

CWOA PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE



“CWOA By-Laws

Article VII: Voting

Section 2. VOTING PROCEDURE ON CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

b. When the proposals for changes to the Constitution and Bylaws are submitted by the Bylaws Committee the Executive Committee shall determine whether or not the proposed changes are to be submitted to the Association membership for ratification. “

At the 2024 CWOA Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee approved the following changes to be sent to the General Membership for a vote.

MSSR3 Michael J. Goglia, MEP, USCG

Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association,
USCG c/o Michael Little
145 Cherry Circle.
Groton, CT 06340

Report of the Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee (BLC) comprised of CWO3 Michael Goglia, USCG, as Chairman, committee members CWO JT Green (Ret.) - Distinguished Member, CWO Dale Harrison, CWO Dean Johnston, CWO Jeff Timberlake (Ret.), and CWO Ian Gable reviewed the proposed By-Laws changes in enclosure 1. These proposed changes represent two significant shifts in association business management. These are streamlining annual National CWOA business administration functions to improve efficiency, and properly aligning chapter membership voting in order to improve work productivity, bolster chapter experience, and capability that foster senior leadership representation within the individual chapters. The following discussion points provide the reasoning as agreed upon by the Bylaws Committee membership:

Re-alignment of Membership Voting: The Distinguished Member is defined as Association members who “have distinguished themselves through untiring efforts and devotion to the precepts stated in the preamble to the Constitution of the Association and have made significant contributions to the goals of the Association. Article II further provides that in recognition of distinguished leadership that the honor and title of Distinguished Member may be conferred on those individuals”. While the efforts of these incredible individuals are greatly valued and appreciated by the association, this recognition by definition does not authorize, require, nor should permit the Distinguished Members have the ability to be afforded a vote equivalent to the Executive Committee representatives, outside their individual chapters. This creates inequity in the voting process and circumvents the intent of the Executive Committee construct to ensure the individual chapter leadership are driving the organization’s way forward in concert with the President, Vice President, and Board of Directors. The Distinguished Members’ role is to bring all of the amazing pride, ownership, and association commitment they have been recognized for to help lead and grow their local chapters. Their breadth of experience serves well in continuing to mentor the new CWOs entering leadership roles within their chapters. Distinguished Members shall have the right to vote on the next generation of proposed Distinguished members, for they understand the intricate criteria for which a member is selected for this prestigious recognition. These proposed changes also focus on providing clearer and more streamlined timeframes associated with the Distinguished Member voting process to ensure enough allotted time and flexibility is provided to ensure a thorough vetting process is completed, and the association can celebrate their incredible achievements, upon selection, at the annual association meeting.

Mailing requirements: Please note the changes proposed changes focused on mailing requirements. It is imperative that in 2024, the National CWOA Association members can conduct business efficiently and effectively by leveraging, e-mail, the association website, meeting software, and document sharing technology. Additionally, as good stewards of association funding, the organization members must also look for ways to conserve wasteful spending that can be better allocated for association mission efforts. These proposed changes alleviate the Executive Director and CWOA leadership from having to spend funds sending printed mailing to every member of the association unless that member specifically elects to only receive such post mail. The CWOA will continue to provide that service on this elected case by case basis.

Quorum Meeting requirements: Please note the simple change associated with Quorum of the Executive Committee. The Bylaws Committee has removed the "Vote on an Issue" and put "be present in order". The requirement to vote on an issue to define a Quorum doesn't make any administrative process sense. Rather the committee recommends just ensuring that over half of the Executive Committee is present to ensure an effective Quorum exists that represents an adequate number of appointed association leadership to decide on a vote.

The Bylaws Committee membership votes on each of these proposed changes were unanimous. The Committee stands by to support any questions or concerns the Association Membership may have. As we look towards the bright future of this organization, these proposed realignment efforts will help ensure an improved business management process is in place that is effective, efficient, transparent, and equitable.

