

# CWO NEWS

U.S. COAST GUARD  
CHIEF WARRANT  
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



QUARTER 4

2022





## CWO OFFICERS

### President

CWO Christian Westerdahl  
president@cwoauscg.org

### Vice President

CWO Adam Cain  
vicepresident@cwoauscg.org

### Secretary

CWO Rodney Clark  
secretary@cwoauscg.org

### Treasurer

CWO Justus Marks  
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### VP of Reserve Affairs

CWO Jake Elks  
vpreserveaffairs@cwoauscg.org

### VP of Retired Affairs

CWO (Ret) Jared Heintz  
vpretiredaffairs@cwoauscg.org

### VP of Active Duty Affairs

CWO Melissa Polson  
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### Executive Director

Michael J. Little  
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CWO News is a Quarterly publication  
of the Chief Warrant and Warrant  
Officers Association, U.S. Coast Guard.

The CWOA is a non-profit  
organization comprised of  
active duty, reserve and retired members

## Chapters

CWOA ATCHAFAYALA (MORGAN CITY) CHAPTER  
President - Brandon Capps (atchafayala@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA BALTIMORE CHAPTER  
President - Kurt Woodley (baltimore@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA BOSTON CHAPTER  
President - Rob Resendes (boston@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA CAPE ISLAND CHAPTER  
President - Frank Gibson (capeisland@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA ELIZABETH CITY CHAPTER  
President - Jason Strauch (elizabethcity@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA EMERALD ISLE CHAPTER  
President - Kristin Davenport (emeraldisle@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA EMPIRE STATE CHAPTER  
President - James Hockler (empirestate@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER  
President - Sheldon Williams (goldengate@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA GREAT LAKES CHAPTER  
President - Jared Crotwell (greatlakes@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA GREATER MIAMI CHAPTER  
President - Travis Snyder (greatermiami@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA GREATER MOBILE CHAPTER  
President - Jose Adams (greatermobile@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA JUNEAU CHAPTER  
President - Unknown (juneau@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA LONG ISLAND SOUND CHAPTER  
President - Christopher Gibson (longisland@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA LOW COUNTRY CHAPTER  
President - Michael Goglia (lowcountry@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA MID PACIFIC CHAPTER  
President - Adam Barton (midpacific@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER  
President - James Pulse (neworleans@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA NORFOLK CHAPTER  
President - Joel Smith (norfolk@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER  
President - Dean Johnston (pacificnorthwest@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER  
President - Richard Braucci (philadelphia@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA REPUBLIC OF TEXAS CHAPTER  
President - Michael Riemann (texas@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA SABINE CHAPTER  
President - Jason Thompson (sabine@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
President - Josue Mendez (socal@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA ST LOUIS CHAPTER  
President - Jon Harling (stlouis@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA STEVEN SHIELDS CHAPTER  
President - Marin Kaczmar (stevenshields@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA SUNCOAST CHAPTER  
President - Will Stevenson (suncoast@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER  
President - Chris Corbett (dc@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA YORKTOWN CHAPTER  
President - Dale Harrison (yorktown@cwoauscg.org)

## Distinguished Members

CWO4 (F&S) Gerald D. Huskey  
CWO4 (F&S) David T. Daniels  
CWO4 (MAT) Damian T. Sarchiapone  
CWO4 (F&S) Tony M. Robinson  
CWO4 (PERS) Charles M. Tomarchio  
CWO4 (ELC) Theodore J. Falter  
CWO4 (PERS) David C. Orolfo  
CWO4 (PERS) Carl B. Seale  
CWO4 (PERS) John C. Crawford, III  
CWO4 (MAT) George W. Borlase, Jr.  
LCDR Charles O. Boll, Jr.  
CWO4 (ENG) Harry S. Huggins  
CWO4 (F&S) William J. Reetz  
CWO4 (MAT) Daniel D. Parker  
CWO4 (PERS) Randy J. Cornell  
CWO4 (F&S) Richard G. Waechter  
CWO4 (F&S) T. Wayne Zuehls  
CWO4 (BOSN) Robert J. Rhoads  
CWO4 (F&S) Charles W. Mattoon  
CWO4 (F&S) Keith M. Wakefield  
CWO4 (PERS) Joseph R. Howard  
CWO4 (F&S) Mitzie A. Robinson  
CWO2 (ELC) James C. Pulse  
CWO4 (ISM) Philip W. Beddow  
CWO4 (ISM) Brent A. Light  
CWO4 (INF) Scott Epperson  
CWO4 (BOSN) J.T. Green  
CWO4 (ELC) William Iozzino

