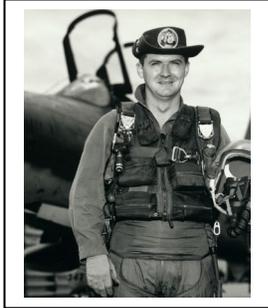


2026 THOUSAND OAKS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (TOYLC) STAFF DIRECTORS

COLONEL JERRY E. KNOTTS, USAF (RETIRED), TOYLC DIRECTOR



Colonel Knotts served 24 years in the USAF retiring with the rank of Colonel. During that period, he flew reconnaissance missions in Europe and 112 missions in North Viet Nam/Laos as an F-105F Wild Weasel / Ryan Raider “Surface to Air Missile (SAM) Killer”. He then served as program manager/project engineer building special aircraft as a member of the USAF Big Safari Program team. Later he was Commander, Defense Contract Administration Plant Representative Office (DCASPRO) Detroit Diesel Allison, Indianapolis, IN. His last assignment was Commander, Washington Area Contracting Center (WACC), Andrews AFB, MD. Jerry holds a BSEE (Electrical Engineering) from The Pennsylvania State University; and an MBA from Auburn University. A member of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) and Conejo-Valley Chapter Commander, Colonel Knotts is the President of the South Coast Youth Leadership Conference, Incorporated, and has been the Director of TOYLC for over 17 years.

CAPTAIN RALPH P. SCAFFIDI, USN (RETIRED), DIRECTOR FOR LOGISTICS



Captain Scaffidi is a 1978 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He served on Active Duty from 1978 through 1986, then reaffiliated with the Naval Reserve before retiring in July, 2008. His active and reserve career duty assignments included: Duty aboard the guided missile cruiser USS BIDDLE (CG-34) as a ship’s weapons and operations officer; Flag Lieutenant and Aide to the Commander Training Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Fleet operations instructor and course leader at the Fleet Combat Training Center in San Diego; Commanding Officer of three Naval Reserve units; and various duty assignments as a Senior Staff Operations Officer and Battle Watch Captain with U.S. Pacific Fleet. As a civilian, Captain Scaffidi served as a civil service supervisory engineer for the Naval Sea Systems Command at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division, retiring in December, 2012. Captain Scaffidi holds a Master of Science in Systems Management (MSSM) degree from the University of Southern California. A Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) member, Captain Scaffidi has been on the TOYLC staff since 2016.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID J. WORLEY, USAF (RETIRED) DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS AND CURRICULUM



Lieutenant Colonel David J. Worley is currently the 93rd National Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), as well as Chief Executive Officer of MOWW, Incorporated. His 27 years in the Air Force which began in 1975 included eight years as an enlisted FAA-certified *Air Traffic Controller*, and after attending Officer Training School in 1983 serving as a rated *Air Battle Manager* for 19 years. Upon his military retirement, Lt Col Worley spent over fourteen years instructing the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Crescenta Valley High School in La Crescenta, California before retiring in 2017. Lt Col Worley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Troy State University.

Lt Col Worley has been on the TOYLC staff for over 14 years, and developed TOYLC’s current curriculum.

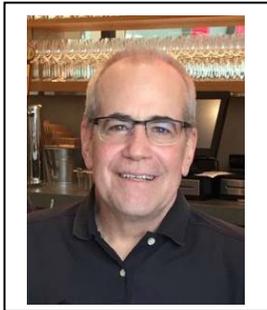
2026 THOUSAND OAKS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (TOYLC) STAFF DIRECTORS

STEPHANIE L. KNOTTS, DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION



Stephanie L. Knotts is a Companion of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) and is a member of the Board of Directors for the SOUTH COAST YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, Inc. (SCYLC). She was a Vice-President in Enterprise Process Measurement for a Fortune 100 company, and has led many projects throughout her career that implemented major business strategies that have provided substantial benefit to not just the companies but their customers. Stephanie now owns her own company (Steph Inc) providing business analysis consultation. Stephanie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from California Lutheran University. She is an IEEE Senior Member and holds a CSM (Certified Scrum Master) certification.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTIAN D. TADDEO, USA (RETIRED) DIRECTOR FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS



LTC Taddeo graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1983 as an Army ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate. He served as a Signal Corps Officer on active duty until 2006. His assignments include the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI; 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO; NATO (LANDSOUTHEAST), Izmir, Turkey; 8th U.S. Army, Seoul, Korea; and as the Professor of Military Science, California State University-Fullerton. Following his retirement, LTC Taddeo was the Senior Army Instructor for JROTC programs at Overbrook High School, Philadelphia, PA, and Mount Diablo High School, Concord, CA. Chris holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Computer Science and Legal Studies, a California teaching credential and paralegal certificate, and a master's degree in public administration. Today, Chris serves as the Commander of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, Quartermaster for the Danville VFW Post 75, and a Life Member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Additionally, he is on the Board of Directors of the Commander Robert E. Lando Patriotic Education Association, which significantly funds the *Thousand Oaks Youth Leadership Conference*.
