

CWO

U.S. COAST GUARD
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION

NEWS



QUARTER 2

FY 2024



CWO OFFICERS

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CWO₄ Christian Westerdahl
president@cwoauscg.org

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Secretary

CWO₄ Rodney Clark

Treasurer

CWO₂ Jenn Thompson

VP of Active Duty Affairs

CWO₂ Melissa Polson

VP of Reserve Affairs

CWO₂ Carol Smith

VP of Retired Affairs

CWO₃ (Ret) Jared Heintz

Past President

CWO₄ (Ret) Mark Cortor

Executive Director

CWO₄ (Hon) Michael J. Little
executivedirector@cwoauscg.org

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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

Longest Serving Member

CWO₄ Harold Dycus, USCG (Ret)
April 1, 1955 (68 years)

Chapters

CWOA ATCHAFAYALA (MORGAN CITY) CHAPTER
President - Matt Knoll (atchafayala@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA BALTIMORE CHAPTER
President - Dustin Capel (baltimore@cwoauscg.org)

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

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President - Frank Gibson (capeisland@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA OF THE CARIBBEAN CHAPTER
President - Gilberto Correa (cwoacaribbeanchapter@cwoauscg.org)

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

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President - James Ferguson (emeraldisle@cwoauscg.org)

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President - Lance Jorgenson (empirestate@cwoauscg.org)

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President - Seth Endter (goldengate@cwoauscg.org)

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President - Jared Crotwell (greatlakes@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA GREATER MIAMI CHAPTER
President - Kyle Suga (greatermiami@cwoauscg.org)

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

CWOA JUNEAU CHAPTER
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President - Tom Huffman (longisland@cwoauscg.org)

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President - Dave Ward (lowcountry@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA MID PACIFIC CHAPTER
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CWOA NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER
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President - Ryan Vess (norfolk@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA OPEN COUNTRY CHAPTER
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CWOA PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER
President - Michael Guerrero (pacificnorthwest@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER
President - Deryl Ingle (philadelphia@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA REPUBLIC OF TEXAS CHAPTER
President - Gary Sanchez (texas@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA SABINE CHAPTER
President - Christopher Bell (sabine@cwoauscg.org)

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

CWOA ST LOUIS CHAPTER
President - Brandon Hansen (stlouis@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA STEVEN SHIELDS CHAPTER
President - Joshua Kane (stevenshields@cwoauscg.org)

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

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

CWOA YORKTOWN CHAPTER
President - Ryan O'Hare (yorktown@cwoauscg.org)

CWOA CONCH REPUBLIC CHAPTER
President - Chris Sheppard (conchrepublic@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
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CWO₄ (ISM) Philip W. Beddow
CWO₄ (ISM) Brent A. Light
CWO₄ (INF) Scott Epperson
CWO₄ (BOSN) J.T. Green
CWO₄ (ELC) William Iozzino
CWO₄ (PERS) Michael Fisette

Committees

100 Anniversary Committee
Chairman - CWO₄ Robert Resendes

By-Laws Committee
Chairman - CWO₃ Michael Goglia

Long Range Planning Committee
Chairman - CWO₄ (Ret) Mark Cortor

Membership Committee
Chairman - CWO₄ Jeff Timberlake

Active Duty Affairs Committee
Chairman - CWO₂ Melissa Polson

Reserve Forces Policy Committee
Chairman - CWO₂ Carol Smith

Retired Affairs Committee
Chairman - CWO₃(Ret) Jared Heintz

Permanent Finance Committee
Chairman - CWO₂ Jenn Thompson

Scholarship Committee
Chairman - CWO₄ (Ret) Rodney Clark

Nomination & Ballot Committee
Chairman - CWO₄ Anthony Morabito

Audit Committee
Chairman - CWO₃ Darien Moya

Death Gratuity Fund Committee
Chairman - CWO₂ (Ret) James Pulse

Chapter Support Committee
Chairman - CWO₃ Dean Johnston

2024

CWOA

*95th National Meeting
Seattle, Washington*

MAY 15-18

[HTTPS://WWW.CWOAUSCG.ORG/ANNUALMEETING](https://www.cwoauscg.org/annualmeeting)

Hotel 1000, LXR Hotels & Resorts

QUARTERLY MEETING

3rd Quarter Meeting to be held In Los Angeles!



22 MARCH 2024, AT NOON (PDT)

Register for In Person and Virtual Attendance Here:
<https://www.cwoauscg.org/cwo-news-blog/fy243rdquartermeeting#/>

The Battleship USS Iowa Museum
250 S Harbor Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90731

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we embrace the new year, I am thrilled to share with you the exciting developments and initiatives that are set to redefine our beloved association in 2024. This year promises to be a transformative period for the CWOA, marked by significant changes and remarkable achievements that underscore our commitment to growth, excellence, and member engagement.

A New Chapter in Publishing

First and foremost, we are delighted to announce a new partnership with a distinguished publishing company that will take the helm of our magazine publications. This change represents a fresh start and an opportunity to enhance the quality and reach of our content. While we extend our heartfelt thanks to our previous publisher for their dedication and service, we understand that the path of business can lead to new directions. We are eagerly looking forward to this new chapter and the dynamic possibilities it brings to our communication efforts.

Strengthened Recruitment Efforts

Our recruitment initiatives have reached unprecedented success, particularly at the Chief Warrant Officer Professional Development School. Our association's relationship with the school has flourished, creating an environment where we are closely integrated with the students' journey, both inside and outside the classroom. This partnership has yielded remarkable results, with an impressive 90% of students joining the CWOA since our collaboration began. This achievement is a testament to our strategic engagement and the value we offer to the next generation of leaders.