Very Respectfully,

Michael J. Goglia, CWO3 USCG

Chairman

Encl 1: Proposed USCG Chief Warrant Officer's Association Bylaws changes

Change # 1 Membership Types

The CWOA by-laws currently read:

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP TYPES.

b.DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS.

1.Distinguished members shall enjoy the rights, privileges and benefits of Regular members. In addition, Distinguished members, when present at the Annual Meeting, are entitled to vote on all matters appearing before the Executive Committee. The distinguished member shall enjoy lifetime dues free membership, effective on the first day of the month following election, without regard to any subsequent change in status as a chief warrant officer or warrant officer of the United States Coast Guard.

2.Nomination of a member for distinguished membership may be made by any regular member of the Association and must be made in writing to the President of the Association. The letter of nomination shall contain sufficient information on the activities of the nominee to permit a special committee to exercise sound judgment on the acceptance or rejection of the nomination. All letters of nomination received by the President of the Association not later than 1 February will be considered that calendar year. Nominations received after 1 February will be considered the following year. Letters of nomination for distinguished membership shall be referred to the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall assure that the nominee is in good standing and shall return the letter of nomination to the President of the Association with a statement of offices held and committees in which the nominee participated in either the Association or chapters.

3.Before 1 March each year, the Association shall advise each chapter of the nominations for distinguished membership.

4.During the Annual Meeting, the President of the Association shall chair a special committee, consisting of the Association officers, presidents of the Chapters (or their designated representative), and distinguished members present. This special committee shall elect or reject the recommended nominees for distinguished membership. Election shall be by an affirmative vote of 75 percent of the special committee in attendance.

Change # 1 Membership Types

The CWOA proposed by-laws would read:

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP TYPES.

b.DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS.

1. Distinguished members shall enjoy the rights, privileges and benefits of Regular members. In addition, Distinguished members, are entitled to vote on all nominations of new Distinguished Members. The distinguished member shall enjoy lifetime dues free membership, effective on the first day of the month following election, without regard to any subsequent change in status as a Chief Warrant Officer or Warrant Officer of the United States Coast Guard.
2. Nomination of a member for distinguished membership may be made by any regular member of the Association and must be made in writing to the President of the Association. The letter of nomination shall contain sufficient information on the activities of the nominee to permit a special committee to exercise sound judgment on the acceptance or rejection of the nomination. All letters of nomination received by the President of the Association not later than 30 November will be considered that fiscal year. Nominations received after 30 November will be considered the following fiscal year. Letters of nomination for distinguished membership shall be referred to the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall assure that the nominee is in good standing and shall return the letter of nomination to the President of the Association with a statement of offices held and committees in which the nominee participated in either the Association or chapters.
3. The Association shall advise each chapter of the nominations for distinguished membership 30 days prior to the 3rd Quarter Membership Meeting.
4. During the 3rd Quarter Membership Meeting, the President of the Association shall chair a special committee, consisting of the Association officers, presidents of the Chapters (or their designated representative), and distinguished members. This special committee shall elect or reject the recommended nominees for distinguished membership. Election shall be by an affirmative vote of 75 percent of the special committee in attendance.

Change # 2 Election of Officers

The CWOA by-laws currently read:

ARTICLE IV: ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Section 3. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

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.

Change # 2 Election of Officers

The CWOA proposed by-laws would read:

ARTICLE IV: ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Section 3. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

b. Ballots containing the names of the nominees shall be delivered to the membership for vote at least 60 days prior to the convening of the annual meeting.

Change # 3 Annual Meeting

The CWOA by-laws currently read:

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 2. ANNUAL MEETING.

- a. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held during April or May for the primary purpose of installing the Association officers, considering new Distinguished Members, announcing scholarship recipients, and addressing major Association issues.
- b. Distinguished members, when present at the Annual Meeting, are entitled to vote on all matters appearing before the Executive Committee.

Section 5. QUORUM REQUIRED FOR MEETINGS.

- c. At least one-half of the members of the Executive Committee must vote on an issue to constitute a quorum.

Change # 3 Annual Meeting

The CWOA proposed by-laws would read:

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 2. ANNUAL MEETING.

