



**United States Coast Guard
CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

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From: CPOA National President

21 July 2025

To: All CPOA & CGEA Members

Subj: 2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

1) MEMBERSHIP:

- a) Currently, the CPOA/CGEA membership stands at 10,281 (8491 CPOA/1790 CGEA). Membership is the backbone to any organization. We need to grow both CPOA and CGEA. I am asking Chapters to take the lead for both organizations.
- b) We have fully implemented our new I4A (Internet 4 Associations) membership software. Membership Coordinator Julie Behre and IPP Jon Ostrowski have worked diligently over the past year customizing and transferring all pertinent information to the new system.

- 2) **CCCAF:** We continue to provide five scholarships annually. Thank you to the CCCAF Chairman, MKCS John "J. D." Warren, USCG Ret., for his continued leadership and for ensuring all participant's essays are evaluated fairly and promptly every year.

- 3) **CPO ACADEMY PROGRAM:** Each year, CPOA provides ten Spirit of the Chief Awards for Active Duty Classes and two Awards for Reserve Classes. The Pizza Social Program endures due to Petaluma's North Bay Chapter members' hard work and generous donations from sponsors. Thank you to the CPOA Chapters who support and sponsor this time-honored event at the CPO Academy. Our participation provides a great opportunity for CPOA to show our commitment to the Chief's Mess throughout the Coast Guard.

- 4) **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Our CPOA Chapters and CGEA Branches continue to do fantastic work in our communities, donating their funds and efforts to various charities in 2024 to present. Chapters responding to my request revealed a lot of programs being supported by these Chapters are for youth programs of all types. These programs will serve CPOA well in fostering relationships within our local communities.

5) FINANCIAL ISSUES:

- a) Our Association closed out FY-2024 with \$12,523.41 in the positive and we should be able to continue having a reasonable surplus for many years ahead. I maintain a recommendation to continue budgeting for a minimum 10 percent surplus. With uncertainty in the economy, this will allow for our Association's financial stability in the face of inflation and unforeseen expenses.

6) WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA INITIATIVES -

- a) CPOA Website – now part of our Membership Platform. I want to thank IPP Jon Ostrowski for getting our new web pages up and running. I encourage every member to visit our new interactive site.
- b) *The Chief* – our Association's quarterly magazine looks great every quarter. We would like Chapters and Branches to send stories, photos etc. to be included. Let us show everyone what you are doing.
- c) Monthly Newsletter – the CPOA/CGEA Newsletter provides timely information to over 8,200 Association members. Feedback remains good. If you are not receiving the E-newsletter, please contact the National Office, and provide your personal email address.
- d) Facebook / LinkedIn – the CPOA Facebook page currently has over 8,500 followers, the National President's page has 2,100 followers and our LinkedIn page has 431 followers.

IN RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US...AS A GUIDE FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW

7) PARTNERSHIPS –

- a) We are extremely grateful for the support of our partners and sponsors throughout the year. Some of them include First Command, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Veterans United, Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Lake Buena Vista, Excelsior University, Sea Service Family Foundation, The Shallow Water Potter, Portside Travel, Boat U S and many more that you will see in *The Chief* magazine every quarter. We are delighted that they all see value in our missions and honor us with their support.
- b) Coast Guard Foundation – We are pleased to continue supporting Coast Guard members with timely financial assistance when disaster strikes. Thanks to the strong partnership with the Coast Guard Foundation. New Foundation Policies are now in effect, which should make the task easier for all involved and CPOA is ready to fill any need they may have.
- c) Coast Guard Mutual Assistance – We will continue to assist CGMA with advertising and when requested supply boots on the ground assistance during times of Natural Disasters, while working closely with Local Representatives.

8) ACTIVITIES / TRAVEL –

- a) This past year I visited the National Office once and was able to have some very meaningful meetings with the Foundation, CGMA and MCPOCG. As to not be the face of CPOA I am dispatching our Board of Directors, the IPP and some Chapter Presidents to help show our Colors. Our presence and visibility are vital to understanding the current needs of the Coast Guard and showing our support for the mission. I recommend, next year we increase the president's travel budget.

9) CONVENTIONS –

- a) As approved, during the 55th Convention we moved our dates to late July. As we did this year and, in the future, we will make our dates in July and not conflict with the Coast Guard Festival.
- b) The cost of attending conventions is becoming more expensive every year. We continue to seek sponsorship to help keep costs down. Expenses for junior enlisted are always a concern and we must continue to establish funding sources to offer grants or assist in the expense of attending. CPOA Chapters, with the means should try and assist their local branch. CPOA will continue to seek sponsorship that will allow us to keep costs down as much as possible.

10) CLOSING REMARKS -

- a) Our Association is strong. Our membership is continually growing. This is an exceptional indicator of a healthy and thriving Association. Our Chapters and Branches continue to provide their best and honor our Association's mission to support the United States Coast Guard. Our partnerships are an important part of our growth and serve our members positively.
- b) Thank you to our National Office staff, Rob Bushey and Julie Behre, who work diligently to keep up with all the responsibilities in supporting the CPOA daily.
- c) I am honored to serve as your National President, and I want to thank all our members for your trust and support.

Submitted By

SCPO Charles Womack Ret
National President