## Committees

100 Anniversary Committee  
Chairman - Rob Resendes

By-Laws Committee  
Chairman - Michael Riemann

Long Range Planning Committee  
Chairman - Mark Cortor

Membership Committee  
Chairman - Adam Cain

Permanent Finance Committee  
Chairman - Justus Marks

Active Duty Affairs Committee  
Chairwoman - Meslissa Polson

Reserve Affairs Committee  
Chairman - Jake Elks

Retired Affairs Committee  
Chairman - Jared Heintz

Scholarship Committee  
Chairman - Rodney Clark

## Longest Serving Member

CWO4 Harold Dycus, USCG (Ret)  
April 1, 1955

The CWOA Norfolk  
District Chapter  
is proud to sponsor the



# **94th CWOA ANNUAL MEETING**

**LOCATED IN PORTSMOUTH-NORFOLK**

**17 - 20 MAY 2023**



**Location**

**RENAISSANCE  
PORTSMOUTH - NORFOLK  
WATERFRONT HOTEL  
425 WATER ST  
PORTSMOUTH, VA 23704**

**Virtual**

**A VIRTUAL OPTION WILL  
BE AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM**

Scan To Register or go to <https://www.cwoauscg.org/annualmeeting>



FROM THE DESK OF THE

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## A GREAT YEAR

### A SOLID YEAR

**A**s I am about to wrap up my second year as your Executive Director, I want to start by saying, that this year has the one that has been the most fulfilling for me. Now that we have cleaned up all the admin Issues, put all the new programs Into place, and started to work on what matters most In this organization, MEMBERSHIP, I can look back at my days, and finally start to see the growth In our organization that you all hired me for.

I want to thank the Executive Committee for giving me the chance to hire an Executive Assistance for the next two years, to help me focus on more fund raising and membership recruitment and retention.

We have alot of things planned for 2023, and I look forward to seeing all the Chapters In Norfolk, where we plan to discuss a fair ammount of time on helping to grow and maintain out Chapters, to Include an indepth talk about the tax situation you are all dealing with.

I am always available If any of the members need me. I honestly love my job every day I wake up, and I look forward to seeing what my 3rd year has In store for 2023!



## ANNUAL MEETING

### NORFOLK, VA 17 - 20 MAY 2023

We need all Chapter Presidents who are attending the CWOA Annual meeting to please go online and register ASAP.. If you cannot come, please contact me with the name of a chapter member who will represent your Chapter.



## CWOA UPDATES

### WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

#### Chapter Presidents

I am in need of all Chapter Officers to update their chapter reports. Please look at the back of the cover page, and if your name is not right next to your Chapter, then please submit your new Chapter Officers report:

<https://www.cwoauscg.org/new-chapter-officers>

#### All Members

We are still trying to track down 1,344 members who we do not have email addresses for, If your address label says (**Pending**) then we do not have an email for you. Please go here to update your email:

<https://www.cwoauscg.org/request-access-to-member-portal>

#### Dues

I want to thank everyone who has joined the CWOA in the last year, and those who have been members for years. With that being said, I have had to deny payments to 14 widows in the last year, because members aren't paying enough dues to qualify for the Death Gratuity Payments. Currently we have 333 members who are not paying enough dues. If your address label says (**Prospective**) then you are not paying the required \$7 a month. Please contact me at 202-963-1793 or [mlittle@cwoauscg.vet](mailto:mlittle@cwoauscg.vet) to help fix this .





Greetings Fellow Chief Warrant Officers

I hope this letter finds you all doing well and that you were able to spend the holiday season with family and friends. Many of us spend the year going 100 miles per hour so it is nice to take a week or 2 to spend it with the people that our most important in our lives. I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

On a somber note, I would like to take a moment to pass on my condolences with the passing of CWO4 Lewis J. Tolleson back in late November of 2022. CWO Tolleson is a past National President of the CWOA serving from 1981-1983. He joined the association back in 1977 providing selfless service at both the Chapter and National levels. May he rest in peace. Hand Salute!

We are getting closer by the day and the pace is picking up in preparation for our 94th Annual Meeting taking place in Norfolk, VA on May 17-20. We are looking forward to all getting together again, have great discussion, and continue to move the CWOA forward together. We are also expecting several guest speakers and have invited the Commandant to be part of this year's event. Thanks again to CWO Joel Smith Norfolk Chapter President for taking on the responsibilities of organizing and hosting the 94th annual meeting.

I just returned from the Tampa area last week after participating with the CWOA Suncoast Chapter in the USCGC Blackthorn Memorial. This was my 4th year attending and it provides us all an opportunity to mourn and reflect on the loss of 23 of our shipmates on that tragic night in Tampa Bay.

Speaking of the Suncoast Chapter. It appears the sun is rising for them down in St Pete. Their membership numbers and participation are growing stronger by the day. They are hosting fundraisers and have also designed a new logo for shirts and coins. Trust me when I say the logo looks sweet! I am excited for their future. BZ to Chapter President CWO Will Stevenson.

Finally, In the words of Bill S. Preston Esq and Ted Theodore Logan "Be excellent to each other."