Honoring Dedication and Leadership

It is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge CWO4 (Ret.) Jeff Timberlake for his unwavering dedication and visionary leadership. Under his guidance, the CWOA has not only grown in membership but also in scope and impact. This year, we are excited to introduce several new programs that will further enrich our members' professional and personal development.

Among these initiatives, we have secured a former CWO to provide exclusive Officer Evaluation Report (OER) training sessions for our members. This offering is a unique opportunity to enhance our members' understanding and execution of OERs, a critical component of their professional advancement.

Expanding Our Digital Footprint

In an effort to increase our engagement and transparency, we are launching a series of Facebook and LinkedIn Live events. These digital gatherings will serve as platforms for discussing the association's activities, legislative updates, and government affairs, allowing us to connect with our members more directly and meaningfully.

Empowering the Next Generation

This year, we are also proud to welcome high school interns from Hamilton County High School. These ambitious students will be working towards their volunteer credits for graduation while supporting the CWOA in updating membership records and enhancing our outreach efforts. Additionally, a new set of interns will join us to monitor legislation and congressional affairs, enabling us to provide timely and accurate information to our members about the developments that affect them.

A Commitment to Excellence and Transparency

The audit committee has recently completed a comprehensive audit of the association, and other committees are diligently working to meet their objectives. These efforts reflect our dedication to operational excellence, transparency, and accountability.

Looking Forward

As we move forward into 2024, we are filled with anticipation for what we can achieve together. Your support, feedback, and involvement are the lifeblood of our association, and we are eager to hear from you about how we can further enrich your experience and serve your needs.



A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

GREETINGS FELLOW CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS

I hope this message finds you all in great spirits, having enjoyed a wonderful holiday season surrounded by loved ones. Let me begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for the numerous cards and greetings we received at the national office and those forwarded to me. Each message was a reminder of the incredible bond and camaraderie that define our association and the larger Coast Guard community.

As we step into this new year, it's important to address the challenges we face, particularly in recruiting new members to our ranks. The Coast Guard is currently navigating through some tough waters in this regard, and every one of us has a role to play in steering the ship forward. I want to remind everyone that the Coast Guard is offering a \$1,000 incentive for any active duty member, retiree, or Auxiliarist who successfully refers a recruit to enlist. This initiative not only supports our growth but also strengthens our collective mission.

Reflecting on the past quarter, our meeting in San Juan was both memorable and illuminating. The interaction with our chapter members in Puerto Rico was incredibly enriching. Hearing firsthand about the challenges they face was an eye-opener, and I am deeply grateful for their unwavering commitment to supporting our Coasties. We are actively working to address these concerns and plan to bring them to the attention of the Delegate of Puerto Rico in our upcoming March meeting.

Looking ahead, I am filled with excitement for our annual meeting in Seattle this May. It will be a significant event as we welcome our new President, marking the beginning of a new chapter in our association's history. These gatherings are a testament to our unity and strength, and I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to connect with each of you there.

In closing, I want to reiterate my appreciation for your ongoing support and dedication. Our association thrives because of your commitment, and together, we can overcome any challenge that comes our way. Let's continue to uphold the values that define us as we move forward into a promising year.

Yours in service

CWO Christian M Westerdahl
CWOA President





We Are

PRO CWO!

PROUD TO BE THE ONLY ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO BEING ADVOCATES FOR USCG CWO'S

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, JOIN OUR RANKS TODAY!

SCAN HERE OR GO TO THE BELOW LINK TO JOIN!

[HTTPS://APP.JOINIT.COM/O/CWOA](https://app.joinit.com/o/cwoa)



← Scan for updates & Information

Scan to add to your phones contacts for later (best if bad phone signal)



CWOPD 09-23



Class 09-23 of the Chief Warrant Officers Professional Development Course had an eventful and enriching experience that included paper writing, oral presentation planning, and a visit to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, with a heartfelt thank you to their instructors, mentors, and guests for their support. This diverse class engaged in a week of virtual activities, including impromptu speeches, ethics discussions, and even a fun game of Jeopardy, before heading to the Academy for resident week, which included history presentations and discussions on improving the Coast Guard.



CWOPD10-23



Leadership is more than a word or catchy slogan on a motivational poster. The true definition of leadership is paving the way by example not mere words. During the 2 weeks of CWO Class 10-23 we expanded our horizons on the vision and true definition of the CWO Officer role. In addition to bonding together we collectively enhanced our leadership skills and abilities. The main takeaway is to constantly improve in our roles and never just settle for the norm.

We learned to inspire others we command through our actions, virtues and character. Live and lead with a high moral compass. Although our class was only 12 days long our school in leadership is indefinite. Life and our careers will always throw us challenges. It is up to us to face difficult times and find the ways to persevere.

From the first time we swore on the bible at MEPS to the time we commissioned as Chief Warrant Officers we pledged to a calling greater than us. Our main objective is to constantly improve the Coast Guard and raise the bar higher for our predecessors. During our CWO class tenure we acquired skill sets and practices that reinforced our leadership toolbox. The time is to act now in our positions, make each day great, strive for the best in all of us. Our actions are a true reflection of our character. We will rise together and the Coast Guard will epitomize the continuing pursuit of excellence.

CWO-PD 01-24

October 23—November 3, 2023



CWO Class 01-24 logged in the morning of Oct. 23 and got the opportunity to virtually introduce ourselves to our two instructors and 18 other classmates logging on from as far east as Boston, as far west as Alaska and numerous locations in between. After class we took advantage of the time to catch up on the course work furthering our knowledge of admin investigations and identifying how we could best change the service for the better through our staff study papers. During this week, we had the opportunity to get to know our respective teams via Teams meetings and group assignments, allowing our first close-knit networking opportunity.



