify our approach as necessary. To do this, we need to break the overall effort into two parts:

- Wholesale: Goal: 4% increase, based on current "morning report" strength
 - Placement of posters and other recruiting materials in high traffic areas and other areas where potential members might be encountered
 - Use of recruiting teams, with recruiting materials and applications. With Fort Bliss, White Sands and Holloman, as well as the local Reserve and National Guard units, we exist in a "target rich" environment and we need to take advantage of it if we can.
- Retail: traditional one-on-one recruiting. Successful but with limited results. Goal: 4% increase, based on "morning report" strength

2. **Member involvement/engagement/training(SG-2, SG-3)**. Goals:

- In order to conduct successful programs, we must reach out to our current membership and get them involved in those programs.
 - Chapter leadership rotates among an excessively small group of active members. While it's recognized that there are many members who are unable, for various reasons, to actively participate in chapter affairs, there's a sizable minority who can but don't – it's this group, maybe 20% of our membership, we need to engage and get involved, particularly in chapter leadership.
 - As new members are recruited determine their interests and put them to work immediately on the appropriate program(s).
 - Identify potential future chapter leaders and place them appropriately so they may become familiar with chapter operations

3. **Member recognition (SG-6)**. This seems to be an area in which we're doing well. Can we expand in this area? We might consider issuing formal chapter-level "commissions" to the chairpersons of program committees and to appointed staff members.

Programs (SG-5). Currently, we conduct a long list of programs, some better than others because of individual interest. Goals:

1. Evaluate the programs we currently conduct, with a view to possibly reducing their number and retargeting their resources.
2. Publicize(SG-4) all active programs and emphasize their value to the community.
3. Identify those programs that need additional resources and advertise them to our membership(SG-3), new and potentially active, as worthy of their involvement.
4. Conduct at least one Massing of the Colors
5. Consider conducting one or more Youth Leadership Seminars



Bob Melson, CPT, (Fmr) USA
Chapter Commander

August 20 Meeting

August's meeting celebrated our 90- and 80-year old members. Cake was had by all and the oldest member, LTC Lud Bezemek, and the youngest member, Bob Melson present were both presented with bottles of champagne.

CPT Paula Mitchell presented a summation of the National Convention held in Florida. She discussed the individual and committee awards won by the chapter as well upcoming changes considered by the national staff. A complete recap can be found in the meeting minutes posted on the chapter's website.

After a two year lapse, the chapter will be holding a Massing of the Colors on Saturday 14 January 2023 at the EPCC Admin Auditorium. More details to following as we get closer to the event.

CPT Thackston reported on planning for our Veteran's Forums in Oct and Nov.



LTC Lud Bezemek & his bride Clara

September 17 Meeting

September's meeting has as our guest speaker FBI Special Agent Jeff Reisinger. He spoke on different kinds of fraud found in El Paso. These frauds can impact the elderly disproportionately due to many factors to include unfamiliarity with computers and the internet. SA Reisinger spoke for about an hour and answered questions from the audience and from our Zoom participants.

Due to the limited number of attendees, the business meeting was truncated with little business conducted. The companions present did agree to sponsor Scout Troop 187 for the 2023 charter year.

LTC John Hamilton reported on his finding photos relating to MOWW with the El Paso Historical Society. The photos are not organized, so it will take some time to wade through the items.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Larry Maladek	4 Sep
Paul Manning	5 Sep
Terry Hoke	19 Sep
Ed Lopez	21 Sep
Terry Kelley	24 Sep
Raul Garibay	27 Sep
Sam Morgan	27 Sep

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Chester Young	2 Oct
Mel Adams	6 Oct
Monica Divis	8 Oct
Obed Soto	15 Oct
Robert Colvin	19 Oct
Lendee Robinson	20 Oct
Ian Henderson	21 Oct
Michael Cummings	26 Oct
Kenneth Thalmann	27 Oct
Sherri Bassham	31 Oct

**Membership Anniversaries****September**

Myles Miller	1980	Ventura Moreno	1983
Robert Colvin	1984	Maureen Lofberg	1989
Sean Ylinen	1982	Scott Ylinen	1982
Terry Hoke	1993	Gerald Magnum	2008
Ken Rubenstein	2008		

October

Angeline Hernandez	1986	Jazmin Lombrana	1986
Ian Hernandez	1986	Elsa Baker	1992
Lud Bezemek	1995	Pauline Ballesteros	2007
James Snarr	2008	Peter Peca	2009
Ken Thalmann	2010	Charles Dorsey	2019
John Hamilton	2019	Bob Melson	2019
Rich Moore	2019		

Happy Anniversary

HOMELAND SECURITY MINUTE

As I write this, Hurricane Ian is bearing down on Florida and we are finishing National Preparedness Month. It seems apropos to discuss emergency preparedness. However, many have read several times my "West Texas Rules for Preparedness" so I'll not repeat them. I will, therefore, discuss disaster proofing your pets for an emergency.

After the animal disaster of Hurricane Katrina when shelters refused to accept families with pets, Texas and other state changed laws to allow our little friends in shelters with their families. If you have pets, then your family emergency plan must include your cats, dogs or other animals. Know the location of the closet shelter which can accept pets.