Yours in service,

CWO Christian M Westerdahl  
CWOA President





# Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, USCG

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR THE PERIOD THRU 12/31/2022

<b>NEW MEMBERS</b>		<u>1/1/2021-12/31/2021</u>
Active Duty		199
Retired		0
Reserve		3
Reserve Retired		0
Unknown		0
<b>TOTAL NEW MEMBERS</b>		<b>202</b>
<b>MEMBERS DROPPED</b>		
Deceased	.....	29
Dropped for nonpayment of dues	.....	*197
Own Request	.....	0
Widows	.....	0
<b>TOTAL DROPPED</b>		<b>226</b>
<b>TOTAL REGULAR MEMBERS END OF PERIOD</b>		<b>2,573</b>
DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS		29
HONORARY MEMBERS		4
DUES PAYING MEMBERS (Allotments)		1,912
DUES PAYING MEMBERS (Check Payments)		246
DUES PAYING MEMBERS (Credit Card Payment)		154
LIFE MEMBERS		106
DUES FREE MEMBERS		26
LIMITED MEMBERS (At least \$5)		213
LIMITED MEMBERS (Less than \$5)		47
WIDOWS		288
NOT IN GOOD STANDING		265
DECEASED IN 2022		29
<b>TOTAL MEMBER RECORDS END OF PERIOD</b>		<b>3349</b>
<b>Total Prospective Members</b>		<b>343</b>
<b>Total Members without Email Addresses</b>		<b>1216</b>
<b>Total Members with Email Addresses</b>		<b>1361</b>
<b>Inactive Members</b>		<b>429</b>

Adam Cain  
Vice President

Date: 31 Dec 2022

\*Members who pay by check are still sending in checks, still expect 41 to pay.



# WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

## Name

## Unit

## Sponsor

CWO<sub>2</sub> (ELC) Michael Peters  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> (AVI) Charles Rice  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (AVI) Daniel Coleman  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BNDM) Jeffrey Spenner  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BOSN) Andrew Zylinski  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BOSN) Christopher Goolsby  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BOSN) Christopher Apple  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BOSN) Adam Lorentz  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BOSN) TIMOTHY CROCHET  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BOSN) Jamie Martin  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BOSN) Melisa Neal  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (BOSN) Kevin Smith  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (DIV) Brian Korte  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ELC) Fidencio Miramontes  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ELC) Matthew Regele  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ELC) William Milam  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ELC) Jose Guzman  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ENG) Michael Clements  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ENG) Corry Thomas  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> (ENG) ROBERT WALKER  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ENG) John Quinn  
 CWO<sub>4</sub> (ENG) Jonathan Mills  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ENG) Jeffrey Pace  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> (F&S) Kenneth Seefeld  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (INV) John Thompson  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (ISM) Clint Wilhite  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> (ISM) Ethan Dwyer  
 CWO<sub>4</sub> (MAT) Christopher Pupke  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MED) Jedidiah Johnson  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MED) Christie Herms  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MSSD) Joel Fightmaster  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MSSD) Jonathan Ehrhart  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MSSD) Robert Alvarez  
 CWO (MSSE) Brandon Hansen  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MSSE) Justin Patrick  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MSSE) Bryan DeVore  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MSSE) Jeffrey Covich  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MSSE) Cameron Copelin  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (MSSE) Ryan Graham  
 CWO<sub>4</sub> (MSSR) Todd Wardwell  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (OSS) Scott Leazott  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> (OSS) John Marshall  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (PERS) Joe Quinones  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> (PERS) Rob Samuels  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> (PERS) Christopher Gibson

CWOA Golden Gate Chapter  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Long Island Sound Chapter  
CWOA Greater Mobile Chapter  
CWOA Norfolk Chapter  
CWOA Empire State  
CWOA Greater Mobile Chapter  
CWOA Yorktown Chapter  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA New Orleans Chapter  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Golden Gate Chapter  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Pacific Northwest Chapter  
CWOA Southern California Chapter  
CWOA Mid Pacific Chapter  
CWOA Cape Island Chapter  
CWOA Baltimore Chapter  
CWOA Mid Pacific Chapter  
CWOA Mid Pacific Chapter  
CWOA Mid Pacific Chapter  
CWOA St Louis Chapter  
CWOA GREATER ANTILLES  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Pacific Northwest Chapter  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Golden Gate Chapter  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Atchafalaya (Morgan City)  
CWOA Sabine Chapter  
CWOA New Orleans Chapter  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Republic of Texas (Houston)  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Member-At-Large  
CWOA Greater Miami Chapter  
CWOA Philadelphia Chapter  
CWOA Greater Mobile Chapter  
CWOA New Orleans Chapter  
CWOA Norfolk Chapter  
CWOA New Orleans Chapter  
CWOA Long Island Sound Chapter

Leemelvin Gavino  
 F&S<sub>4</sub> Russ Beaty  
 Michael Little  
 CWO<sub>4</sub> Jeff Timberlake  
 James Petrik  
 LT Tyler Vieira  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> Ryan Fuller  
 James M. Petrik  
 CWOA  
 Cwo<sub>4</sub> timberlake  
 Brandy Ingram  
 CDR Scott Williams  
 CWO Gregory Seufer  
 Alexandria  
 CWO Kevin Joseph  
 Martin Fairall  
 Adam Barton  
 Steve Kern  
 Jeff Timberlake  
 Adam Barton  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> Adam Barton  
 Adam Barton  
 CWOA  
 CWO<sub>3</sub> Gilberto Correa  
 Jeff Timberlake  
 Jeff Timberlake  
 CWOA  
 CWOA  
 Jeff Timberlake  
 Jeff Timberlake  
 Brandon Capps  
 Jason Thompson  
 Brandi Ingram  
 Saint Louis Chapter  
 CWO Capps  
 CWO<sub>2</sub> Miguel Espinosa  
 CWO McClain  
 Jeff Timberlake  
 Trevor Moser  
 Tim Lemelin  
 CWO<sub>4</sub> James Petrik  
 CWO Brandi Ingram  
 CWO Chris Bean  
 CWO Brandi Ingram  
 CWOA

# WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS

## Name

## Unit

## Sponsor

Honorary CWO <sub>2</sub> (CAPT) Chad Brick	<u>CWOA Republic of Texas (Houston)</u>	Republican of Texas
CWO Christopher Parker	<u>CWOA Member-At-Large</u>	CWOA
CWO Thomas Perez	<u>CWOA Member-At-Large</u>	CWOA
CWO Jordan Perry	<u>CWOA Member-At-Large</u>	CWOA
CWO Ashley Wells	<u>CWOA Member-At-Large</u>	CWOA
CWO <sub>2</sub> Keith Stinson	<u>CWOA Yorktown Chapter</u>	CWOA
CWO <sub>3</sub> Cole Vaskey	<u>CWOA Yorktown Chapter</u>	CWOA
CWO <sub>3</sub> Thomas Willard	<u>CWOA Yorktown Chapter</u>	CWOA
CWO <sub>4</sub> MICHAEL SPARKS	<u>CWOA Yorktown Chapter</u>	CWOA
LCDR Roger Bogert	<u>CWOA Yorktown Chapter</u>	CWOA
LT Ingrid Gonzalez	<u>CWOA Yorktown Chapter</u>	CWOA
CWO Rodney Phillips	<u>CWOA Yorktown Chapter</u>	CWOA
CWO CYNTHIA REAVIS	<u>CWOA Yorktown Chapter</u>	CWOA
CWO Julio Calndelario	<u>CWOA Greater Miami Chapter</u>	CWOA
CWO Lekisha Pereira	<u>CWOA Greater Miami Chapter</u>	CWOA

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 25 YEAR MEMBERS

CWO <sub>4</sub> ENG David E. Majors , USCG (Ret)	11/1/97
CWO <sub>4</sub> MSSE Ralph E. Savercool Jr., USCG (Ret)	11/1/97
CWO <sub>2</sub> ENG John M. Binford , USCG (Ret)	12/1/97
LCDR F&S CLIFFORD W. MORRIS , USCG (Ret)	12/1/97
CWO <sub>2</sub> MAT John A. Grzyb , USCG (Ret)	12/1/97

We need all  
members to  
submit their email  
addresses to us by  
visiting:

<https://bit.ly/3pVlzVU>



## In Memoriam To Those Who Have Crossed The Bar

Due to us emailing out the  
Crossing The Bar email,  
we will no longer Include  
this In the magazine.  
Please contact us If you  
are not getting these  
files.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 50 YEAR MEMBERS

CWO <sub>2</sub> COMM Richard Howe, USCG (Ret)	10/1/72
CWO <sub>3</sub> ENG Anthony Lloyd, USCG (Ret)	10/1/72
CWO <sub>4</sub> F&S Rodney McHenry, USCG (Ret)	10/1/72
LCDR Robert Simpson, USCG (Ret)	10/1/72
CWO <sub>4</sub> F&S Ronnie Kunz, USCG (Ret)	11/1/72
CWO <sub>4</sub> ENG John Oberlander, USCG (Ret)	11/1/72
CWO <sub>4</sub> BOSN Dale Wilkins, USCG (Ret)	11/1/72
CWO <sub>4</sub> BOSN Dennis Dougherty, USCG (Ret)	11/1/72
CWO <sub>3</sub> F&S John Aten, USCG (Ret)	12/1/72
CWO <sub>4</sub> ELC Wallace Kennedy, USCG (Ret)	12/1/72
LTEdwin Brown, USCG (Ret)	12/1/72





# Congressional Update

**Aniela Szymanski, Chief Policy Officer**

Congress ended its last legislative session and the new session of Congress began January 3, 2023, with new members of Congress and what promises to be a lively couple of years in D.C. The closing session, the 117th Congressional session, saw improvements for the Coast Guard budget, and that momentum will be important to maintain moving forward, especially given inflation and world events that will most certainly keep the Coast Guard's budget very tight.

The 2022 Coast Guard budget saw an increase of \$300 million over the 2021 budget, which Admiral Schultz pressed for in order to address shore infrastructure and rotary recapitalizations as well as the Polar Security Cutter. The 2023 budget request was for \$700 million more than the 2022 budget, but that budget increase does not even keep up with inflation costs.

