

WMA 'Nouncements

Serving Our Members Since 1969



Vol. 45 No.4 October 2020

Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating 60 Years of the Women Marines Association



CA-2, in memory of the late Betty Noble



TN-1, Doris Keane, Leah Odom, Rosemarie Maffeo, Teresa Greene, Deb Henderson

Nebraska-1



OK-2, in memory of the late Pat Goss



WA-3, Bettie Glassey



AZ-1, in memory of the late Bettie Lerdall

Deadline for next 'Nouncements ~ 5 January 2021
Send items to the Editor ~ Address and email on Page 2

WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

77 YEARS OF PROUD SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND CORPS

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WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS

Official Publication of the WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Congratulations to the Women Marines Association as you commemorate 60 years since this fine organization's inception. It is with great pride that I join all Marines in honoring the longstanding legacy and innumerable contributions of female Marines. While this anniversary represents an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of women who serve in our Corps specifically, we also recognize that those accomplishments are important to every Marine and an essential part of our Corps' history as a whole.

Everything starts and ends with the quality of each individual Marine. Our Corps succeeds only by attracting, mentoring, and retaining the most talented Marines who bring a diversity of background, culture, and skill in service to our Nation. Though we have made great strides in building a Marine Corps that reflects the diversity of our Nation, there is still work to do. We remain committed to increased integration, retaining the best Marines, and cultivating an environment in which all Marines have the opportunity to thrive and achieve their personal and professional goals.

Though this year's celebration could not happen in person as planned, all of your fellow Marines recognize this important anniversary. As we commemorate six decades of support and community the WMA has provided, we honor the contributions women have made and continue to make as an integral part of our warfighting mission. We also renew our resolve to modernize and transform our Corps to best meet the challenges of future battlefields.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Berger".

David H. Berger
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Reporting In...*National President*

Preparing for WMA's Next 60 Years

Had COVID-19 not prevented us from gathering in Convention in September, we would have celebrated the 60th Anniversary of WMA's formation. We not only would have marked the occasion by looking back on WMA's significant accomplishments, we likewise would have talked about some exciting news about WMA's future and the changes now taking place.

Part of that innovation is to build a governance structure for WMA that is reflective of our membership and positioned to bring WMA even greater success over our next 60 years. Overall, what we want is for WMA's governance structure to better connect with members, to generate new ideas, and to provide the structure that allows WMA to grow both in size and in its service to members. We want it to mean more to "be a WMA member." This has driven our discussions and the recommendations that we are bringing to you for consideration, deliberation, and, eventually, for a decision.

As we have previously reported, we engaged with a new management partner—Virtual, Inc.—to support the Board's vision and to carry out day-to-day business functions. This allows the Board to assume a more appropriate role of providing oversight and strategic vision to the Association, this rather than carrying out administrative tasks that are not an effective or appropriate use of volunteers' time and that are better suited to being carried out by our management partner.

For instance, rather than having three vice presidents with general titles, our new structure puts more specific responsibility in the hands of each board member with titles that align with key functional areas for the Association: Member Services; Marketing and Communications; Development and Fundraising; and Programs. This goes along with the traditional roles and titles of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer that are vital to the oversight and operations of the Association and necessary, defined roles for aligning with best practices and laws governing non-profit organizations.

Within this edition of 'Nouncements is the framework of this proposed new governance structure. I invite you to review the structure that we are putting forward which includes the rationale that has guided our recommendations. We also attempted to predict some of your questions that you might have about WMA governance and matched those questions with answers listed within the flyer that starts on Page 5.

While we have arrived at the proposal that you see outlined, you will also see a transparent and inclusive process that includes extended opportunity for WMA members to engage in discussions that will result in changes to our governance structure. We have scheduled a virtual, town-hall meeting for Saturday, 5 December to provide members with the opportunity to ask questions, to voice concerns, and/or to make recommendations on our governance proposal.

From there, we will present members with the opportunity to vote on amendments to the WMA Bylaws and Standing Rules needed to affect the changes for our new governance structure. Between now and then, we expect to make modifications or even wholesale changes to our proposal based on the feedback we get from members during the process. A new email, listening@womenmarines.org, is now active and waiting for your ideas, comments, and questions.

It is important that we continue to honor our legacy while we look ahead to a new future for our Association as we modernize and improve the member experience for WMA members. I look forward to working with you all and being a part of WMA's next 60 years.

Rhonda Amtower

Reporting In...*1st Vice President*

October is best known for its Halloween festivities with all types of tricks and treats, but it's also a month loaded with national celebrations and reflections of the changing of the seasons.

The Women Marines Association (WMA) continues to move forward even during this time of transition. We also see a reflection of many changes within the organization. The WMA leadership has received comments about communication complications. As the newly elected 1st vice president, I'm so excited to be working for all of our members. I make a promise that, whether you belong to a chapter or are a member-at-large, you are my priority. I promise to make every effort to keep you informed and to effectively communicate with you. This is not just my priority; this is also the overarching priority of all of the WMA leadership. This is an outstanding organization, and I am so proud to continue to be part of your leadership.

WMA also has many reasons to celebrate! As the first few steps of the transition phase have been completed with Virtual, Inc., our new association management company, we can begin to test several new processes that have been put into place to update and improve the way in which we conduct business. This is just the beginning! We still have many more exciting phases to complete. However, we are moving along nicely with our progress and look forward to implementing processes which will continue to improve and elevate our organization.

Virtual, Inc., is working tirelessly to verify the contact information of all our members. This is critical. As I have indicated, our goal is to communicate with you all and not limited only to the quarterly 'Nouncements. We have a long way to go until we can put the transition phase in our back pocket, but we can definitely say that we continue to see results, and we continue to be very impressed with the professionalism Virtual, Inc., can bring to our organization.

Semper Fidelis.

Rosa Osborn

Dear Members,

I know change is painful. The older we get, the more painful it is. But if you think of the changes in WMA like menopause, you'll get through it.

You start with hot flashes because of what changes are being made, and you are NOT a happy camper. But after it's all over, you live a blissful life with no cramps or cycles. Think about it! It's going to be all right.

Patience, ladies! This is not an overnighter! ~ Editor



PROPOSED WMA GOVERNANCE RESTRUCTURE

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

WMA will hold a virtual town hall meeting via Zoom, to discuss the proposed governance restructure and process. We look forward to your attendance.