Due to the class occurring during the fiscal year transition, some account codes were mixed up on the crosswalk document and we were concerned we wouldn't be able to travel to the academy for resident week, but Jaensen Lewis, our admin warrant came to the rescue and ensured that we all received the updated accounting codes for everyone to book their travel just in time to make our reservations.

We arrived in New London on Sunday, Oct. 29th and were greeted to the sauna of Munro Hall as they had just transitioned from A/C to heat. Once the petty officer at check in set up people's window fans, we got settled in and got the opportunity to meet our roommates and get our uniforms ready for our first in person day of class.

The weather was great at first, coming off an uncharacteristic heat wave, which quickly transitioned to winter by mid-week. Tuesday being Halloween, the class got to see lots of great costumes worn by the cadets all over campus.

The class took advantage of the camaraderie after class, visiting the casinos for a chance to win big and enjoy some good food and sea stories. Later in the week, the class changed up the venue and enjoyed some authentic New Haven-style pizza, nearly taking over the entire small restaurant.

The class makeup was quite diverse with 14 CWO specialties represented, four personnel from MSD Vicksburg, three people from various units in Alaska, two assignment officers, a CGIS agent and 25 percent of the public affairs (INF) warrants in the same room, affording an excellent opportunity to interact and learn from most other career fields that we rarely get to

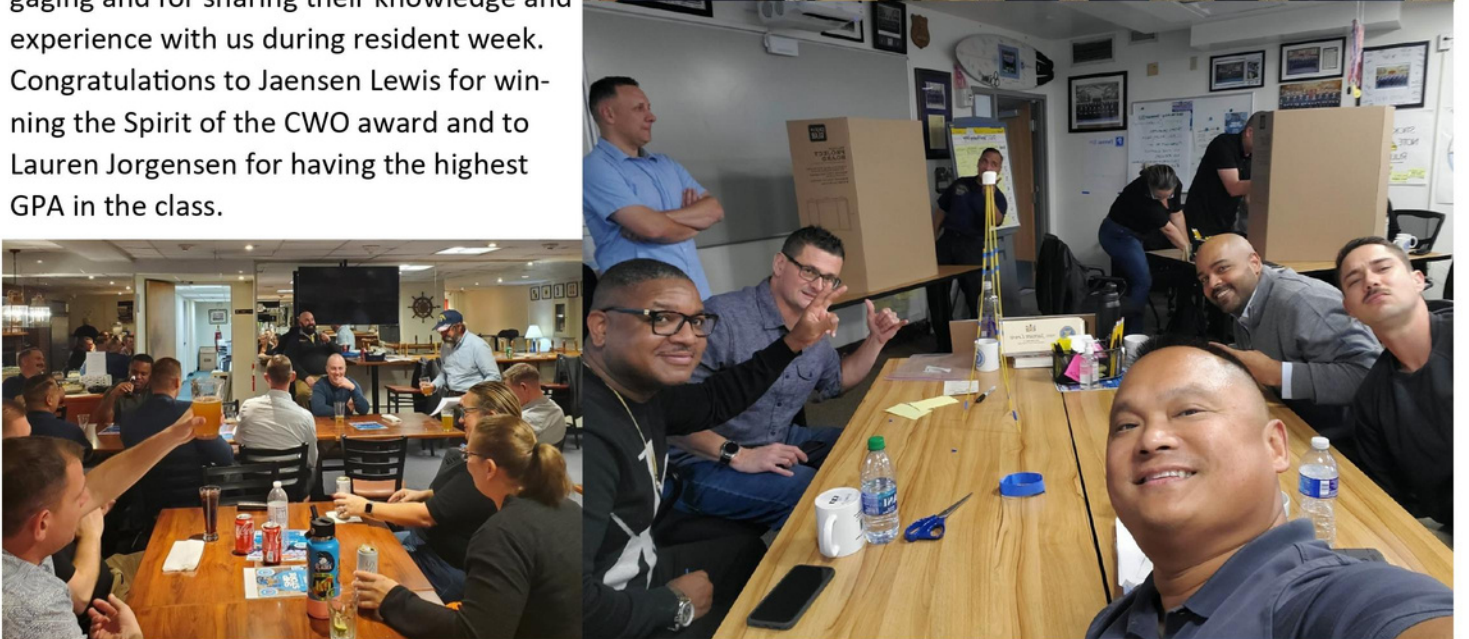




We took advantage of an opportunity to mentor a LAMS class during lunch Wednesday and the instructor invited a cadet he was mentoring to our service etiquette lunch, which was a great opportunity for both parties to learn from one another.

Overall, we had a great time, learned a lot and have greatly expanded our network of professionals to lean on when we need some advice or assistance in the future that we'll be able to take back to our ward-rooms throughout the nation.

A special thanks to our instructors, J-me Baldueza and Tony Morabito for doing a great job making virtual week fun and engaging and for sharing their knowledge and experience with us during resident week. Congratulations to Jaensen Lewis for winning the Spirit of the CWO award and to Lauren Jorgensen for having the highest GPA in the class.



CWOPD02-24



On 04 December 2023, 20 Chief Warrant Officers logged into the TEAMS virtual classroom and began framing the legacy of CWOPD Class 02-24. Surprisingly, classmates were seen participating in class on the beach, in high rise offices, and even from the North Pole! (Backgrounds). Important leadership principles were discussed as well as working together on projects within our newly established groups. We even got to hear the extremely rare calling of the elusive EagleBear.