Notably, Congress enacted a 4.6% pay raise for service members for 2023. While this is the largest in 20 years, it still puts military families behind the power curve in an economy with inflation rates well above 4.6%. The 2022 National Defense Authorization Act did institute

a new pay category called Basic Needs Allowance for low-income military members, however. Service members whose household incomes are below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines qualify for it in 2023. Service members must affirmatively apply for that benefit. More information about the Coast Guard's implementation of that is available at <http://bit.ly/3xiwJGV>

The past Congressional session was most active in veterans' focused legislation, passing many bills impacting veterans. A full list is included at the end of this article, but the most expansive legislation passed was known as the PACT Act (aka The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022). This law expanded VA health care and benefits to veterans who have been exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. If a veteran was exposed to burn pits or other toxins, and develops one of the conditions cited in the law then the veteran may receive disability compensation without having to prove that the exposure caused the condition because the cause will be presumed by VA. This makes getting these

claims approved much easier and faster for veterans to receive health care and disability compensation. This presumption is very similar to the Agent Orange presumption for Vietnam Veterans. More information is available here: <http://bit.ly/3XqXZxA>

A full list of veterans legislation passed by the last legislative session:

H.R.7846 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022

H.R.7500 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Fiscal Year 2022 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act

H.R.5754 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Patient Advocate Tracker Act

H.R.5545 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) REMOTE Act

H.R.5142 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes.

H.R.4591 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021

H.R.2911 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) VA Transparency & Trust Act of 2021

H.R.2545 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R.2523 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) THRIVE Act

H.R.2471 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022

H.R.2441 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021

H.R.2093 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Veterans and Family Information Act

H.R.1510 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R.1448 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act

H.R.1276 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act

H.R.711 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021

S.4458 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022

S.4359 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Office Act of 2022

S.4089 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Veterans Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Restoration and Recovery Act of 2022

S.3369 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act

S.2794 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Supporting Families of the Fallen Act

S.2687 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021

S.2533 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act

S.2102 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act

S.1910 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021

S.1605 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022

S.1198 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Solid Start Act of 2022

S.1095 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act of 2021

S.1031 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.894 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021

S.796 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021

S.189 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021





# Upcoming Advocacy Priorities

## Aniela Szymanski, Chief Policy Officer

The new session of Congress presents a new opportunity to get legislation related to our Coast Guard passed. CWOA will be working hard to ensure that the Coast Guard budget includes sufficient funding to ensure the Coast Guard has sufficient funding to sustain and improve the quality of life for our members, while still accomplishing the Commandant's intent.

One of the priorities that CWOA has been working hard to pass over the past several years is the Pay Our Coast Guard Act. This bill would ensure that Coast Guard members continue to receive their pay in case of a government shutdown. Although all Department of Defense services continue to receive pay during a government shutdown, given the Coast Guard's unique budget structure, its members do not. CWOA will continue to advocate for passage of the Pay Our Coast Guard Act in this new session of Congress.

Many of the Commandant's priorities include issues that likely need Congressional assistance

to deliver. For example, Admiral Fagan's priority to transform the total workforce includes improvements like delivering point-of-need healthcare and family services. This will likely require additional funding and resource flexibility that currently does not exist in the defense health arena. CWOA will advocate for these improvements to support Admiral Fagan's intent. Several other of the Commandant's priorities align with CWOA's mission and purpose, as well, such as creating opportunities for flexible assignments, advancements, workplaces, and careers. CWOA has continuously remained engaged with Coast Guard leadership on those issues and will continue to do so moving forward.

CWOA has formed a Legislative Advocacy Corps to ensure your voice is heard in Washington D.C. To learn more about it visit our page on the [www.cwoauscg.org](http://www.cwoauscg.org) site under "Membership Benefits."



# CWOPD Class 03-23

## **“Not the Fork and Knife School of the Past”**

CWO-PD Class 03-23 kicked off with a bang on January 17, 2023. The class began virtually for the first week, but was by no means easy. The group was tasked with getting to know one another while still geographically separate. This proved to be fun and challenging. Soon 20 strangers evolved into four teams; Not Just Team 1, The Purple Parrots, Eagle Fang, and Frankie D. Promptly, we were tasked with giving impromptu speeches to build our public speaking skills. We had a thorough SAPRR training session with the USCGA SARC, did some internal soul searching to identify our personal values, and closed off the week by examining our own personal biases and broadening our understanding of the strength of diversity within a team.

Week two was boots on the ground at the USCG Academy, New London CT. Now the training tempo kicked into a higher gear. Soon we were providing history briefs and training to the group. Day 1 closed off with an evening social hosted by the CWOA, where we had the pleasure of meeting national and regional CWOA officers. As the days progressed, we utilized DiSC to better understand ourselves and how to work with different personality types. We learned the roles of a CWO and further explored Values, Virtues, and Ethics. We were treated to an in depth OER writing workshop, and also learned the role of a CWO in the Wardroom versus the Chief's Mess. We rounded off the class by examining the culture of MISHAPs, and closed off the week with service etiquette, commonly referred to as “Fork and Knife” training. After graduation we said goodbye to our amazing instructors, Jaime and Jeff, and our new CWO brothers and sisters. We left the Academy much better officers than when we arrived, full of purpose and ready to challenge ourselves and others to affect positive change in all aspects of our great service. Semper Paratus!





# Nominees for Office

## Vice President of Reserve Affairs

### CWO2 Carol Marie Smith

I am a life-time member of the CWOA and look forward to supporting the Vice President of Reserve Affairs office. In June 2022 I became the Reserve Program Specialist at CG Headquarters in the Office of Shore Forces, CG-741. Our office oversees the Shore Forces Reserve Management Plan, applicable to Sectors with 30 or more reservists. I enjoy staying current with reserve policies and work with Reserve Personnel Management (RPM) and all Headquarters staff with a reserve nexus.