JOIN US ON DECEMBER 5 @ 1 PM ET

Registration is required. Please go to <http://bit.ly/WMAFuture> to obtain your unique join link and dial-in phone number. You can provide updated contact information and submit questions or comments in advance on the registration form.

*If for any reason you do not have access to the internet or an e-mail address, we have set up the phone line below to accommodate you. During the meeting you can press *6 to mute or un-mute yourself, or *9 to "raise your hand" in the meeting in order be called on.*

DIAL IN (CHOOSE CLOSEST TO YOUR CURRENT LOCATION):

+1 346 248 7799 (Houston, TX) +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago) When prompted, enter the **Webinar ID: 961 3633 1872 #**
+1 669 900 6833 (San Jose, CA) +1 929 436 2866 (New York) When prompted, enter the **Passcode: 730479 #**
+1 253 215 8782 (Tacoma, Washington)

THE CHANGES

WMA Leadership will ask members to approve the amendments to WMA's Bylaws and Standing Rules that implements the following changes:

- Reduces the number of board members from 18 to 8
- Redefines the titles and roles of board members
- Gives board members more defined, functional responsibility, aligning activities with WMA's strategic priorities

THE RATIONALE

- Puts board in a **more appropriate strategic oversight role** while delegating operations to a new business partner
- New board member **roles align with strategic priorities** such as modernizing the organization and enhancing the membership experience
- Streamlines **decision - making**
- Creates **clear chain of command**
- **Positions WMA for growth** and to provide more meaningful membership experience

BE A PART OF THE PROCESS

The WMA Board is committed to full transparency and open communication as it considers the modernization of its governance structure. Email your ideas, questions, or concerns to:

listening@womenmarines.org

"The governance restructure is one part of a sustained effort to modernize WMA's business operations and to enhance the value and the meaning of WMA membership."

**RHONDA AMTOWER
WMA NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

**3rd Quarter
2020**
Interim Board
Appointed



1st Quarter CY'21
Propose Bylaws and
Standing Rules
Presented

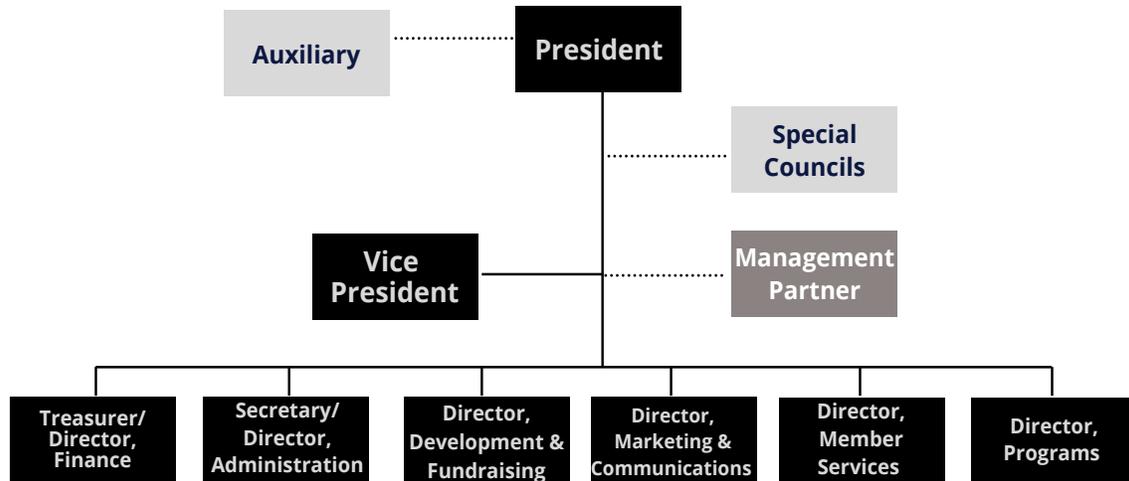


2nd Quarter CY '21
WMA Members vote
on Revised Bylaws &
Standing Rules
amendments &
Board slate



3rd Quarter CY '21
Results of Bylaws &
Standing Rules
amendments, and
Board election
reported to members

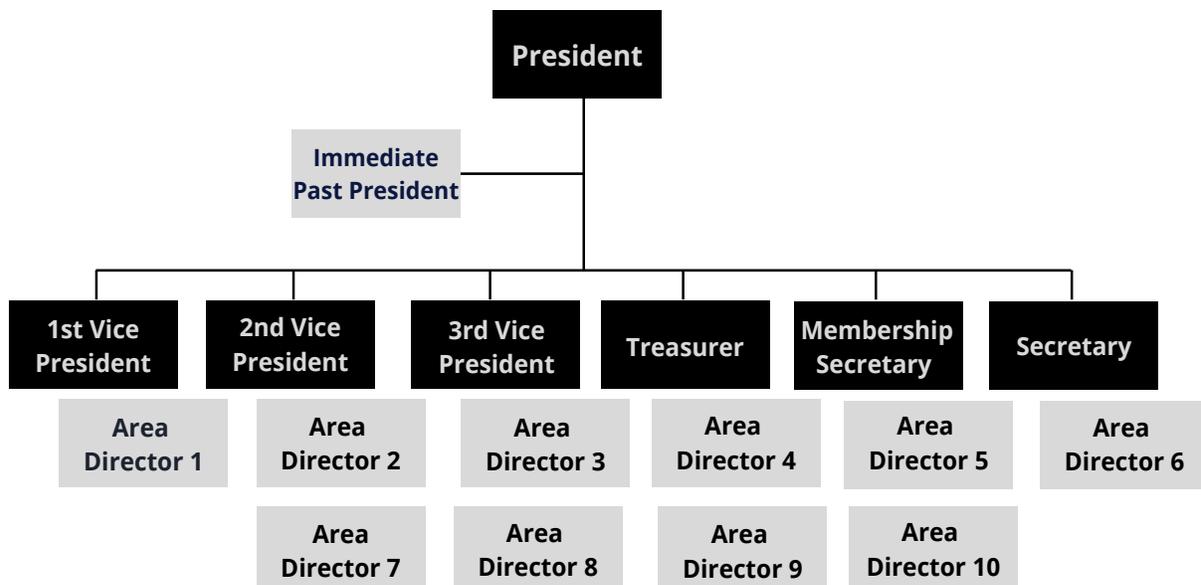
NEW STRUCTURE



KEY BENEFITS OF NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- Board of Directors' roles more distinctly aligned with strategic priorities.
- Each Board Director will have specific responsibility and accountability for strategic initiatives and business continuity with operational support from our new management partner.
- New management partner (Virtual, Inc.) allows Board to focus on strategy, oversight, and new ideas rather than business operations.
- Smaller size allows Board to be more agile in decision-making and efficient with volunteer resources.
- Chapters and local members will have access to Board of Directors.
- Board will continue to rely on counsel and experiences of legacy members (e.g. Past National Presidents).

