



BMCS Charlie Womack, USCG (Ret)
National President
CG Chief Petty Officers Association



About Chief Petty Officers Association



The Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) was chartered on April 7, 1969.

The Coast Guard CPOA was formed to advance the interests of the United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Corps, encouraging integrity and fidelity to the Service, and fellowship within our ranks. In 1991, the Coast Guard Enlisted Association was chartered by and for junior enlisted personnel, under the auspices of the CPOA, reinforcing the Association's motto – "In respect for those who have gone before us, and as a guide for those who follow".

The CPOA and the CGEA proudly serve the Coast Guard and other military active duty and reserve members, Veterans, their families, and their communities. Through our strong and united network of nearly 12,000 members, we work to advance the interests of our membership through community service, scholarships, and fundraising, and by partnering with military and veterans organizations, both locally and nationally.

A non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, the CPOA and CGEA serve as advocates on a variety of Military and Veterans issues. Representing our members on Capitol Hill as a partner of The Military Coalition, our Association promotes legislation to enhance the lives of past, present, and future members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

Our valued members are the lifeblood of our Association and our success depends on volunteer leadership at the National, Chapter and Branch levels, and on the generosity of our sponsors and partners.

CPOA REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

- Any Active Duty, Reserve, or Retired person who has successfully held the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the USCG
- Date of advancement or frocking is effective eligibility date

CPOA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - OTHER ARMED FORCES

- Any Active Duty, Reserve, or Retired person who has successfully held the rank of E-7 in any of the other United States Armed Forces
- Associate members are not eligible to hold any elective office.

CGEA REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

- Any Active Duty, Reserve, or Retired person, E-6 and below (including Commissioned and WOs), who has served in the USCG is eligible

CGEA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - OTHER ARMED FORCES

- Any Active Duty, Reserve, or Retired person, E-6 and below (including Commissioned and WOs), who has served in any of the other United States Armed Forces
- Associate members are not eligible to hold any elective office.



Structure

- National Office
 - Board of Directors / Elected (volunteer)
 - President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer
 - Also provides oversight/mentorship of CGEA Board of Directors
 - National Staff (Full-time positions)
 - Executive Director
 - Membership Coordinator
 - Regional Advisors
 - Three Regional Advisors – Provides advocacy and assistance to local Chapter Leadership and liaisons with National Staff where/when needed.
- Local Chapters/Branches (~132 as of 8/3/2026)
 - Elected (volunteer) Board of Directors

Focus on Retiree's

- Currently CPOA has 3803 members who are Retirees.
- Our primary focus is sharing timely information with members through email, our monthly newsletter, quarterly magazine, phone calls, and advertisements in the Long Blue Line.
- Our key concerns are: (1) sharing legislative information and actively supporting The Military Coalition's efforts, which primarily benefit Coast Guard servicemembers/retirees, while also advocating for all veterans; and (2) providing organizational benefits and services through our partners and sponsors.

Partnerships and Boards

- National relationships that allow us to better serve all Coast Guard men and women. These include:
 - Coast Guard Foundation
 - Coast Guard Mutual Assistance
 - Plank-owner/partner with National Coast Guard Museum
 - Member of Coast Guard National Retiree Council
 - Member of Coast Guard Philanthropy Council
 - Member of The Military Coalition
- Local Partnerships are created and maintained by local Chapters and Branches based on the needs of their local community.

CPOA, What are we doing?

Maintaining our Relevancy!

Coast Guard, Non-Profit and Corporate Partnerships:

- The Military Coalition: Actively engaged with *The Military Coalition* to ensure that we have advocacy on those matters affecting the entire workforce and military retirees.
- MCPOCG Office: Ongoing workforce dialogue for advocacy and information sharing. They also provide a GOLD BADGE PANEL at our Annual Convention for the Active-duty members.
- PPC: As of last year, we are now holding a Retiree Council Meeting at our Annual Convention for our Retired Members. This year we are happy to announce we have PPC Representative as our Guest Speaker.
- Psych/Armor: Free education benefits our members with PSYCH / ARMOR where they design education that drives real-world impact for the military-connected community. Each initiative is built in collaboration with subject matter experts and those who served, ensuring that our courses and resources are relevant, evidence-informed, and focused on creating lasting change. Learn more at: <https://psycharmor.org/>
- Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation / NON-PROFIT READY will increase our Chapters professionalism and help prepare members who may leave the service and engage in a non-profit position/career.
- Chief Petty Officer Foundation (CPOF) – 501(c)3 which is responsible for administration and grand approval for the Fred Mann's Family Lucky Bag Fund.
 - CPOF is managed by an independent Board of Directors but has partnered with CPOA on administrative and front office support.

National Office Managed Programs

- Membership Files
 - All Members of CPOA/CGEA are National Members- association records are maintained at the National Office Staff.
- Scholarship Funds
 - Captain Caliendo College Assistance Fund – Essay Competition for eligible CPOA/CGEA Dependents.
 - Walter Gore Memorial Scholarship – Provides Scholarships to eligible CPOA/CGEA members.
- The Chief Magazine
 - Quarterly In-Print Publication focused on keeping membership connected and informed of activities and resources.
- Monthly Newsletter
 - Monthly Electronic (email) update sent to all members to keep them informed of upcoming events, opportunities, and resources from key partners.
- Ship's Store
 - The National Officer maintains inventory and processes orders for CPOA items, to individuals or Chapters/Branches.
- IRS/Tax
 - The CPOA National Office is responsible for ensuring that the IRS requirements are met/maintained for all of the CPOA/CGEA Tax ID Numbers (EINs) – ensuring compliance/consistency among the Associations.