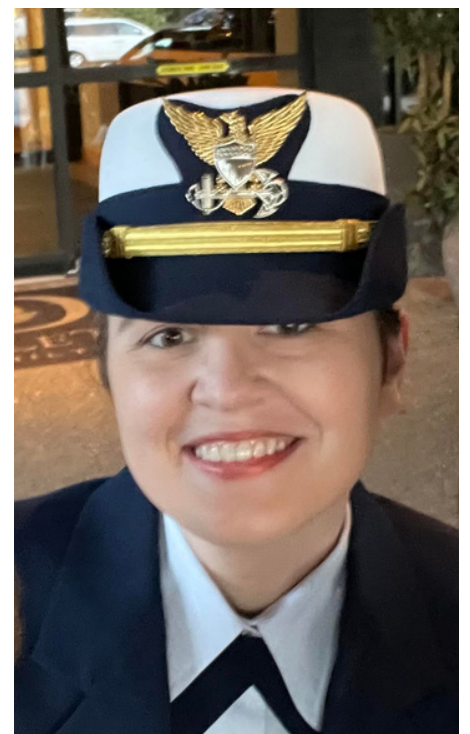
## Treasurer

### ISM2 Jennifer Thompson

ISM2 Jennifer Thompson is currently serving as the Supervisor at Electronics Support Detachment Seattle. She was born in Bremerhaven, Germany and claims Elizabethtown, KY as her home. She was recruited in the Coast Guard on December 3, 2007 from Recruiting Office Louisville, KY.

Previous units include Station Grand Isle, TRACEN Petaluma, ESD Boston, Coast Guard Recruiting Command, Advanced Education (ACET), and Base Portsmouth. She commissioned this past June to assume her current position in Seattle. She is the 2022 CGMA Ambassador of the Year, and previously served on the CGMA Board of Control.

CWO Thompson met and married her husband LT John Thompson in 2009 when they were both going through IT A-school. They have two children, Finnegan, 7, and Piper, 4. Jenn is an audiobook enthusiast and a big fan of Burn Boot Camp.



### **CWO3 Jake Elks**

CWO3 Jake Elks currently serves as Vice President of Reserve Affairs and the sole Reserve Chief Warrant Officer at Marine Safety Unit Savannah Georgia. He joined the national CWOA and local Philadelphia Chapter in 2016 where he has helped organize and participate in several service projects to assist the local community. In 2018 he became a plank owner in the Empire State Chapter while stationed at Sector New York. In his full-time job, he serves as Business Development Manager Specialty Hazards – Hangars & Munitions for Det-Tronics. Prior to being selected as a Chief Warrant Officer, Jake was a Chief Marine Science Technician at Sector Hampton Roads.



CWO Elks enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in June 2001 and has had reserve assignments at the Atlantic Strike Team, Sector Baltimore, Sector Delaware Bay, Sector Hampton Roads, and Sector New York including deployments to Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, and Irma. He also served the active component for a total of six years in Sector Delaware Bay and Marine Safety Team Morehead City (now MSD Ft. Macon).

Jake is a 1997 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Asheville and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science. He has been married to his wife Susan for 22 years, they have two children Garrett and Claire, and reside in Unionville, PA.

## **Vice President**

### **CWO4 Jeff Timberlake**

On January 19th, 1993 Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Timberlake (CWO4 Timberlake) entered USCG recruit TRACEN Cape May, NJ as a Seaman Recruit. He is currently assigned at Leadership Development Center (LDC) as the Course Chief for Chief Warrant Officer Professional Development (CWOPD) where he manages 10 CWO courses a year along with CWOPD instructor. Previous to LDC, he was stationed at USCG Air Station Clearwater for 5 years (2016 – 2021) where he was the assistant facilities engineer for the CG's largest air station with 3 remote aircraft sites encompassing over 72 acres. Previous to Air Station Clearwater, he was stationed at Sector Field Office (SFO) Valdez for 3 years (2013 - 2016) where he was Anchorage SFO Valdez Supervisor. Prior to SFO Valdez, he was at Leadership Development Center (LDC) New London, CT. from 2 years (2011 - 2013), as the Detachment Supervisor and LAMS Instructor. Previous to LDC, he was stationed at USCG Air Station Clearwater for 5 years (2006 – 2011) as the facilities manager. Leading one E-7's, five E-6 shop supervisors, 11 E5's & E4's, eight Non-rates, and three civilians. Prior to Air Station Clearwater he was assigned to Kodiak LORAN Station for 3 years (2003 – 2006) as the Engineering Department head overseeing 10,000 sq/ft LORAN building, 625' tower, and 87 acres. Prior Loran Station Kodiak he was assigned to USCG Recruit TRACEN Cape May for 3 yrs 2000 – 2003 as a Company Commander, training and developing new seaman and fireman apprentice for the field. Prior to Training Center Cape May he was