CURRENT STRUCTURE



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON WMA GOVERNANCE CHANGES

Why is WMA's leadership recommending such significant changes to its governance?

Despite the best of intentions, the governance structure had proven to be overly bureaucratic and unnecessarily complicated for conducting the business operations of WMA. After extensive conversation and deliberation, a working group of WMA members and leaders determined that a more streamlined governance structure, outlined in this document, will better allow the organization to modernize and to lead an effort to significantly enhance the experience of being a WMA member.

How will the governance changes benefit WMA members at large?

A major focus of the proposed governance changes is to align the roles of Board members with the strategic priorities that are aimed at enhancing the membership experience within WMA. In particular, we want to test and introduce an abundance of new programs and services to make WMA membership more meaningful; we want to grow the organization in size and its sphere of influence; and we want to better connect members on a national and international basis as well as at the local level. We see a streamlined, smaller, and more strategically focused governance structure as a key element of our ability to deliver more member value.

What was wrong with the old governance structure?

The old structure was developed at a time before modern communication tools. A larger board was established largely to keep the board connected to members at the local and regional level, something we now can accomplish for the majority of our members through technology, the Internet, social media, and other digital platforms, while continuing to reach out to those not familiar with the technology. We likewise have struggled to fill all 18 positions on the Board each year, and many board members who have committed to serve have changed their minds afterward when they saw the amount of work it entailed. A smaller board, along with a new management partner, will allow WMA volunteers to be more supported by an experienced staff and therefore have a more enjoyable and rewarding experience while supporting WMA and our members.

What other changes is WMA undergoing to enhance the membership experience?

After an extensive planning process and nationwide search, WMA has retained the services of Virtual, Inc., a professional services firm that specializes in association management and in helping non-profit organizations, like WMA, to reach their full potential. With Virtual in place, the Board can play a more strategic, oversight role, giving us far greater capability to pursue and act upon new ideas, which previously had fallen entirely upon volunteers for execution. We also have embarked on a rebranding exercise, due for completion in early 2021, and otherwise are committed to examining the organization from all angles to modernize our systems and make changes large and small to create a deeper, more fulfilling experience for all members.

How will WMA ensure chapters stay connected with Area Directors absent from the Board?

This is an important question and one that we have examined extensively. First, a key role for the Member Services Director on the Board will be to establish methods and processes to stay connected with chapters. Second, our new management partner, Virtual, Inc., will give us new capabilities to engage with and support WMA chapters. Third, many of our proposed new director roles—Marketing & Communications, Development & Fundraising, Programs, etc. — will have specific, responsibility and accountability to connect with and draw upon chapter leaders for ideas, insight, and feedback. **We are committed to ensuring that these governance changes help us better equip chapters with resources to create a more meaningful membership experience.**

Will there be more changes? Do I have a say in the process?

All WMA members will have the opportunity to participate in the process. First to comment and vote on the Bylaws and Standing Rules amendments that will be necessary to implement the changes; and second, during an extensive and open process that will take us through next spring/summer and a membership vote. We are prepared to make changes to the proposed governance structure based on the consensus that surfaces from members during this dialogue. We likewise know, over time, that other new ideas and solutions will present themselves and we expect WMA to be flexible in the future to make changes to its governance structure and otherwise to accommodate the changing needs of our members and the communities we serve.

The Pathway Ahead

Work continues on the pathway ahead for the future of WMA.

We need your continued support. The first 200 donors of \$200 or more will receive the Omaha 60th anniversary coin and a special certificate recognizing the donor as a part of "Honoring the Past, Evolving into the Future." The first donors who send in \$60 (but less than \$200) will also get something special. All donors of funds, regardless of amount and if received by 10 November 2020, will receive the special certificate.

You can use the envelope that was enclosed in your last newsletter, go to the WMA website, or just send in your own envelope to: Women Marines Association, 25 Century Blvd, Suite 505 Nashville, TN 37214

You can still be a part of this exciting future by contributing your thoughts and ideas. You will likely receive a survey on this topic – please take a few minutes to answer it. If you don't see the survey, please provide your thoughts and ideas to Listening@womenmarines.org or to this mailing address: Women Marines Association, 401 Edgewater place, Suite 600, Wakefield, MA 01880. We can use positive suggestions on what to do to update the organization and keep us relevant, improving, and growing.

If the pandemic, the fires in California, or the recent hurricanes affected you, your family, and/or your livelihood, we'll understand you can't contribute right now. Know that our thoughts are with you and that WMA grants may be able to help you. Look on page 9 for how to apply. More to follow. Semper Fidelis!

*Carol Mutter
Past National President*



Marine Corps Junior ROTC Awards



CO-1 proudly presented two cadets with the WMA MCJROTC Award.

To the left is Cadet Sgt Fionna Kerkes. Maj Stephen Kintzley, Senior Marine Instructor, presented the certificate to her. She also received \$100 from CO-1.

Cadet Sgt Jennifer Castillo Cortez also received the WMA MCJROTC Award. Maj Kintzley presented her certificate along with the chapter's \$500 Marjorie Alexander Award.

Both students are cadets at Northridge High School, CO.



MOLLY MARINES



Platoon 4026 - PFC Montana Lewis

Platoon 4027 - Pvt Jadyn B. Vasquez, West Havin, CT
Graduation: 31 July 2020



Platoon 4028 - Pvt Bridgeth Z. Ochoa, Houston, TX
Graduation: 14 August 2020

Platoon 4029 - PFC Megan T. Kenny

No Photos:

Platoon 4030 - Pvt Noemi Basaldua, Yuba City, CA
Graduation: 28 August 2020

Platoon 4032 - PFC Andrea D. Perkins, Chattanooga, TN
Graduation: 11 September 2020

Marching On

With much love and many thanks to Theresa "Sue" Sousa for being a part of the beginning, trudging through 60 years, and now being the only one left from the original group. It has earned her the nickname of "Mother WMA!"