- a. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held during the CWOA 4th Quarter of each year, for the primary purpose of installing the Association officers, recognizing Distinguished Members, announcing scholarship recipients, address Association issues, and developing additional programs suitable to the needs of our Active, Reserve and Retired Chief Warrant Officers.

Section 5. QUORUM REQUIRED FOR MEETINGS.

- c. At least one-half of the members of the Executive Committee must be present in order to constitute a quorum.

Change # 4 Voting on By-Laws

The CWOA by-laws currently read:

ARTICLE VII: VOTING

Section 2. VOTING PROCEDURE ON CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

c. Ballots shall be mailed at least 60 days prior to or made available for electronic voting at least 30 days prior to the date set for the balloting. Instructions for balloting will be on the ballot or enclosed therewith, and ballots cast shall be returned to the address provided on the ballot.

Change # 4 Voting on By-Laws

The CWOA proposed by-laws would read:

ARTICLE VII: VOTING

Section 2. VOTING PROCEDURE ON CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

c. Ballots shall be made available for voting at least 60 days prior to the date set for the balloting. Instructions for balloting will be on the ballot or enclosed therewith.

Change # 5 Furnishing Changes

The CWOA by-laws currently read:

ARTICLE VII: VOTING

Section 4. MEMBERSHIP TO BE FURNISHED AMENDMENTS.

Copies of adopted amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be provided to members not later than 60 days after adoption.

Change # 5 Furnishing Changes

The CWOA proposed by-laws would read:

ARTICLE VII: VOTING

Section 4. MEMBERSHIP TO BE FURNISHED AMENDMENTS.

Copies of adopted amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be published no later than 60 days after adoption, on the association website, and included in the next available edition of the CWOA Newsletter.

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO BY-LAWS CHANGE TO REVOKE DISTINGUISHED MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTING RIGHTS

I urge you to vote NO on the proposed by-laws change, revoking the right of distinguished members to vote on the executive committee. This by-laws change solves a nonexistent problem. There is not a single instance in which distinguished members' votes changed the outcome. At most, four distinguished members attend the annual meeting, and most pay for their own travel and lodging. This small number is certainly not going to overwhelm the vote.

This proposed by-laws change is about respect. Our Association has only 27 distinguished members; seven are over age 80, and three are over 90. These elder statesmen were there in the very early years of our Association. They have dedicated numerous hours to the CWOA, and have seen the Association grow and decline over the years. Rather than cast their experience overboard, we should be learning from it.

This proposed by-laws change will accomplish just one thing: It will send a clear and ugly message to these elder leaders that their vote is not valued, and no longer counts. Let's not alienate and insult our most senior and distinguished members, while at the same time accomplishing nothing, and solving a nonexistent problem. I urge you to VOTE NO.

Michael J. Fissette, CWO4, USCG (Ret.)
Past President and Distinguished Member

By-Laws Change Voting Ballot

Full Name _____

Member ID _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Chapter Affiliation _____

Duty Status _____

By-Laws: ARTICLE VII: VOTING

Section 2. VOTING PROCEDURE ON CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

d: Each proposed change to the bylaws will specify the date the change will be effective, if approved by the membership. If no effective date is specified on the ballot and the membership approves the change to the Bylaws, then it will become effective on the date the ballots have been tallied and a written report has been received by the Executive Committee.

Change 1: Membership Types

Yes, I approve of the change

No, I oppose the change

Change 2: Election of Officers

Yes, I approve of the change

No, I oppose the change

Change 3: Annual Meeting

Yes, I approve of the change

No, I oppose the change

Change 4: Voting on By-Laws

Yes, I approve of the change

No, I oppose the change

Change 5: Furnishing Changes

Yes, I approve of the change

No, I oppose the change

To cast or vote online
scan this QR Code



Vote online at the following link:
<https://www.cwoauscg.org/bylawsballot2024>

**Ballots must be recieved by
September 15, 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

Put Tape Here

Fold Here

Add
Postage
Here

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C/O Michael Little
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Put Tape Here