Resident week started off in a whirlwind....literally. A Nor'easter came through and delayed some flights, but in true stellar Warrant Officer fashion, everyone showed up on Monday morning ready to learn and in proper uniform. Being authorized to stay on the economy made it easy for plentiful comradery found at many great local food favorites. Our Service Dress Bravo uniform inspection and class picture was held in the historic Henriques Room, where Coast Guard lore is muralled within. We studied our managerial personality profiles via DiSC and demonstrated fine dining etiquette, so we don't accidentally portray ourselves as "ninjas" or "assassins" within the Wardroom or at formal events. Lastly, we wrapped up the busy week of instruction by blowing off some steam at Foxwoods Resort & Casino

Upon graduation, we returned to our assigned units scattered throughout the nation with rejuvenated ambition and new requisite knowledge. Thank you to our phenomenal instructors CWO J-me Baldueza & CWO Tony Morabito, our inspirational class mentors CDR Scott Jones & CDR Justin Vandenheuval, and the entire LDC staff for your leadership, guidance, and laughs during our time at the Academy! Merry Christmas!



All of us have invested countless hours of hard work in our respective careers, and we take immense pride in our progress to reach where we are today. Over the past two weeks, we have had the invaluable opportunity to expand our knowledge, skills, attitudes, and abilities through a combination of learning sessions, self-awareness exercises, self-assessment activities, feedback mechanisms, and reflective practices. We have taken the time to reflect on the qualities that have driven us to where we are today and to delve into what constitutes an effective leader. We aspire to embody that ideal in our leadership style. Additionally, we have discussed the values that we hold as a collective and as individuals. It is crucial to embrace these values, put them into action, and continue to refine and help shape a better Coast Guard. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to CWO4 Jaime Balduenza and CWO3 Anthony Morabito for their unwavering dedication and all that they do.

CWOPD 03-24



Looking for A Real Estate Agent?

CWOA has Partnered with LAB Realty Group

LAB Realty is dedicated to providing members of CWOA and your friends and family a one of a kind concierge level service for all your real estate needs.

To learn more go to www.cwoauscg.org/realty



SECURING YOUR FUTURE:



CWOA Realty Benefit for Members

Are you dreaming about owning your own home? Or maybe you're looking to sell, or considering a real estate investment? As a member of the Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association (CWOA), you now have access to a new benefit that can help guide you on this exciting journey. We're proud to announce our partnership with LAB Realty Group, a trusted name in real estate with a deep-rooted commitment to serving military families.

LAB Realty Group was founded and continues to be operated by a Navy spouse and her family, and they've spent over 25 years helping veterans and their families navigate the real estate landscape. They offer a high level of expertise and deep understanding of the specific needs and challenges faced by those in our community. With their extensive experience and worldwide network of Realtors, you can make confident and informed real estate decisions. The team at LAB Realty Group is driven by core values that mirror our own – integrity, honor, and an unwavering dedication to service. They proudly support our Active Duty, Reserve, Retired and Veteran families, and are here to guide, mentor, and counsel you throughout the home buying or selling process.

Making significant financial decisions can be a daunting task, but LAB Realty Group is committed to providing trusted counsel, whether you're applying for a mortgage, seeking a local Realtor, or just starting to explore your options. With their support, you can feel empowered to make strategic and beneficial real estate decisions.

Our collaboration with LAB Realty Group is just another way we strive to enhance the benefits we offer to our members. By facilitating connections with professionals who understand and respect your service, we aim to assist you in securing not just America's future, but your own personal and financial future as well.

Don't wait – start exploring this new benefit today. Whether you're buying, selling, or investing, discover all the ways LAB Realty Group's network can support you and your real estate dreams.



2024 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ARTICLE IV: ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Section 1. GENERAL.

The Association shall have officers elected to advise and represent the membership, and to conduct the official business of the Association. The officers elected to serve the Association shall be paid annual salaries to be paid after each year of service. Officers who do not fulfill a term of office will receive a prorated amount.

Section 2. QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE.

- a. Only Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers, who are Regular Members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination to or hold the office of President and Vice President. If the President or Vice President is promoted to a grade higher than the rank of Chief Warrant officer, they shall be allowed to continue in the term of office to which elected, provided all other conditions of Article IV, Section 2.a. are met.
- b. Any regular member in good standing who is retired shall be eligible for nomination to or hold the office of Vice President of Retired Affairs.
- c. Any regular member in good standing who is a member of the Reserve component shall be eligible for nomination to or hold the office of Vice President of Reserve Affairs.
- d. Any Regular Member in good standing, shall be eligible for nomination to or hold the office of Secretary or Treasurer.
- e. Any Regular Member in good standing who is on active duty, shall be eligible for nomination to or hold the office of Vice President of Active Duty Affairs.
- f. The Executive Director of the Association shall not be eligible to run for any board of directors position within the CWOA due to conflict of interest.

Section 3. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

- a. Any member may volunteer for an office by submitting their name or the name of a member in good standing, to the President, through the association website, no later than 30 November of each calendar year. Nominees will have until 15 December to accept their nominations in order to be placed on the ballot.
- b. Ballots containing the names of the nominees shall be mailed to the membership for vote at least 60 days prior to the convening of the annual meeting.
- c. Ballots cast by the Association membership must be returned to the Association Executive Director no later than 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting, either by mailing in the ballot to the address provided, or by casting their vote on the Association website.

**Candidates on the ballot are listed In the order In
which they accepted their nomination.**

Candidates for President



CWO4 (OSS) Robert Resendes

A Vision for Our Future: My Candidacy for National President of the CWOA"

Introduction:

Hello, I am CWO4 Robert Carlos Resendes, but my shipmates call me Rob, and it is with great pride and a sense of duty that I announce my candidacy for the position of National President of the Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association, USCG. With over 25 years of dedicated service in the Coast Guard, I am eager to bring my experience, commitment, and vision to this esteemed role.