National Service Awards

Even though we didn't have a convention, individuals were still selected to receive WMA's highest individual honor, the National Service Award (NSA).

Dorothy Stover-Kendrick received her NSA for "professional achievement in the superior performance as Chairperson, WMA Scholarship Committee since 2008. As Chairperson you have displayed consistently exceptional qualities of managerial skill, compassion, leadership, dedication by continually improving the scholarship selection process enabling as many applicants as possible to receive a WMA scholarship."



The board had to be sneaky to submit this one since all of these go through National Secretary Mary Ellen Stone. And they did it! She had no idea it was coming. She received hers for "outstanding performance and initiative serving in multiple roles within the Association always going the extra mile -- above and beyond the call of duty."



This, too, was a great surprise for Michael Pearce, especially since his mother, Mary Ann Merritt, knew about it and didn't tell him!



"Michael Pearce has used his skills and expertise to provide technical support to WMA as she grew. With his assistance, WMA has moved forward in using modern technology as we move into the future. He has been very dedicated to WMA and her causes, always willing to lend a hand."

Congratulations to our recipients of the 2018-2020 WMA National Service Award!

Sondra Metzger

Oldest Living WR

Dorothy Schmidt Cole, **107** years old, joined the Marine Corps in July 1943 from her home in Warren, PA. She went to boot camp at Camp Lejeune and then on to Quantico. She was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Sergeant and now makes her home in Kannapolis, NC.



The 1978 convention was on a cruise ship, the T.S.S. Mardi Gras, going from Miami to St. Thomas with stops in Nassau and San Juan and lasted 7 days.

Emergency Grants

A one time, per person, grant of up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) is available to assist needy veterans. This person need not be a WMA member.

Procedures:

Requests for an emergency grant will be submitted by the veteran to the Chair, MFG Committee at MFG@womenmarines.org and shall include the following:

- 1) (a) A **signed**, detailed letter explaining the financial need and requesting a specific dollar amount, not to exceed \$1,000.00. Once notifying the committee, the Chair will send you a financial information form that will need to be completed and returned.
- (b) A letter from reliable sources: chapter president, pastor, social worker, or VA counselor.
- 2) A copy of his/her DD214 or other appropriate discharge papers for proof of service. For privacy, members may black out all but the last 4 digits of their SSN/service number.

As soon as the Chair has all the documentation she needs, she will forward it to the committee members who will cast their votes within 24 hours. The Chair will then forward a cover sheet to the Treasurer. It will take about 10 days for the check to be sent. The Chair can also use an ACH form with applicants which should greatly improve the time it takes for them to receive the grant.

If the MFG Committee denies the request, it will notify the requestor in a timely manner.

Do not submit emergency grant requests that require receipt of the grant within a very short amount of time - i.e., within a few days. Our process cannot accommodate immediate grant requests. Not following the directions will also slow down the process.

Patti Orsini
Chair

Matching Funds and Grants



1979 - Past National Presidents, l-r: Helen Hannah Campbell, Ruth Broe, Nita Bob Warner, Jewel Schultz



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT AND SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS

We are honored to represent the entire Marine Corps family in extending deepest appreciation to all of our Nation's World War II veterans. As we reflect on the 75th anniversary of the end of the war, we remember the sacrifices of those who fought as part of our "greatest generation." Thank you for your service – for answering the Nation's call with courage and devotion to duty.

You willingly went into harm's way – some from sea, some taking to the skies, and some battling your way ashore. You faced formidable terrain of untamed mountains and forests, parched deserts, and dense jungles. Alongside foreign allies, you fought valiantly for peace and freedom. You are warriors who epitomize the mental and physical fortitude and unwavering courage that form the cornerstones of our Armed Forces. And you have earned the deepest respect and gratitude of all Marines.

As Marines, we are charged with carrying forward the memories of those who fought before us. Our Core Values of honor, courage, and commitment connect us to generations of warriors who committed themselves to the defense of our great Nation. It is our sacred duty to remember their service and sacrifice. During this anniversary year, we pay tribute to all of you brave warriors of our "greatest generation" who set the standard for courage and warfighting excellence. Thank you for everything you have done – and continue to do – for our Nation.

David H. Berger
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Troy E. Black
SgtMaj, U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

Paula Sarlls - Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Awards

Paula Sarlls is well known for her extensive volunteer work; which not only benefits the individuals blessed by her actions, but has also resulted in deserved recognition throughout the state of Colorado and even nationally. In early 2020, Paula received two prestigious awards – the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award for the State of Colorado, and then went on to win the Southwestern Division Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award which qualified her as a National Finalist.



These awards recognize a veteran's outstanding achievement in personal, professional and family life. The recipient has demonstrated significant contributions of leadership, patriotism and increased public awareness of veterans. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) presents the Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Awards annually through rigorous state, regional, and national competitions. The DAR is a lineage based volunteer women's service organization with the mission of promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. Founded in 1890 the DAR now has approximately 3,000 chapters across the United States and in several other countries.

The Mount Rosa Chapter in Littleton, Colorado nominated Paula this year, and is extremely proud and inspired by her and her achievements. Entering the Marine Corps in 1967, during the Vietnam War, Paula served her country well, and has gone on to volunteer for other veterans in many exceptional ways, dedicating her life to this mission of service.



After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Paula had a long career in government service. A few years before retiring, she simultaneously began her volunteer "career" by joining the Women Marines Association in 2000. Twenty years later, Paula's service impressed the Mount Rosa Chapter and the judges for the State and Southwestern Division because of its longevity, and how impactful her contributions have been.

Currently, and most notably, Paula is the President of the Women Marines Association CO-1, having served as the Association's National President 2005-2008. Paula's heart for preserving the history of women Marines is well known. Likewise, she is the President of the US Marine Corps Memorial Foundation, which supports the stately USMC Memorial in Golden, Colorado. The Memorial honors military service and sacrifice, and Paula is leading major initiatives to expand the Memorial's mission and exposure in the

community.

