

## **Colorado Springs Chapter, CO Article for Officer Review Magazine**

### **TITLE: COS MOWW Welcomes Senior VCINC Marlon Ruiz for Phoenician Award Presentations**

The Colorado Springs (COS), Colorado Chapter of MOWW was honored to welcome Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Retired), MOWW Senior VCINC to our January Companion Meeting where he presented Phoenician Essay Awards to two nationally selected Youth Leaders. Both of the awardees attended the 2024 Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Conference (RMYLC) sponsored by the Colorado Springs Chapter where their essays were selected from 85 entries submitted by Conference attendees. They then competed at the National level against essays from Youth Leadership Conferences across the United States. MOWW National Headquarters presents three Phoenician Essay awards annually and the RMYLC student leaders won the top two awards for 2024. Mrs. Miriam Shambach, Essay Evaluation Lead for the RMYLC, congratulated the students on their outstanding writing skills as well as their exceptional performance at the Youth Leadership Conference, which was held from 24-28 June 2024 at Colorado State University, Pueblo.

The 2024 Phoenician Award Winner is Mr. Mason Bradley Meredith from Liberty High School in Colorado Springs, CO. His essay is entitled "The Electoral College; the Conductor of Our Nation's Political Symphony". Mason commented:

"The Phoenician Essay contest was a great experience to work on my writing skills and learn about a critical element in the function of our country's government. Not many people think about the reason the electoral college and many other policies were made all those years ago. Understanding why the founding fathers created the electoral college forces one to see the perspective of a new democratic government that was attempting to avoid the same tyranny they experienced under the crown. Understanding the historical perspectives and inner workings of our country has helped me to become a more educated and patriotic citizen."

Mason received a \$2,000 cash award, a MOWW Certificate of Recognition, and a MOWW CINC Coin from SVCINC Ruiz. In addition, he was awarded the Bronze Patrick Henry Medal and Certificate from Colonel Steve Shambach, USA (Ret), Rocky Mountain Department Commander and RMYLC Assistant Director.



Mason Meredith, Phoenician Essay Award Winner, receives a \$2,000 check from SVCINC Marlon Ruiz



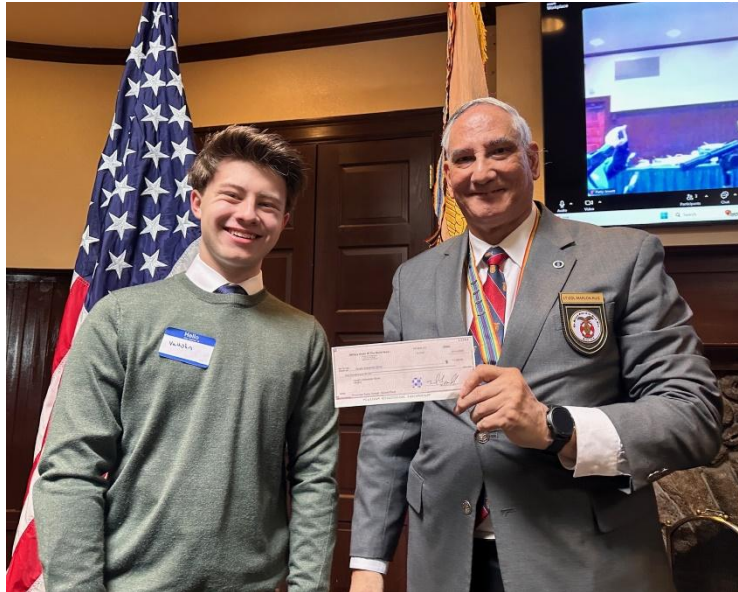
Mason Meredith receives the Bronze Patrick Henry Award from COL Steve Shambach, Rocky Mountain Dept Commander

The 2024 Phoenician Award First Runner Up is Mr. Vaughn Aleksander Slivka from Lewis-Palmer High School in Colorado Springs, CO. His essay is entitled, “The Genius of the Electoral College”. Vaughn commented:

The process pushed me to think critically and organize my thoughts effectively, ensuring my essay was both compelling and concise. Although it was demanding, I found the experience

deeply fulfilling, as it allowed me to engage with meaningful topics and sharpen my skills in persuasive writing.

Vaughn received a \$1,000 cash award, a MOWW Certificate of Recognition, and a MOWW CINC Coin from SVCINC Ruiz. In addition, he was awarded the Bronze Patrick Henry Medal and Certificate from Colonel Steve Shambach, USA (Ret), Rocky Mountain Department Commander and RMYLC Assistant Director.



Vaughn Slivka, Phoenician Essay Award 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up, receives a \$1,000 check from SVCINC Marlon Ruiz



Vaughn Slivka receives the Bronze Patrick Henry Award  
from COL Steve Shambach, Rocky Mountain Dept Commander

The Colorado Springs Chapter and the Rocky Mountain Youth Leadership Foundation (RMYLF) are extremely proud of these two young men and congratulate them on their Phoenician Awards.





2024 Phoenician Essay Awards Presentations in Colorado Springs: COL Steve and Miriam Shambach, Vaughn Slivka, Mason Meredith, Shane and Taline Meredith, and Lt Col Marlon Ruiz