assigned to CGC KICKAPOO for 3 yrs 1997 – 2000. Here he performed the duties as Independent Damage Controlman, Buoy Deck Supervisor, Import and Underway Engineer. Prior to CGC KICKAPOO was ISC Portsmouth Iron shop performing the duties he does best, welding and fabricating. CWO Timberlake's first tour of duties was the CGC IRIS for 1.5 years 1993 – 1994 where he was assigned to the deck department and struck DC3. He has attended many specialized courses during his career, including Marine Firefighting, Confined Space Entry, Advance welding, Recruit Company Commander, LAMS, IDC, Master Training Specialist, Health/fitness Coordinator, Command Financial Specialist, 35-ton Mobile crane operator, Tower/Rescue climbing, Command Chief, Contracting Officer's Representative, AA degree, and Project Manager, bachelor's degree in business and now working



toward masters. CWO Timberlake has earned four Commendation Medal, four Achievement Medals, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Global War Terror Service Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, and four Good Conduct Medals. CWO Timberlake 55, a native of Richmond, Virginia and married to the former Teresa Michelle Abel of Richmond, VA. They reside in Groton, CT. Their oldest daughter Ashley, 37, is a stay at home mom raising her family and residing in West Point, VA. Daughter Allison, 34, is raising a family and residing in Jacksonville, FL. Son Jeffrey Jr., 31, Active-duty Army 36B Staff Sergeant with Special Operations resides in Raeford, NC. Justin, 28, Technical trainer for Alta Equipment Company Volvo construction equipment dealer and resides in New Port Richey, FL. CWO Timberlake is a proud grandfather to 10 wonderful grandchildren: Kaleb, Karson, Wes, Nathan, Izabella, Eleanor, Pierston, Pierre, Silas, and Lainey-Mae.

## **CWO2 Chester Buohl**

CHESTER BUOHL was appointed to CWO on 01June2021, and assigned to C5ISC as a Project Manager within the BUSINESS OPERATIONS DIVISION. CWO Buohl has since become the Coast Guard's first Project Recovery Manager, entering into chartered evolutions to surgically remediate or mitigate significant risks to high visibility projects within the C5ISC. He currently serves as the Vice President of the COAST GUARD CWOA NORFOLK DISTRICT CHAPTER and is a very active contributor on the C5I Warrant Officers TEAM.

Throughout his career, CWO BUOHL has aggressively pursued diverse and demanding



assignments to develop his technological, leadership, and managerial acumen. As a junior technician stationed at ESD DETROIT, he voluntarily deployed with the USCGC EAGLE and the USCGC TAMPA, flourishing as an independent technician and gaining invaluable underway experience and leadership development. His first exposure to Incident Management Systems came with another voluntary deployment aboard the USCGC FORWARD- When the Deep Water Horizon Rig went up in flames, he became the THSP on site and was instrumental in setting up the first CTU. On his next tour at USCG TRACEN PETALUMA IT A-SCHOOL he became the first IT Instructor to obtain the distinguished Master Training Specialist credential. As a Master Training Specialist, he developed and implemented curriculum for the unsupported A+ Hardware and Network+ units, resulting in an unsurpassed 93.4% pass rate, successfully certifying 266 students in compliance with the DOD Information Assurance requirements at a cost savings for the Coast Guard of \$485k. Concurrently he audited countless classrooms and associated curriculum while mentoring and qualifying 30 new instructors across the TRACEN. After a year as the LPO at ESD KEY WEST, he advanced to Chief Petty Officer and accepted short fuse orders to ESD SAN JUAN. He was welcomed into the Mess officially on 10NOV2016. Two months later, he was able to attend CPO Academy Class 228. Designated as COM-T for the Hurricane Maria IMT, he inventoried and deployed \$13.5M worth of contingency C4IT equipment throughout the Puerto Rico and USVI while directly supervising 31 Petty Officers, 1 GS, and 44 TDY Technicians throughout the Hurricane Recovery and Reconstitution efforts. By the end of his tour, he was Acting ESD Supervisor turned Acting Department Head of the newly stood up BASE SAN JUAN. He leveraged relationships with the D7 DAR, TISCOM-PLD-NET-WLB Team, Inter-Agency Partners at Fort Buchanan, and LEC's to facilitate AOR-wide bandwidth increases across PR and the USVI creating a more robust infrastructure capable of handling modern operational demands. Those same relationships were called upon to include the USCG in the development of the PRAWSII migration for all of the DOD POTS, T1, and Microwave Circuits in Puerto Rico—this effort continued through his transfer to be the Assistant Supervisor of the C5I Shop at ATC MOBILE... and his subsequent promotion to CWO2 the following Summer.

His personal awards include Two Armed Forces Service Medals, A Commendation Medal, four Achievement Medals, and various other personal and unit awards.