Here is a quick checklist for you. This list with a few additions is courtesy of @catster (<https://www.catster.com>):

1. Accessible carrier for each pet
2. A clear, current photo of each pet (with owner if possible)
3. Photocopies of ownership documentation (copies of health records on a flash drive wouldn't hurt)
4. A list of important phone numbers (vet, on-line pharmacy for meds, etc.)
5. Water for three days
6. Food (Tuna fish does double duty for you and your cats) for three days
7. Harness with a ring for a leash for each pet
8. Medications for at least a week
9. Litter box, litter, scoop and baggies (disposable litter boxes for travel can be very handy)
10. Paper towels and wipes (You'll need enough for you, your kids and your pet)
11. Tranquilizers or calming remedies
12. Comfort items (stuff toys or favorite box)

Think it out, write it down and put together your "go bags" for each member of your two- and four-legged family. Identify items that can be used by everyone and stock up. If you have room in your vehicle, have a collapsible pen in addition to the standard carrier. It will allow your pets more room once you're in temporary quarters.

Remember, don't wait until the last minute. Start planning and purchasing emergency supplies before they're needed and you won't be caught short!



CF "Buck" Hamilton CPP, PSP
LtCol USMC (Ret)
Homelands Security Chair

Honors From Aug & Sept

Gold Patrick Henry

Jesus Beltran
Paula Mitchell

Individual Recruiting Medal

Jesus Beltran

Committee Awards National Convention

First Place Large Chapter - Homeland Security

Third Place Category 4 - ROTC

Third Place Large Chapter - Information & Publicity

Certificate of Appreciation

FBI Special Agent Jeff Reisinger

Interesting US & Military Dates

18 Sep 1947 Birthday of the United States Air Force

22-23 Sep 1779 Battle between Le Bonhomme Richard & HMS Serapis "I have not yet begun to fight!"

24 Sep 1789 Judiciary Act of 1789 established the Supreme Court with six justices

24 Sep 1960 USS Enterprise (CVN-65) launched as 1st nuclear aircraft carrier

13 Oct 1775 Birthday of the United States Navy

14 Oct 1066 Battle of Hastings

21 Oct 1805 Battle of Trafalgar

HISTORY NOTE 1

This is the first of what we hope will be a regular feature of the El Paso MOWW newsletter. In undertaking to record a history of the El Paso chapter, we hope to provide interesting information, encouraging prose, possibly a poem or two, but ultimately a good record of the organization's history in El Paso.

Our Constitution allows for freedom of assembly and expression. There are many, many organizations that exist in this country, too many to name. Among these are fraternal organizations of military veterans who gather to socialize, relive experiences, celebrate heroes, and most of all promote good citizenship and a culture of selfless service.

Some of these organizations were composed of military officers and former officers. After the American Revolution, officer veterans established the Society of the Cincinnati. Following the War of 1812, we had the Society of the War of 1812. The Mexican American War produced the Aztec Club of 1847. The Civil War produced the officer and former officer organization known as the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. And the Spanish American War produced the Naval and Military Order of the Spanish American War. There were other smaller organizations, too, such as a few orders that came out of the Indian Wars, and the Order of the Dragon composed of officers who had served in the Boxer Rebellion in China.

At the end of World War I, General of the Armies John J. Pershing remained in command of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) until 1920. His major duties included overseeing the return of troops from France and the demobilization of National Guard units and draftees. During this, Pershing made a nationwide inspection tour of all Army installations where he had served. As he worked and traveled, he conceived a general concept of a fraternal organization to allow officer veterans of the Great War to join, relive their comradeship, and reminisce about the hard service in the trenches. This organization was to resemble previous organizations, including the Grand Army of the Republic after the Civil War period.

The first meeting was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 27, 1919. The name adopted for the organization was the American Officers of the Great War. Between this date and the first general convention, organizers conducted a mail campaign to generate memberships, which would cost \$5 per year. The mail campaign proved costly, but it worked. The first convention convened in Detroit, Michigan from Sep. 7 to 9, 1920. At that convention, the name of the organization was changed to the Military Order of the World War.

At that meeting, Maj. Gen. George Herbert Harries was elected first commander. Harries was a well-known businessman who had served with the District of Columbia National Guard. He was a former newspaper editor who had moved on to run city trolley systems and electric power and lighting systems. During World War I he commanded the French port of Brest, overseeing the arrival of tons of military equipment and thousands of US troops for service on the Western Front. After the war, he oversaw the return of Allied prisoners of war from Germany. Then he oversaw the return of men and materiel through the port of Brest to the United States. He was the perfect choice to run the MOWW and served as its commander until 1925.

It would be years before the MOWW appeared in El Paso, Texas. We will look at the growth of the MOWW in the next newsletter.

LTC John Hamilton USA (Ret)

Chapter Historian

Up Coming Chapter Events

Homeless Veterans' Stand Down	0700 - 1700	Friday 16 September
September Hybrid Chapter Luncheon/Zoom Meeting	1130 - 1330	Saturday 17 September
October Virtual Staff Meeting	1900	Tuesday 4 October
October Hybrid Chapter Luncheon/Zoom Meeting	1130 - 1330	Saturday 22 October
November Virtual Staff Meeting	1900	Tuesday 4 November
National Election Day	0700 - 1900	Tuesday 8 November



The Greater El Paso Chapter
The Military Order of the World Wars
P.O. Box 640475 - El Paso Texas 79904

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Our mission is reflected in our 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 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**.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @EL_PASO_MOWW

VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE: WWW.ELPASOMOWW.ORG

FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EPPASOMOWW

TWITTER: @EL_PASO_MOWW

VISIT OUR NATIONAL MOWW WEBSITE: WWW.MOWW.ORG

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