

Military Order of the World Wars



Chapter 151 Region XIII MARCH 2026 Newsletter



COMMANDER'S REMARKS (MARCH 2026)

Greetings Companions!!

We had a wonderful Membership meeting Saturday 21st of February. The First Responder focused meeting featured Commander Rafael Chanza, the Deputy Chief of the Colorado Springs Police Department. His presentation was very informative, addressing crime trends, the immigrant issue, cooperation with other law enforcement agencies and how we can support the police. We learned how to access up to date crime statistics and information at the CSPD website. He noted that Colorado Springs is very supportive of the police, and he appreciates that. We will continue to support CSPD to the extent possible.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 21st. Our speaker will be our past commander, Kerm Neal, with an update on the Scouting program. This promises to be an interesting presentation! Please plan to attend and invite others to attend.

Applications are now open for this year's Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference, our flagship program. The Conference will be held from 15-19 June at CSU Pueblo. The focus is on rising High School Seniors (this year's juniors), and exceptional rising Juniors. More information is available at: [The Conference - Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Foundation Inc](#), where you will also find an application. Applications go through guidance counselors or JROTC instructors at the student's school. Homeschoolers can apply directly to the Registrar. As of 23 February, we only have 14 students who have applied, and our goal is to have 100 students at the Conference. Please get the word out! Also, if you would like to help with the coordination or execution of the Conference, please let me know.

A reminder for you to consider contributing financially to our chapter which relies on contributions to sustain our efforts. If you are able and willing to help us, you can find a pledge form attached to this newsletter and on the link at our website: [cos-moww-pledge.pdf](#). You can contribute to a specific program area or to the general fund. I assure you that we are good stewards of our funds!

Another reminder is that we are always looking for new members! Our goal this year from National is six new members, of which we have only enrolled two. Remember also that membership is now open to all ranks! Please consider who you can invite to attend meetings and join our worthwhile organization! Here is the link to the membership application on our website: [moww-membership.pdf](#)

Finally, we are looking for ways our Chapter can better serve you, our members. Please let us know your ideas for how to improve our service for you and our community.

Thank you again for the honor and privilege of being your commander and thank you all for your service!

Steve

sashambach@gmail.com

(719)447-5505

It is nobler to serve than to be served.

STAFF MEETING (15 FEBRUARY 2026)

TREASURER’S REPORT INFORMATION

The following tables depict the Chapter’s financial status as of 1 February 2026.

Account	Balances
CDs:	\$13,711.63
Savings:	\$104.84
Checking:	\$3,835.34
Reserved:	\$2,060.29
Total:	\$19,712.10

SG5 Obtain financial resources to fulfill Order’s mission.	Regular solicitation of donations from Chapter Companions. Contact Mike Berendt if you have any questions concerning donations or other opportunities for Chapter fundraiser.
SG6 Increase number of chapters and strengthen existing chapters.	Contact anyone on Staff if you would like to volunteer your skills or suggestions for meeting this SG (i.e., strengthen recruiting, Chapter social media presence, Chapter branding, etc.

CHAPTER ACTION PLAN (CAP)	
Strategic Goal (SG) Current	Initiative
SG1 Outreach – Consistent impactful outreach programs and activities.	Contact any Staff member if you have any suggestions on meeting SG-1.
SG2 Strategic Partnerships -	Engage with other veteran organizations to establish strategic partnerships. Contact Steve Shambach with any suggestions on meeting SG-2. In Progress.
SG3 Maximize Visibility	Chapter committed to participate in Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade. Contact Staff if you have any suggestions for how Chapter can meet this objective.
SG4 Annually grow engaged and sustainable MOWW membership.	Chapter recruiting goal for OY25-26 is six Companions. Please contact Mark Ellis if you have any prospective candidates.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING
The next MOWW lunch meeting is on Saturday, 21 March 2026. Col Kerm Neal, USAF (Ret) and Former Chapter Commander, will be our guest speaker, providing an update on the Scouting program. Reservations required. RSVP to LTC Berendt, berendt478@aol.com, (410) 908-6777 NLT 18 Mar 2026.

Looking ahead: APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, NORAD/NORTHCOM UPDATE
Save the date for our upcoming MOWW lunch meeting on Saturday, 18 April 2026. LTC Nathan Watanabe (Army, ret) will be our guest speaker, providing an update on NORADS/NORTHCOM plans. He is an Adjunct Professor of Homeland Security at Colorado State University-Pueblo and is currently a Strategic Campaign Planner and Deputy Branch Chief at the North American Aerospace Defense Command and US Northern Command (NORAD and USNORTHCOM), Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. Reservations required. RSVP to LTC Berendt, berendt478@aol.com, (410) 908-6777 NLT 15 April 2026.

Lt Col Adam D. Ackerman, USAF; 2nd Lt Kristy M. Katein-Taylor, USAF; LTC William D. Linn II, USA (Ret); Maj Leroy H. Pedone, USAF (Ret); Maj David K. Ritterling, USAF (Fmr); 1LT William T. Shambach, USAR;

VIETNAM WAR 50th ANNIVERSARY

The 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War was widely commemorated on March 29, 2023, marking 50 years since the final departure of U.S. combat troops in 1973. From 2021 through 2025, there was a recognition ceremony sponsored by the VA. This year a number of veterans organizations continue this commemoration to remember those involved, both past and present. This year's ceremony will be at the Colorado Springs Veterans Memorial, Memorial Park on 29 March 2026 at 2 PM.

Volunteer Opportunities

Companions consider volunteering for the following Chapter vacancies for OY25-26

- Historian
- Marshall
- Chaplain
- Public Relations Officer
- National Security Chair
- Veterans Affairs Chair



First Responder at our February monthly Companions Luncheon

We were honored to have Commander Rafael Chanza, Deputy Chief of the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) as our featured speaker. His presentation was very informative, addressing crime trends, immigrant issues, and cooperation with other law enforcement agencies. He also provided recommendations on how we can support our local police force. An Army veteran himself, Commander Chanza noted that major crime in Colorado Springs has decreased by 50%, largely due to an increase in staffing and additional police academy classes training high quality law enforcement officers. We are fortunate to have dedicated First Responders like Commander Chanza and the CSPD professionals who keep us safe each day.

FEBRUARY COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

LTC Gordon W. Crom, USA (Ret); COL James A. Mundt, USA(Ret); Mr. Kobe R. Neal; Mrs. Kimberly J. Neel; COL George E. Reed, USA (Ret)

MARCH COMPANION BIRTHDAYS

PREAMBLE

- To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
- To promote and further patriotic education in our Nation;

Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the Armed Forces;
To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of National Security for the United States of America;
To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;
And to transmit all these ideals to posterity, under God and for our Country, we unite to establish The Military Order of the World Wars.

[Link to MOWW Preamble](#)

Chapter Website: www.cos_moww.org



MOWW Membership Application

Please use this link to submit an electronic application: <https://moww.org/become-a-companion/>.

Please see Staff for paper membership application or this link to print your own application:

<https://moww.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/MembershipApplication-MOWW-1.pdf>



CONTRIBUTION OR PLEDGE

Yes, I am making a tax-deductible contribution or pledge to the Colorado Springs Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____to the Patriotic Education Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____to the ROTC Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____to the Boy and Girl Scout Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____to the Law & Order Fund.

I wish to contribute or pledge \$_____to the Operations Fund (postage, bulletin, directory, recognition programs – plaques, medals, etc.)

Name

Please make checks payable to Colorado Springs Chapter, MOWW Send to: LTC Mike Berendt (USA, Ret)
1230 Bowstring Road Monument, CO 80132