My Journey in the USCG:

My career in the Coast Guard has been a fulfilling journey of service and growth. From my early days as a Radarman to my current position as Command Security and Communications Officer at the USCG First District in Boston, each role has enriched my understanding of our organization's unique challenges and opportunities. As the current Greater Boston Chapter President, I have had the honor of leading our chapter with a focus on both professional development and community engagement.

Commitment to Service:

Community service has always been a cornerstone of my career. Initiatives like serving monthly meals at the New England Home for Vets and supporting the PS3 Ron Gill Jr. College Scholarship foundation are just a few examples of how I believe in giving back. My involvement in environmental projects like the Earth Day harbor walk and Save The Bay Rhode Island cleanup reflects my commitment to the broader societal and environmental wellbeing.

My Vision for CWOA:

As National President, I plan to focus on enhancing the role and recognition of Coast Guard Warrant Officers. I envision a CWOA that is a powerhouse of professional development, advocacy, and unity. My experience in security and communications positions me uniquely to lead our organization into a future where we are more connected, better represented, and strongly united in our mission and values.

Why I am Running:

I am running for National President because I believe in the power of our collective voice and the impact we can have. It's about advancing our professional abilities, fostering loyalty and devotion to the Coast Guard, and promoting unity and morale within our ranks. I am committed to making the CWOA an even more influential and supportive community for all our members.

Conclusion:

I am asking for your vote not just based on my past achievements, but on my vision for our future. Together, we can build an even stronger foundation for the CWOA, ensuring it continues to be a pivotal force in representing and supporting Coast Guard Warrant Officers.

Join me in shaping our future - Vote CWO4 Rob Resendes for National President of the CWOA.

Candidates for President



CWO2 (BOSN) Jim Koon

brings 25+ years of active-duty service in the U.S. Coast Guard. CWO Koon is currently stationed at SECTOR Southeast Alaska, serves as the CWOA Juneau Alaska Chapter President, and volunteers as a committee member for the CWOA Membership Committee. In 2011, he was selected as PSU 313's Enlisted Person of the Year and was nominated as Coastguardsman of the Year for the Navy Times.

CWO Koon is extremely passionate about the Coast Guard and the Chief Warrant Officer Corps. He is particularly focused on the unified efforts of the CWOA towards a larger purpose to encourage mutual interest and efficiency among Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers through closer association and greater activity in social and Service matters, thereby engendering an Esprit de Corps. He also views this purpose as a mechanism to support and cooperate with Coast Guard activities through giving back to the community and strengthening veteran affairs. As a unified front from the furthest individual unit to the highest national level, he believes that local Chapter efforts should echo the initiatives of the CWOA as a whole.

CWO Koon is no stranger to building both internal and external relationships and sponsorships with the CWOA. He has personally established strong working relationships with other service organizations such as Paws for Purple Hearts and the Chris Kyle Patriot Hospital (Anchorage, AK), and instituted a local sponsorship with Blue Cross/ Blue Shield (Northwest Region). He brings, passion, energy, experience, and a robust commitment to reinvigorating the traditional core purpose and meaning of the CWOA and will give nothing short of his best if chosen.

CWO Koon's first tour of duty was on the USS FORD with the Navy. His Coast Guard assignments include CGC ALERT, National Motor Lifeboat School, CGC POLAR STAR, STA Bellingham, Port Security Unit 313, Boat Forces Standardization Team, Boatswain's Mate "A" School, and Commanding Officer of STA Port O'Connor, TX.

Candidates for President



CWO4 (PERS) Randy Cornell

CWOA Past President, Distinguished Member

Commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer 2 on 30 Sept 1993. Retired as CWO4 1 May 2007 and now Reside in Cadillac Michigan since 2012. Association member for 30 years since 1 Nov 1993. Chapter affiliations, Norfolk Chapter, DC Chapter, Little Club on The Prarie (Topeka) Chapter President, current member of Open Country Chapter. Past President, and Distinguished Member

Association Offices held: Treasurer; Association President (2 1 yr terms); Vice President; Chapter President (Topeka); Secretary; Vice President Retired Affairs.

Committee's served on: Membership; Long Range Planning; Permanent Finance; Bylaws; Holiday Reception; Distinguished Membership; and Committee Chair to Remove a member from Association Roles.

Reason for seeking the Association President Office: Firstly it is an Honor to have been nominated as a candidate for the Office Association President; something I do not take lightly given that I am fully aware of the work and travel requirements of this esteemed position, having held it previously during two consecutive 1 year terms. During those terms the Association under my leadership, began to embrace change both in technology and in the coarse of doing business. We changed the terms of office to 2 years, split the election of office into alternating election periods to provide longevity and consistency among the BOD. I sought to add provisions for use of Email and Electronic Voting by members of the Executive Committee from the ByLaws Committee and: initiated a New Membership Incentive program in my second term as President. I also invited the CPOA President to attend as an Association Guest to the Annual Meeting.

During my term as Vice President we recommend Association adoption of Vice Presidents of Reserve, and Retired Affairs to the Board of Directors.

Our Association has grown significantly in the last 30 years. Our financial status has doubled, we have actively and assertively begun to operate fully as a Non Profot Agency and we are transitioning to full electronic delivery of all Association correspondence. We have opened restrictions of members holding Association Officer positions and added a Vice President of Active Duty Affairs under the current Presidents leadership.

We must now continue to pursue with advancements in technology as we move ahead. We must ensure a balanced approach in the implementation of automated business practices that both meet the needs of managing the Association and provides smooth transition for forwarding progress. We must carefully balance the movement to a more virtual reality with the duty and responsibilities for running in full compliance of the rules of a Non Profit Agency and supporting the Active Duty and Reserve membership first and increasing how and what we can do for our Retired members. Leaving none behind in the process. I have always said that Tradition is an honorable method, that is until it impedes progress. Now is the time for progressive action folks!

