

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



BY-LAWS

(DRAFT - 2009 - DRAFT)

Preamble

Ever mindful of:

- * the traditions, duties, and purpose of the United States Coast Guard;
- * our duty to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- * our responsibility to assist and save distressed seamen and others;
- * our responsibility in the enforcement of the laws of our country, and

Believing that through Association and mutual acquaintance, the Chief Petty Officers of the United States Coast Guard may:

- * best advance their professional abilities;
- * enhance their value, loyalty and devotion to God, Country and service in which they serve;
- * promote its unity and morale, domestically and militarily, through responsible leadership.

Motto

“In respect for those who have gone before us.....
And as a guide for those who follow. ”

Purpose

The United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association is unique among service organizations in that it was created by the Chiefs, of the Chiefs, and for the Chiefs of the United States Coast Guard.

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In believing that through Association and mutual acquaintance, the Chief Petty Officers of the United States Coast Guard may:

- * best advance their professional abilities;
- * enhance their value, loyalty and devotion to God, country and service in which they serve;
- * promote its unity and morale, domestically and militarily, through responsible leadership;
- * assist members and dependents in urgent need of assistance;
- * assist in recruiting for the Coast Guard;
- * support the aims and goals of the CPO Academy;
- * assemble for social amenities;
- * become involved in community affairs;
- * promote social programs for those in need; and
- * keep informed of Coast Guard matters.

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BY-LAWS

SECTION I

Parliamentary Authority

1. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the Parliamentary Authority.
2. The President's Call to Convention shall designate the revision to be used.
3. The President shall appoint a Parliamentarian.

SECTION II

Governing Body

1. The National Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Association vested with the management of the affairs of the Association, and shall consist of the National Officers and three elected Regional Advisors. The term of office for the Board shall not exceed 3 years or until a successor is elected.

SECTION III

National Officers

1. The National Officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SECTION IV

Elections

1. The Association shall hold elections.

SECTION V

Meetings

1. The Association shall hold an Annual Meeting or Convention each year.

SECTION VI

Executive Director (ED)

1. The Association shall have a salaried Executive Director.

SECTION VII

Organization

1. **Membership**

- a. **Regular membership** – All persons who have successfully held the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard. (Eligibility is effective the date of advancement or frocking). A member in Good Standing is a Gold or Silver Lifetime Member, or is a Regular member who is paying the current dues established by the BOD.
- b. **Associate Membership** – All persons who have successfully held the rank of E-7 in any of the other United States Armed Forces. Associate members shall not hold any elective office.
- c. **Honorary Membership** – Persons not eligible for membership, who have rendered distinguished service to the Association may be awarded an honorary membership. Honorary members shall not be eligible to hold office, vote, or pay membership dues.
 - (1) National honorary membership nominations may be submitted to the BOD.
 - (2) Chapters may award honorary memberships.
- d. **Silver Lifetime Membership** – Any Regular or Associate Member may purchase a Silver Lifetime membership. A Silver Lifetime Fund is established to provide a financial account where interest generated would provide the dues for members who purchased this membership. The interest only from this fund will be transferred, as accrued, to the general organization funds. The interest amount will be used to offset the annual budget. Members who purchase Silver Lifetime Membership will not be authorized a return of their funds for any reason.
- e. **Gold Lifetime Membership** – Any E-7, E-8 or E-9 (Regular Member) who has rendered distinguished and tangible service in a exemplary and outstanding manner as to promote and advance the welfare of fellow members, their dependents or their Community/Country may be awarded a Gold Lifetime Membership. Gold Lifetime Members shall not be assessed dues.
 - (1) Nominations shall be submitted in resolution format to the Gold Lifetime Membership Selection Committee via the National Office 120 days prior to a National Convention.
 - (2) The Gold Lifetime Membership Selection Committee shall be a committee of the whole, which may select a maximum of two Gold Lifetime memberships during an Association

2. Dues

- a. The BOD shall set the amount of annual dues.
- b. Any member resigning from the Association shall not be entitled to a refund of dues.

3. Chapters

- a. The Association shall have Chapters.

4. Committees

- a. The Association shall have the following National Standing Committees:
 - (1) Membership
 - (2) By-Laws
 - (3) Budget
 - (4) Long Range Planning
 - (5) Captain Caliendo College Assistance Fund (CCCAF)
 - (6) Resolution and Steering
 - (7) Chief Petty Officer Academy.

5. Funds

- a. The Association shall have funds.

6. Units and Branches

- a. The USCG CPOA Auxiliary (CPOAA) and USCG Enlisted Association (CGEA) are constituent organizations of this Association and shall be governed by the same guidelines and restrictions. Each constituent organization shall prepare a Procedures Manual for their organization and must have it approved by the CPOA Board of Directors. Changes to these manuals shall be approved by the CPOA Board of Directors.

7. Awards

- a. The Association may make recognition in the form of Trophies, Plaques, Certificates and Honorary Memberships.

SECTION VIII

Discipline and Jurisdiction

1. The Board of Directors shall have jurisdiction over the General Membership of the Association to include National Officers and Board Members, and shall be governed by current Parliamentary Authority. All disciplinary actions of the Board of Directors are subject to ratification of the Convention Delegation. The Board of Directors shall report all disciplinary actions taken each year to the Annual Convention.
2. In the unfortunate event of a trial, removal from office or revocation of membership should become necessary it shall be conducted in accordance with current Parliamentary Authority, both leading up to and including the specific process itself, Trials, Removal from Office and Revocation of Membership shall be held during Annual Convention. The National Board of Directors shall take all necessary action in the event of illegal activity by a National Officer, Board of Director or the General Membership, and is subject to ratification of the membership.
3. A member has the right of appeal to any action. Rulings on appeals shall be by action of the Annual Convention.
4. Members are expected to maintain their conduct so as not to discredit the Coast Guard or the Association.

SECTION IX

Amendments and Revisions to the By-Laws

1. The By-Laws shall be amended in accordance with CPOA Operations Manual.