### **CWO4 Mark Cortor**

Get to know your CWOA Vice President candidate, CWO4 Mark Cortor (ret). Mark retired from Active Duty in 2020 with 25+ years of service to our U.S. Coast Guard. He is extremely passionate as to military non-profit organizations, as he has served as the former President of our CWOA (2018-2020), former President of the CPOA (Petaluma Chapter 2007-08) and Coast Guard Advisor to the Board of Directors of the Sea Service Family Foundation (SSFF)(2019-20). Mark is a CWOA Lifetime Member (member in good standing since January 2009), current Vice President of the Open Country Chapter, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, Committee member of





the Permanent Finance Committee, Bylaws Committee and 100 Anniversary Committee. He has Mark is a CWOA Lifetime Member (member in good standing since January 2009), current Vice President of the Open Country Chapter, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, Committee member of the Permanent Finance Committee, Bylaws Committee and 100 Anniversary Committee. He has formerly served as Chairman 100 Anniversary Committee (2021-22), Long Range Planning Committee (2022), Communications Committee (2020-21) and was a member of several other committees since his time of President ended in 2020. Beyond the CWOA, he is currently the SSFF Chief Advocacy Officer and active member of the Cpl Chris S. Ebert Marine Corps League Detachment #1221 in Forest City, NC.

The traditional role of our CWOA Vice President has been very limited to being the Chairman of the Membership Committee, while also being available to serve as President in the absence of the current President and while Mark feels those are very important to our Association, he also believe a new role of the CWOA VP should be more engaging with our Chapter Presidents, along with their respective Board of Directors as to expand our organization influence by having the energy created by our Annual Meetings carry throughout the year with solid communications between our Chapters and the Association's BODs via our next Vice President.

### **CWO3 Bryan Kaseman**

CWO Kaseman assumed the duties and responsibilities as the Mission Execution CWO Assignment Officer at Personnel Services Center in Washington DC during the summer of 2019. In this capacity, he is responsible for more than 1300 personnel in the following CWO specialties: BOSN, ENG, ISM, MLES, MSSD, MSSE, MSSR, and OSS.

- CWO Kaseman's previous tours include: 2000-2005: FA/FN/MK3/MK2 aboard CGC BISCAYNE BAY
- 2005-2008: MK2/MK1 at Station Marblehead, Engineering and Boarding Officer
- 2008-2012: MK1/MKC at Station St. Ignace, Engineer Petty Officer
- 2012-2014: MKC aboard CGC BLOCK ISLAND, Engineer Petty Officer
- 2008-2012: MK1/MKC at Station St. Ignace, Engineer Petty Officer
- 2012-2014: MKC aboard CGC BLOCK ISLAND, Engineer Petty Officer
- 2014-2016: MKC at Station Marblehead, Engineer Petty Officer
- 2016-2019: CWO2 at PSC-EPM, MK Assignment Officer

CWO Kaseman's CWO specialty is Naval Engineering. He is from Pemberville, Ohio. He has been a geo-bachelor since coming to EPM in 2016 and lives the full time RV lifestyle. When not working, you will likely find him spending time with his dog, camping, or hunting.



## CWO2 Steve Mensen

Chief Warrant Officer Steve Mensen is a native of Avon Lake, OH. He enlisted in the Coast Guard on January 24th, 2006. CWO Mensen is currently assigned to Sector Southeastern New England as the Facilities Engineer overseeing eight sub-units in all facets of civil engineering. This may take the form of offering expert consultation in configuring maintenance plans, routine interaction with or training of AOR engineering staff, assistance identifying early nit level maintenance actions to prevent deferred long-term costs or solving minor facility issues through consultation before it escalates into a major problem requiring depot-level support and funding.



Prior to commissioning on June 1st, 2022, Chief Warrant Officer Mensen's previous assignments include the Health, Safety and Work-Life Service Center (HSWL-SC); Afloat Safety division, Base New Orleans; Fire and Safety Manager, Sector Buffalo; facilities and naval engineering, USCGC Kickapoo, Sector Buffalo; facilities and naval engineering, and USCGC Biscayne Bay.

Chief Warrant Officer Mensen has always felt a calling to serve and a passion to lead. He sought extra responsibility with professionalism and courage to challenge himself and transform his experience into effective leadership practices. His drive led to him being elected by his peers as the first Base New Orleans First Class Mess President, established a New Orleans Coast Guard Enlisted Association during the 2019 government shutdown, Vice President of the Coastal Virginia CGEA, and a chair position with the Hampton Roads CPOA as public affairs/CGEA liaison to strengthen partnerships and foster a mentoring culture amongst the three CGEA's surrounding Hampton Roads. He is currently working with fellow peers to found a Greater Cape Cod CWOA to strength the CWOA and the CWO Corps across the northeast.

Chief Warrant Officer Mensen's awards includes Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three), Coast Guard Achievement Medal (three), and other personal and unit awards. He is the 2017 recipient of the GEICO Military Service Award in Fire Safety for the Coast Guard, and the 2017 Base New Orleans Enlisted Person of the Year.



# Election Ballot

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Duty Status: ☐ Active Duty ☐ Reserves ☐ Retired

## Vice President of Reserve Affairs

☐ CWO2 Carol Marie Smith

☐ Other:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Treasurer

☐ CWO2 Jennifer Thompson

☐ CWO3 Jake Elks

☐ Other:

\_\_\_\_\_

## Vice President

☐ CWO4 Jeff Timberlake

☐ CWO2 Chester Buohl

☐ CWO4 Mark Cortor

☐ CWO3 Bryan Kaseman

☐ CWO2 Steve Mensen

☐ Other:

\_\_\_\_\_

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(must be post marked by April 1)

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