Candidates for Secretary

CWO4 (ELC) (Ret) Rodney Clark

CWOA Secretary



As I stand for re-election as your National Secretary, I reflect on my journey and reaffirm my dedication to our association. My service began in the United States Coast Guard in 1993, evolving through various roles, from a Fire Control Technician to an Electronics Material Officer, and eventually to teaching and curriculum development. My career, enriched by continuous learning and over 12 years of sea-time, has instilled in me a deep commitment to our values and mission.

In retirement, my engagement with the Chief Warrant Officers Association has not only continued but deepened. This association represents more than just a group of colleagues; it is a community where I find purpose in supporting our members and advancing our collective goals.

My life, shaped by over three decades of marriage and family, mirrors the values of support, resilience, and commitment that guide my desire to serve you again. I am committed to leveraging my experience, skills, and dedication to contribute to our association's success.

I seek your support for re-election, promising to serve with integrity, dedication, and a genuine commitment to our community's well-being and prosperity.

CWO2 (F&S) (Ret) James Pulse

Distinguished Member



JAMES C. PULSE, CWO₂ USCG (Ret.), candidate for BOD Secretary position. CWOA Life Member and CWOA Distinguished Member. Joined the Association 1 June 2004, and have 19 years as a member. During this period, I have attended at least 18 Annual and Executive Committee meetings.

Elected for 1 year as the CWOA New Orleans Chapter VP. Was transition by appointment to President for the next year. Elected as the CWOA New Orleans Chapter President for 15 years.

Have over 26 years' experience of using RONR in meetings in various organizations.

I have sat on the Membership At Large Representative Committee, three times on the Financial Audit Committee, Advertising Committee, twice on the Death Benefit Committee, Website Committee, Credit Card Use Committee, Awards Committee, CWOA Mobile Chapter - Colona Scholarship Committee, and chair on the PFC from 2016 through 2020.

My experience as a BOD Secretary started in 2017 at a small credit union, I maintained the records and documented the meetings for a total of 5 years in this position. I fully understand the requirements of the position and my past performance at the Association indicates that I am willing to complete the task necessary for the job.

Candidates for Vice President of Active Duty Affairs



CWO2 (BOSN) Melissa Polson

CWOA VP of Active Duty Affairs

CWO Melissa Polson assumed her current duties as First Lieutenant and Sail Master on board CGC EAGLE WIX-327 in June 2021. Her primary responsibilities aboard ship are to lead and supervise all sailing evolutions, as well as provide for the safety and maintenance of the rigging, deck equipment and small boats. Additionally, she serves as a Deck Watch Officer and Educational Services Officer.

CWO Polson's previous assignments include CGC WASHINGTON WPB-1331, CG STA Little Creek, a temporary separation into the Reserves and subsequent ADOS orders to the SFLC Small Boat Product Line.

She returned to active duty at CG STA South Padre Island with additional assignments to CGC EAGLE WIX-327, CG STA New London, Executive Petty Officer of CGC HERON WPB-87344 and CGC BLUEFIN WPB-87318 and as a Leadership and Management Instructor with the Coast Guard Leadership Development Center.

As the incumbent CWOA Vice President of Active Duty Affairs, she has been an active participant in representing the voice of our active duty members. In the last two years, she has attended CWO Professional Development Class graduations in New London, CT, provided supporting information to the Executive Committee on current affairs affecting the CWO corps, and engaged Coast Guard senior leadership for their support of the CWOA.

In 2024, CWO Polson will be transferring to the Boat Forces and Cutter Operations Doctrine Section at Training Center Yorktown, VA.



CWO2 (ELC) Chester Buohl

CWO Chester Buohl, a dedicated Information Assurance Liaison at C5ISC COMPL-ICS, is running for Vice President of Active Duty Affairs. With two years of experience as Vice President of the COAST GUARD CWOA NORFOLK DISTRICT CHAPTER, Buohl has been an integral part of several teams, including the C5I WARRANT OFFICERS Team and the CWOA NATIONAL ENLISTED AFFAIRS ADVISORY Team. His career is marked by a commitment to technological and leadership excellence, demonstrated through diverse assignments and significant contributions to the Coast Guard's IT and Incident Management Systems.

Buohl's leadership skills were honed through challenging deployments and roles, such as his instrumental work during the Deep Water Horizon incident and his achievements as a Master Training Specialist at USCG TRACEN PETALUMA IT A-SCHOOL, where he significantly improved certification rates and cost savings. His efforts in Hurricane Maria's recovery efforts and infrastructure improvements in Puerto Rico and the USVI showcase his ability to manage complex operations and enhance the Coast Guard's capabilities.

With a series of personal and unit awards recognizing his service, including Two Armed Forces Service Medals and Commendation Medals, Buohl's extensive experience and dedication make him a strong candidate for Vice President of Active Duty Affairs, ready to leverage his expertise for the benefit of active duty members.

Candidates for Vice President of Active Duty Affairs



CWO2 (MAT) William Stevenson

Chief Warrant Officer William Stevenson, USCG, is honored to be recommended and considered as a candidate for Vice President of Active-Duty Affairs within the Chief Warrant & Warrant Officer Association (CWOA). Joining the Coast Guard on in February 2007, his first assignment was to Sector San Francisco on YBI as a Fireman. Knowing that he wanted to pursue Damage Controlman (DC), he struck DC after hours and on the weekend. Upon advancing to DC3 on 01 April 2008, he received orders to CGC THETIS in Key West, FL. During his tour onboard he advanced and flected up to the DC2. In 2011, after completing a full tour on CGC THETIS he received orders to Naval Engineering Support Unit (NESU) Honolulu, HI as a DC2 while being above the cut for DC1.