Supporting the goals of these major, active organizations has not lessened Paula's local hands-on work with the Young Marines youth organization, her visits to elderly Marines, and her efforts to send gifts in support of our active duty troops. Paula is also involved with her Gold Star Wives Chapter; joining after the death of her husband, Anthony Sarlls. Tony's struggle and death was attributed to his exposure to Agent Orange during his deployments in Vietnam.



Mount Rosa Chapter endorsed their nominee with great enthusiasm and was happy they could further reveal the accomplishments of this remarkable veteran. Paula is focused and dedicated to her fellow veterans; serving and nurturing, while leading others in projects and efforts that support, promote, and honor our military, the state of Colorado, as well as our Nation's heritage.

*Submitted by Louetta Smith
Historian, Mount Rosa Chapter
Service for Veterans Committee*



Wreaths Across America is a national effort to remember fallen veterans, honor those who served and teach children the value of freedom. Through wreath sponsorship, you can help to continue this mission as well as supporting WMA. For each

wreath sponsored on our site, National will receive \$5. Sponsorships may be given until November 30th at our designated site:

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/20065/overview/?relatedIds=14880>

This year all WMA National sponsored wreaths are being donated to Woodlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Gotha, Florida. Suggestions for next year's cemetery sponsorship may be emailed to waa@womenmarines.org.

The National Wreaths Across America Day will take place on December 19th. We encourage all of you to participate and to forward pictures so that our sponsorship page for next year can showcase our efforts!

*WMA Chapter IN-1
WMA National Wreaths
Across America Coordinators*

LOYAL ESCORT MEMBER APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:		
Date of birth:	Phone:	Cell:
Current address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Email:		
New Renew Reinstated Life (Sponsor must be Life member)		
2 YR \$30 LIFE 40 AND UNDER - \$180 41-45 - \$150 46-60 - \$130 61-70 - \$105 71-80 - \$80 81+ \$55		

SPONSOR INFORMATION

WMA Sponsor Name:	Recruited by:
Chapter Affiliation:	Do you live with sponsor Y N
Sponsor Life Member # if applicable	

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name of a relative not residing with you:		
Address:	Phone:	
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Relationship:		

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER INFORMATION IF APPLICABLE

Name:		
Date of birth:	Email:	Phone:

SERVICE INFORMATION IF APPLICABLE

Dates of Service		
Branch:	How long?	
MOS		
Duty Stations:		

ABOUT MYSELF

How did you hear about the Loyal Escorts?

Recruited By:

WMA Newsletter is sent electronically to members with an email

SIGNATURES

Signature of member:	Date:
----------------------	-------

**Make checks payable to Loyal Escorts
Mail to: Isaac Brazile, 3518 Whitestone Dr., Pearland, TX 77584**

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Reporting In...President, Loyal Escorts

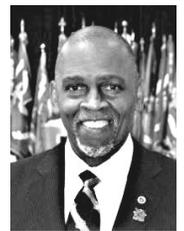
Greetings everyone,

Fall is here and everyone is busy with working from home, kids attending school online. Life has changed drastically since we have experienced the pandemic. I hope that everyone is well and doing well with your lives and families.

We have had to cancel this year's convention, but we are still moving forward with the functions of this great organization and auxiliary. We are in the process of electing new officers for the Loyal Escorts with two new members, a new treasurer (Alec Cousino), and director David Mercure. Our secretary position is still vacant, but we hope to fill it soon.

In closing I want to encourage everyone to vote (in person or mail-in). No matter who you vote for please get out and vote. It is your right. Don't neglect your right to vote.

Have a safe, blessed, and happy holiday season. Semper Fidelis!



Isaac J. Bazile



Your new board being installed by Carol Mutter via Zoom.



It has been said that these two ladies were two peas in a pod...BGen Wilma Vaught giving Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg a tour of the Memorial.

To go on the cruise for the 1978 convention, Nita Bob Warner mortgaged her family farm in Arkansas so she could buy out the whole ship! Rumor has it that the ship had to make an unscheduled pit stop because WMA drank it dry!!

Emory Kathleen Eidson

In August, we bid farewell to yet another in our WMA "gem" collection...Kathleen Eidson. The below is her obituary as published.



"Quick-minded. Proud Marine. Pioneering female executive. Global traveler. Caring sister/aunt/cousin. Charitable Methodist. Poet. Singer. Student of opera. Teacher. Centenarian.

E. Kathleen Edison was all those things and much, much more during her long, active life. Kathleen died peacefully in August, little more than a month before her 101st birthday.

After graduating Girls High School in Atlanta in 1935 at age 15, Kathleen gained valuable career experience working at an Atlanta bank. In 1945 she joined the Marine Corps and served as a paymaster. Following WWII she began her civilian career in earnest as a bookkeeper for Lathem Time Corporation, and soon was promoted to vice president for finance, making her one of Atlanta's earliest female corporate executives – a position she held for 37 years.



Forever on the go, Kathleen could boast of traveling to every continent on earth and every state in the U.S., often with elder hostel groups which she regaled with ditties, poems, and songs created by her. She was a longtime, generous member of Owl Rock United Methodist Church.

At her request, her body was cremated. A memorial service will be held at a date to be determined when the threat of infection from the COVID-19 virus has subsided. In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions be made to Owl Rock United Methodist Church, 5880 Campbellton Rd., SW, Atlanta 30331 or Global Health Action, P.O. Box 15086, Atlanta, GA 30333."

In an interview several years ago, she said she joined the Corps because her brother was a Marine, and she admired him enough to want to be like him.

When asked her opinion on Marine Corps drill instructors, she crooned a ditty, "His voice is rough, he's tough and gruff, he calls us down when we strut our stuff, and he's salty, oh me oh my, the D.I. from P.I." Then she added, "We considered the D.I.s to be in a class by themselves. Once a new D.I. came in for training by the older D.I. The new D.I. lined us up and kept demanding 'Heads up, shoulders back, step out!' The older D.I. just kept watching. The new D.I. said things like, 'Number 3, step forward, now, number 8, step back a little,' in his way of thinking we just didn't line

up properly. The old D.I. finally told him, 'Line them up and gaze down their backs, not their fronts, and they will be in proper order.' You see, some of us lady Marines were more gifted in certain regions than others so there was no way to line up perfectly in front."



