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Monthly Minute - December 2021

Here we are at the end of the year preparing for the holiday season. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we send a special wish that everyone enjoys the peace, love and joy of the season. I hope that you are able to share this time with family and friends and know that we as Sister Marines are always here to stand beside each other. Merry Christmas and as always Semper Fidelis!

Scholarships:

January we will hit the ground running with the opening of our Scholarship Program with applications being accepted from 1 Jan through 28 February. This program supports so many potential recipients with an average total of \$50,000 awarded in scholarships every year. See [our website](#) for more details on the procedures along with the scholarship application.

Nomination Window:

Next year is "Election Year" for the National Board of Directors. All eight Board positions are open for nominations. Newly elected board members will be installed at the 2022 Convention in Las Vegas next September. The Nomination Process will begin in mid-January when nomination packages will be accepted through mid-March. The voting process will use both electronic and hard copy ballots. Please be sure your contact information is accurate in our membership database. If you have any updates please send to membership@womenmarines.org. More details are in the [October issue of 'Nouncements](#). ***Be a part of WMA's future and serve at the National level. You are our future!***

Chapter Logo Design Update:

Our Design Team is working to publish a new logo for each chapter and expect for all chapters to have received theirs by mid-January. The link to the Google Drive folders for the new logos are

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access for the new logos and for other official WMA business. If you have any questions regarding the new logos please contact design@womenmarines.org.

[2022 Convention:](#)

We continue our planning process to prepare for next year's biennial convention. We are building a new online registration program that will provide a "one stop shopping" experience for registering for the convention; making your hotel room reservations; signing up for tours in the Las Vegas area, etc. The registration site will open after the first of the year so look for more details as we get closer on our [WMA 2022 Las Vegas Convention Facebook page](#).

[History Tidbits for December:](#)

2006 - 6 Dec **Major Megan McClung** becomes the first female Marine Officer to be killed in Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Did you know that WMA honors her memory with a named Scholarship every year?

2020 - Dec 16 **First female Marines graduate** from Drill Instructor School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego. Female DI's training and serving in both San Diego and Parris Island. What exciting changes happening throughout our Corps.

[Membership:](#)

The last two and a half years have seen tremendous changes in the world and within our own organization. Since the last convention, we have extended welcome and membership eligibility to our female Navy FMF counterparts. As part of the change we have required all new Navy members to submit verification of both honorable military service and proof of FMF status. They do this whether submitting paper or electronic applications. This requirement has raised the question to the board regarding this double standard. Why do we require Navy members to provide "proof," but not Marines? In the past, our application has included a written statement attesting to honorable service. Some have argued that this is not enough.

In a recent Board of Directors meeting, a motion was presented and was passed that all NEW members (Navy and Marine) will be required to show proof of honorable service. This will consist of a document issued by the service, National Personnel Records Service, or the VA, that shows periods of service and a character of service of Honorable or General under Honorable conditions. This could be a DD 214, a Discharge Certificate, or a summary of service letter. For Navy members, we will need documentation of having served with the Marine Corps as well either by letter on Command Stationary, DD 214 showing FMF device, or certificate of completion for FMF training.

This requirement will be for NEW members only, those already in an active membership status will not be asked to present their credentials and are grand-"mothered" in. This is not intended to be a barrier to new members, rather a validation of the credibility of our organization to include only those members for whom the organization was formed. It is our hope that this will bring a measure of trust and confidence to our new members. For new members currently serving on active duty, a copy of their ID card, a letter on Command Stationary, or their military eOPF record of service page may be used. ***This process is effective immediately for all new***

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Any questions regarding alternate documents may be submitted to the Membership Secretary at msec@womenmarines.org or to membership@womenmarines.org.

Lots of great things coming for WMA in the next year. We look forward to your continued support. Let us hear from you on listening@womenmarines.org.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Semper Fidelis,

Rhonda Amtower
WMA National President
president@womenmarines.org

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Our mailing address is:

Women Marines Association
25 Century Blvd, Suite 505
Nashville, TN 37219

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