While at NESU he advanced to DC1 and assumed the shop supervisor role for the remaining 3 years. In 2015 a new billet was brought online and offered to him at Sector Honolulu, HI as an independent duty DC1. Following the completion of a successful and challenging tour in 2019, he was selected as the first Special Assignment Non-Rate Assignment Officer at Enlisted Personnel Management-2 (EPM2) at Coast Guard Headquarters. After reporting to EPM-2 he decided to compete for MAT CWO while still waiting to hear if selected for Chief Petty Officer. In 2020 he found out he was above the cut for CWO, after discussion with his family he decided to take appointment to CWO as well as orders to Air Station Clearwater, FL.

In 2021 he reported to Air Station Clearwater (ASCW) to begin his journey and career as a Chief Warrant Officer. Following his commission, he immediately joined the CWOA and began to educate himself on the history and meaning of the CWOA. Soon after reporting to ASCW, he attended the Sun Coast Chapter CWOA meeting and began to get involved. During the following meeting the local chapter voted him in as the new sitting Chapter President, a position he has now held for two years. His dedication is not just tied to his chapter as he has been a member of the 2022 By-Laws Committee and is currently sitting on the Scholarship Committee, Membership Committee, and Active-Duty Affairs Policy Committee.

His Coast Guard career would not be possible with out the support of his family, he has been married to his wife, Paula, for 21 years. They were blessed with 03 beautiful children, Collin (20) who is currently serving on the CGC MIDGETT as a CS3, Aidan (14) and Paige (7). His goal if appointed to Vice President of Active-Duty Affairs is to continue to bring crucial concerns of current and future CWO's to the Association with the goal of Senior CG or Congressional engagement to validate and respond. appreciate your time and God Bless.

Candidates for Vice President of Retired Affairs



CWO4 (WEPS) Mark Cortor **CWOA Past President**

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 our former President of the 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 (2022 - present), Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, committee member of the Retired Affairs Policy Committee.

He has formerly served as Chairman to the 100 Anniversary Committee (2021-22), Long Range Planning Committee (2022-23), 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, a Kentucky Colonel and active member of the Cpl Chris S. Ebert Marine Corps League Detachment #1221 in Forest City, NC.

The roles of our CWOA Vice President of Retired Affairs has been limited to advising the CWOA BOD of retired issues, while also communicating with our retired CWOA members. While Mark feels those are still very important to our Association, he also believes a renewed emphasis of the CWOA VP of Retired Affairs (Chairman of the Retired Policy Committee) should be more engaging with legislative actions on Capital Hill on behalf of our retired members, along with his fellow Board of Directors members (VP of Active Duty Affairs & VP of Reserve Affairs) as to expand our organization influence in Congress.

Candidates for Vice President of Retired Affairs



CWO4 (ELC) William “Izzy” Iozzino Distinguished Member

Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Iozzino, USCG (Ret.), with a commendable service record from 1989 to 2019 in the U.S. Coast Guard, is a venerable candidate for Vice President of Retired Affairs within the Chief Warrant & Warrant Officer Association (CWOA). His journey as a Warrant Officer, which began on June 1st, 2005, coincided with his initiation into the CWOA, demonstrating his dedication to the association from the very start.

In 2009, CWO Iozzino further committed to the CWOA by becoming a Life Member, a step that underscored his long-term dedication to the community.

His progression in the organization is notable, having served as Vice President and then President of the Steven Shields Chapter from 2013 to 2015. He also held significant roles in governance as the Bylaws Committee Chairman from 2014 to 2021 and as a member of the Permanent Finance Committee from 2021 to 2022, showcasing his expertise in financial and organizational matters.

Additionally, CWO Iozzino's involvement in the Death Gratuity Fund Committee and the Retired Affairs Committee underlines his ongoing commitment to the well-being of his fellow warrant officers. These roles, along with his participation on the Motions Committee from 2018 to 2019 and his significant contributions to the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee from 2019 to 2021, highlight his dedication to the CWOA's legacy and its future direction.

In 2022, CWO Iozzino pioneered new pathways in the organization by becoming President and plank owner of the Open Country Chapter, the CWOA's first and only virtual chapter, emphasizing modern approaches to community engagement.

After a distinguished 30-year service in the Coast Guard, culminating in his retirement in 2019, CWO Iozzino was honored as a Distinguished Member of the CWOA in 2021. Currently residing in Callahan, FL, with his fiancée Jennifer, he embodies the ethos of service and leadership. His candidacy for Vice President of Retired Affairs is marked by integrity, experience, and a deep-rooted passion for the welfare and representation of retired and all warrant officers.

In summary, CWO Iozzino, with his background and dedication, is an ideal candidate for the position of Vice President of Retired Affairs within the Chief Warrant & Warrant Officer Association (CWOA). His commitment to advocacy will ensure the needs and interests of retired officers are well-represented at all levels. Drawing from his diverse experience within the CWOA, CWO Iozzino is poised to address the concerns of retired warrant officers effectively and to spearhead the development of programs that enhance their well-being. He places a strong emphasis on cultivating the community bonds that are crucial for a seamless transition to post-service life. In aiming to leave a lasting legacy within the CWOA, his contributions will shape how retired warrant officers are supported, honoring his commitment to service and the community he holds in high esteem.

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CWOA
C/O Michael Little
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2024 Election of Officers Ballot

Full Name _____

Member ID _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Chapter Affiliation _____

Duty Status _____

Article IV, Section 3, c.:

Ballots cast by the Association membership must be returned to the Association Executive Director no later than 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting, either by mailing in the ballot to the address provided, or by casting their vote on the Association website.