Turn the newsletter upside down to see the other part of the poster.

Kathleen was an icon when it came to our conventions. She always did a presentation for the 1st Timers with her poster of a woman accompanied by a story about it. Her stories, and her little ditties gave us all warm memories of the convention. She has been greatly missed over the years, and will continue to be so. There is no one like Kathleen. Semper Fidelis, Kathleen.

Sondra Metzger



Not a convention, but a gathering of WMA members in 2007 at the WIMSA 10th anniversary celebration.

TAPS

"If the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines."

(Third stanza of the *Marines' Hymn*)

Please take a moment to remember our departed sister Marines who have taken leave of this life to fulfill heaven's ranks. May their souls and the souls of all our departed sisters rest in peace.

Life Members

Eidson, Kathleen	965	08/07/2020	GA-1
Frazier, Catherine L.	671	10/07/2020	DC-1
Lavrinec, Marion (Call)	1633	00/00/2019	WA
Murtha, Elizabeth (McCormick)	3095	09/08/2020	NC
Peltosalo, Lavinia (Lysle)	357	09/07/2020	SC
Vitale, Joan (Tolins)	2685	07/04/2020	CA-15

Term Members

Gill, Betty (Pearman)	09/05/2020	WI-1
Medcalf, Sally (Keeler)	06/23/2020	OK
Perez, Alyson	10/07/2020	OR-1
Willis, Adriana (Braaksma)	06/24/2020	CA

Virtual Fun Run/Walk Winners

Best Overall - LA-1
(Voted on by WMA membership)



(The rest voted on by NE-1/Convention Committee)

Best Chapter - TX-7 (video)

Most Creative - Leanna Kingsbury



Most Creative
Carol Carlson Gaines
(The word "START" is written in pink on the sidewalk in front of her.)



Most Gung Ho
Alice Ramos

Most Athletic
Robin Totsch and Son



Best National Member
Rhonda Amtower

Women Marines Association Statement of Financial Position As of May 31, 2020

06/16/20
Cash Basis

	May 31, 20
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
WMA General Fund	26,708.76
Capital Fund	1,125,572.60
WMA Annuity	78,215.99
Asset Mark Trust Account	
John Hancock Annuities	100,950.09
Pacific Life & Annuity	104,549.01
Rochdale Cust Moderate Growth	1,501,695.23
Total Asset Mark Trust Account	1,707,194.33
Total Checking/Savings	2,937,691.68
Other Current Assets	
Inventory	-8.00
Supplies Inventory	437.27
Undeposited Funds	185.04
Total Other Current Assets	614.31
Total Current Assets	2,938,305.99
TOTAL ASSETS	2,938,305.99
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	2,938,305.99
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,938,305.99

Gender integrating boot camp at the platoon level

The Marine Corps provided hints about its plans for gender integrating boot camp at the platoon level in a report to Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) released in the September meeting notes.

The Corps will first provide the required facility upgrades for gender integrated training then will shift its focus on training a sufficient cadre of female drill instructors, according to the report dated July 30 sent to DACOWITS.

And though the Corps will still be allowed to have separate-gender squad bays, with the passage of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act the rest of training must be fully integrated down to the platoon level.

Parris Island has to integrate boot camp at the platoon level within five years, according to the law passed in December of 2019.

Between January 2019 and April 2020, the Corps had completed nine training cycles that consisted of one all-female platoon and five all male platoons, aboard Parris Island. The program was stopped in part due to COVID-19 and in part because the summer months see the most amount of recruits travel to the training depots and put the largest logistical strain on the depots, the report said.

The Corps will have eight years to integrate boot camp at MCRD San Diego.

Planning has already started “to identify the requirements, shortfalls, and cost estimates to meet the NDAA requirements,” the Marine Corps reports to DACOWITS said.

Once the facilities are successfully upgraded the Corps will start to train the increased number of drill instructors required to fully staff both recruit depots. With Parris Island having 128 female drill instructors, slightly surpassing its goal of 116 female drill instructors, the Marine Corps currently is not facing a shortage of female drill instructors, the report said.

But once female recruits start flooding into the San Diego recruit depot, the Corps will have to quickly increase the total number of female drill instructors. As part of that increase the Corps will start having female Marines attend the MCRD San Diego Drill Instructor school.

The Corps also plans to explore options such as “transfers from MCRD PI and assigning second tour female Drill Instructors to MCRD San Diego,” the report said.

In a search for possible improvements to Marine Corps boot camp, the branch is in the process of soliciting a study from an “outside agency,” either a public or private university or college, to analyze what goes

on at the two recruit depots. The study will “determine alternatives, if any, to the Marine Corps’ approaches to gender integrated recruit training,” the DACOWITS report said. The study is expected to be awarded before October 2020, and the results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal before the end of fiscal year 2022, the report said.

Philip Athey

More Past Convention Memories

1979 - (l-r) Vi Lambert, Dottie Fisher, Jewell Schultz, Lou Teixeira, Nita Bob Warner



L-R: Ellie Judge, Nita Bob Warner, Shirley Haines, Helen Hannah Campbell, Eileen Scanlon with SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, 1980



Minneapolis, 2002



Spencer Twins

The Corps can't complete its missions without women, minorities, top Marine says

The Marine Corps cannot complete its missions without women, CMC Gen David Berger said Thursday.

Some people "think that diversity women, minorities, add," Berger said during the closing remarks of Thursday's online session of the Women in Defense Virtual Leadership Symposium. "We can actually not do our mission in the Department of Defense in the Marine Corps, without the dedication of women."

During his prepared remarks, Berger spoke about the success the Marine Corps has had integrating women into combat units and starting the process to bring gender integration to Marine Corps boot camp.

Berger pointed out the Corps has women in every combat military occupational specialty — roles once denied to them. In 2019 the Corps saw a 60 percent increase in women serving in previously all-male combat units.

The commandant also mentioned Lt. Col. Michelle Macander, who made history in 2018 when she became the first woman to lead a Marine ground combat battalion.

Berger also took time to lament the failures of the Marine Corps in increasing its diversity, especially in the top ranks.

"In a decade we've made it from 6 percent female in the Marine Corps to about 10 percent," Berger said. "That's not where we need to end up."

Berger also pointed out that women and minority candidates request to be removed from consideration for command at a higher rate than while male applicants. He also noted that women and minorities tend to leave the Marine Corps at much earlier ranks than their white male counterparts.

"Here's the realization for us, we didn't know why," Berger said. "We didn't know why because we didn't ask."

The commandant said he still does not know the answer, but in an effort to find out he is having all Marines complete an exit survey before they get out of the Corps. Berger said his focus is on listening to Marines who have different backgrounds than him and who have faced different career challenges to better understand the problems female Marines face.

Berger also pointed out that the Marine Corps has failed at fully explaining why diversity is important, lamenting that too often the explanation feels like the Marine Corps is simply giving into societal pressure without providing a reason that diversity is inherently important.

With the increasing complexity of war, Berger said, the best way to increase a platoon's or squad's ability to problem-solve is by having as many people with diverse thoughts as possible participating in the discussion.

Philip Athey



Sgt. Alyssa Triplett swims in the pool after a Marine Corps Instructor Trainer Water Survival class at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., June 15, 2020. Triplett was the first female to complete the Scout Swimmer Course. Photo By Lance Cpl. Christy Yost

Snippets from the February 1969 'Nouncements

The entire membership of the WMA wishes to extend warm congratulations to COLONEL JEANNETTE A. SUSTAD on becoming the Sixth Director of the Women Marines, effective 1 January 1969. COLONEL BARBARA BISHOP, Fifth Director is remaining on active duty as Congressional Liaison to the Senate.

TAPS Always a sad note, the passing of a former Woman Marine out of World War I. ELIZABETH M. WELK, a devoted member of the Portland Chapter passed away in November, in Portland, Oregon, a victim of cancer. "Bess" as she was known to all her friends is nationally known for her WWI work as "birthday" greeter for Emma Holmes and her attendance at the St. Louis, New Orleans and San Francisco Conventions. During World War I, Bess served in Portland and her husband was in recruiting when most of the WR's signed up in World War II. In Meg Dave's own words, quote: "We'll truly miss seeing Bess tooting about in her car always doing errands for others in her own quiet, thoughtful way." Unquote. Any WMA friend wishing to do so, please send memorial gifts to WMA Scholarship Fund in Bess' name.



End of an Era 1996 'Nouncements

With the passing of Edna Lee Freund (age 99 yrs., 10 mo.) on 6 Oct. 1996, an era has ended. Edna was the last known survivor of the WW I girls who served in the Marine Corps. She worked in the quartermaster department at the Washington, D.C., Headquarters - local purchase section from 14 Sept. 1918 to 31 July 1919 on active duty and was kept on the inactive list until 1922. Olivet, Mich., was Edna's hometown, but she lived all her retirement years in Florida. Her husband, whom she married after the war, worked for the Red Cross and was stationed in England during WW I. Both loved music and served in their church - he as choir director and she as organist. Their only child was a music critic for Florida newspapers.

A Good Story

What makes for a good story? Conflict, tension, surprise, and an extraordinary protagonist to name just a few things. And this story has all of them.

When Frances Shore decided to enlist in 1957, her mother said that women didn't belong in the military. But Frances was determined to travel and do something different with her life. Upon arrival at Parris Island, she was shocked by the "adventure" that loudly greeted her.



Frances and her fellow female recruits did jumping jacks, bend-overs, and leg lifts for PT - no running. They wore "peanut suits" and were allowed to smoke, with longer smoke breaks when they performed well. The chow was good, and femininity was stressed with high importance. They had classes about makeup and were required to wear girdles, high heels, gloves, and issued purses.

On her first assignment at Cherry Point, one day while walking to work in her dress uniform, three truckloads of men showered her with hard boiled eggs. Her NCO made sure it never happened again, but it was a rude wake up call for the young private. Later, Frances served as the personal secretary to the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. During that time, she participated in the inaugural parade for President Kennedy. She recalls waiting four hours in frigid temperatures, and a fellow Marine's shoe getting stuck in the streetcar track on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Next, Frances served at MCRD San Diego, and then became a drill instructor at Parris Island. During that time, there was a homosexuality investigation that resulted in the discharge of several female Marines. Frances was one of the few female drill instructors remaining and learned a few more life lessons.

She volunteered to go to Vietnam in 1967, and arrived in Saigon right after the Tet Offensive, serving for the maximum period of one year. Her many other adventures included R&R in Australia, serving at 8th & I in DC, and volunteering to serve in Iwakuni, Japan. In Japan she married a Marine, became pregnant, and was one of the first Marines to receive permission to remain in the service during and after her pregnancy. She continued her service at both MCRDs and retired as a 1stSgt in 1977 after 20 years of remarkable service.

WMA Chaplain's Corner

I cannot believe it is fall! There has been so much going on in our country and the world, the last three months have flown by. Living with COVID-19 restrictions has become our new "norm." Now, more than ever, we need to keep in touch with family and friends by any means available.



I have had Zoom meetings, and Facetime doctor's appointments. And spent hours on the phone and computer surfing the social media sites to see what my "people" are up to. I am blessed to be living on the same piece of land that my daughter, son-in-law, and 8 month old granddaughter do. I get to see her every day and watch her grow. Her smile lights up the room. I was not so fortunate with seeing my son, daughter-in-law, and 4-yr-old granddaughter. My daughter-in-law is a special needs teacher and her school has given them a map of "OK areas" to visit or have visitors from. My location is not on the list. We can't be too sad, because it shows that the school is really taking care of these very fragile children.

I suspect many of you have put off going to the doctor for issues that have come up since January. Please, please, do not be afraid to go to your doctor or local ER. They are taking every precaution they can. I needed to be seen in the ER. I had a slightly elevated temp (not high enough to meet the COVID threshold), and belly pain. After asking if I could wait for pain medication, they did a rapid COVID test and drew lots of blood, then isolated me until the negative results came back. Only then did they do my workup. I stayed in the hospital four days and not once did I fear exposure from any staff.

Taking care of your physical, emotional and spiritual health in these unsettling times is the most important thing you can do. While many houses of worship are again open, it's ok if you're not at ease going to services. Ask your spiritual leader to make a house call, sit quietly with a prayer book, bible, or other inspirational material. Our Creator will hear us no matter where we chose to talk to that Divine Entity.