CWOA President

(Vote for 1 candidate)

- CWO4 Robert Resendes
- CWO2 Jim Koon
- CWO4 (Ret) Randy Cornell, PP DM

CWOA Secretary

(Vote for 1 candidate)

- CWO4 (Ret) Rodney Clark
- CWO2 (Ret) James Pulse, DM

CWOA Vice-President of

Active Duty Affairs

(Vote for 1 candidate)

- CWO2 Melissa Polson
- CWO2 Chester Buohl
- CWO2 William Stevenson

CWOA Vice-President of

Retired Affairs

(Vote for 1 candidate)

- CWO4 (Ret) Mark Cortor, PP
- CWO4 (Ret) Will "Izzy" Iozzino, DM

To cast or vote online
scan this QR Code



Vote online at the following link:
<https://www.cwoauscg.org/2024electionofofficers>

**No Ballots will be accepted after
May 1, 2024**

To cast your vote by mail remove
this page and send it back to the
address on the back side.

CWOA
C/O Michael Little
145 Cherry Circle
Groton, CT 06340

Welcome Aboard To Our New Members!

CWO Member

LT (COMM) William Mannone
CWO2 (BOSN) Karen Sinkey
CWO2 (BOSN) Luke Hittner
CWO2 (ENG) Roberto Dilan
CWO2 (MSSR) Andrew Christopherson
CWO2 (MSSE) Taylor Hatke
CWO3 (AVI) Cletus Milan
CWO2 (ISM) Matthew Cole
CWO2 (F&S) Jesse Williams
CWO2 (WEPS) Michael Hall
LCDR (ENG) Roderick Stroud
CWO2 (BOSN) Jeremy Shaffer
CWO2 (MAT) Christopher Imgarten
CWO2 (ENG) Adam Brown
CWO3 (ELC) Christopher Oldani
CWO2 (ENG) Matt Temple
CWO2 (ENG) James Wacker
CWO2 (MLES) James Simmons
CWO2 (ENG) Anthony Sayward
CWO2 (BOSN) JAMES COLEMAN
CWO2 (F&S) Elizabeth Meister
CWO4 (PERS) Kevin Murphy
CWO2 (BOSN) Colt Fairchild
CWO2 (F&S) Nicholas Wernicke
CWO2 (INV) Kelly Brockett
CWO2 (ENG) JAMES WACKER
CWO2 (F&S) Javier Pagan Pagan
CWO2 (INV) Robyn Griffith
CWO Rebecca Murray
CWO2 (ENG) Nathan Damon
CWO2 (ENG) Joseph Lopez
CWO2 (ENG) Matthew Ladnier
CWO3 (BOSN) Gregory Shriver
CWO2 (BOSN) Jason Latiolais
CWO Sabrina McGee
CWO2 (ISM) Travis Loring
CWO2 (MED) Jana Bevill
CWO2 (OSS) Rebecca Templeton
CWO2 (MSSD) Kristofer Schaus
CWO2 (OSS) Bobbi East
CWO3 (PERS) Anthony Garcia
CWO2 (ENG) Javier Carpio
CWO2 (MSSR) Duskin Deichl
CWO2 (PERS) Leanna Jordan
CWO3 (ELC) Jina Ho-Waller
CWO2 (AVI) Travis Marsh
CWO Amelia Ponce
CWO2 (BOSN) Joshua Pool
CWO2 (MSSR) Michael Walker
CWO2 (INF) Sara Muir
CWO2 (INV) Jose Goncalves
CWO2 (BOSN) Timmy Troyer
CWO3 (MSSE) Patrick Cunningham
CWO2 (ISM) Travis Long

Sponsored By:

CWOA
LT Russo
CWO Peter Lewis
Michael Link CWO-3
Andrew Schmitt
Jaime Balduenza
CWO2 (MAT) William Stevenson
Chester Buohl
CWO Brandi Ingram
David Quigley
CWOA
CWOA
Anthony Ciurlino
Jamie Balduenza
CWO Jenn Thompson
CWO Bob White
CWO4 Matt Palace
MLES3 John P Ragan
CWO Melissa Polson
CWOA
Faivre, Dan
CWOA
CWOA
Chris Corbett
CWO4 Jaime Balduenza
MATTHEW PALACE
CWO3 Seth E. Endter
CWOA
CWOA
CWO Jaime Balduenza
Terry Harmon
Lance Hufford
CWOA
CWOA
CWOA
Jared Heintz
Caitlin Fleming
CWO2 Matt Regele
Jaime Balduenza
Scott Leazott
CWO4 Jamie Balduenza
ENS Josh King
Giancarlo Vidal, CWO3
LT Jaimee Richter
Jina Ho-Waller
CWO3 Barb Ogo
CWOA
James Carew
Matt Foster
CWO4 Henry Wong
Daniel Negron
LT James Hockler
Matt Foster
Chester Buohl

CWOA Chapter

CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Pacific Northwest Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Great Lakes Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Suncoast Chapter
CWOA Norfolk Chapter
CWOA New Orleans Chapter
CWOA Golden Gate Chapter
CWOA Norfolk Chapter
CWOA New Orleans Chapter
CWOA Pacific Northwest Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Golden Gate Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Washington DC Chapter
CWOA Long Island Sound Chapter
CWOA Mid Pacific Chapter
CWOA Pacific Northwest Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Washington DC Chapter
CWOA Great Lakes Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Golden Gate Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Greater Miami Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Baltimore Chapter
CWOA Pacific Northwest Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Greater Mobile Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Pacific Northwest Chapter
CWOA Greater Mobile Chapter
CWOA Norfolk Chapter
CWOA Mid Pacific Chapter
CWOA Pacific Northwest Chapter
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Republic of Texas (Houston)
CWOA Guam Chapter (exploratory)
CWOA Member-At-Large
CWOA Low Country
CWOA Republic of Texas (Houston)
CWOA Member-At-Large

CWO Association, USCG
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