And....most important of all....GET YOUR FLU SHOT! Just like us, "How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days." ~ John Burroughs
Eileen Skahill

Memories of Past Conventions



These photos are of a charity event at the 1990 Denver convention where Betsy Menin, Nita Bob Warner, Julia Stacy, Sue Sousa, Eileen Scanlon, June Dempsey, Patty Schindler, Lou Texiera, Jane Wallis, Sa-

rah Thornton, June Crowell, Mary Sabourin, Rosie Nichols, Mary Jo Desmond, and Jeanne Botwright (not all are in the photo) dressed in nightgowns to raise money for charity.



CHAPTER CLIPPINGS

CA-2 San Diego County

This year started out with a farewell to our 2018-2020 President, Cassandra Wurts. Cassandra moved to the East Coast with her husband, Hugh, who PCS'd to the Pentagon. She, along with Hugh and Dharma, will be missed at the monthly meetings. Thankfully, we have Facebook to keep up with her and their many adventures. She cut her hair and continues to geo cache in Virginia.

One of the items that Cassandra was working on before she left was the WWII Women Marine Monument at MCRD San Diego. The Dedication Ceremony was supposed to be in the Spring of 2020, but has been postponed at this time.



Big shout out to the new board for CA-2 San Diego County: President, Barbara McCurtis; Vice President, Manuela Santos; Secretary, Bennadine Johnson; Treasurer, Manuela Santos; Chaplain, Babs Meairs.

March 2020, showed up like a lion and gave us the Coronavirus (Covid-19). The Covid-19 didn't stop one of our members from celebrating her birthday! Ruth Gallivan celebrated her 104th birthday with all of San Diego. The community came together for a drive-by birthday celebration for WWII Veteran Ruth Gallivan, who was turning 104 years old. After boot camp, Gallivan was assigned to MCAS Miramar, however, there were no women's barracks at that time. She was tasked with setting up a place for women to be stationed there. She stayed with the USMC until 1946 and settled in San Diego. Honor Flight San Diego believes that Gallivan is the oldest living female Marine west of the Mississippi and are confident that she is the oldest female Marine in the State of California. Gallivan went on her Honor Flight in 2015 at the age of 99.



The San Diego Padres celebrated our WWII veterans. It's Game Day Baby...Time to "Play Ball!" and honor our WWII veterans for the 75th Anniversary of the End of WWII. Both Ruth Gallivan and Randy Tidmore are honored!! In 1995, the Padres were the first professional sports team to have a Military Affairs department, and since have been recognized as "The Team of the Military" throughout professional sports. For more than two decades, the Padres have looked for ways to recognize and honor the men and women who serve. Thank you San Diego Padres, for all you do to support our military men and women! You can see all the veterans and their service by going to: <https://www.mlb.com/padres/community/military/ww2>.



To read more about Randy, go to <https://ranchandcoast.com/people/personalities/randy-tidmore/>

She is quite an inspiration. Thank you for paving the way!! Randy Tidmore was also selected as one of the 10 Most Inspiring Women of San Diego. She also received recognition for her support of the San Diego Globe Theater. In 2021, she will be named, along with 11 other women, A Woman of Dedication by the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of San Diego county.

Belinda Owens

CA-3 San Francisco Bay Area

Greetings to all from the San Francisco Bay Area. Hope everyone is staying safe. Not much to report this quarter. A lot of the Bay Area continues to be under shelter-in-place directives, and we have not been able to meet face to face. In addition, with all of the fires burning here, we have very poor air quality, so not a whole lot of outdoor activity. We do meet monthly via Zoom meetings. Loyal Escorts Elaine Vallecillo-Miller and Greg Miller host the Zoom meetings.

In addition to our monthly Zoom meetings, CA-3 also keeps in touch via weekly emails.

Loyal Escort Sarah Rivera had some great news. Her daughter, Deanna, was able to keep her wedding date and married Daniel! They had a small ceremony at their home with just the two of them, the officiant and one friend who did her flowers. Although Mom (Sarah) was not able to attend due to covid, they are planning to be together for a bigger celebration once we can all be close again.



Also, Sarah is part of the Veteran's Affinity Group (as is CA-3 member Bonnie Dabalos-Castro) at their work place - Cooley. They recently had a meeting to discuss the upcoming events being planned for Veteran's Day which will include recognition of retired and active duty veterans at Cooley. There is also a lot of pro-bono work being done to promote veteran entrepreneurs within the firm. Sarah is proud to be a part of that group and to be working with a lot of military veterans from all branches at Cooley.

CA-3 member Lily Brockmeier has started a garden on her patio. She is growing lots of different vegetables!



The combined American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard in Tracy has started conducting military honors at veterans' services once again. CA-3 member Susan Johnston, as a member of the



Honor Guard, participated in one service this week. All members of the Honor Guard are socially distancing while wearing masks! Even though black masks are the order of the day, Susan found a black mask with a Marine Corps designation on it!

Susan Johnston

CA-7 Edith Macias Vann Southern California

CA-7 chapter members are doing some great things supporting our community.

- Melinda Willett, Vice President, provides platelets once a month at the American Red Cross. Per the American Red Cross website, platelets are tiny cells in your blood that form clots and stop bleeding. For millions of Americans, they are essential to surviving and fighting cancer, chronic diseases and traumatic injuries. Every 15 seconds, someone needs platelets. New donors are needed everyday.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org>

- Glynis Rates also volunteers for the American Red Cross blood mobile.

- Iris Biggers, president, will continue to volunteer for Foundation for Women Warriors, a unique support organization created exclusively for the women veteran community of Southern California. They provide essential programs to empower the resiliency and professional development of Women Warriors. The CEO is Jodie M. is Grenier, Marine veteran and National WMA member. We're happy to support this organization with a check for \$500.00.



<http://foundationforwomenwarriors>.

- Lillian "Lil" Cross, treasurer; Dennis Kovats, Loyal Escorts; and Iris Biggers, president, continue to support American Legion Post 760. Each month they volunteer to distribute boxes of food to our active duty and military veterans at Veterans Association of North County (VANC).

We are so excited to start something new and exciting. We will be hosting a 1.5 hour "Meet and Greet Happy Hour" via Zoom with various chapters. This is a great way to meet others in WMA, explore and share news and information: how to recruit new members, what your chapter is doing, etc. We will have some great games and prizes. Our first meeting is with CA-2 San Diego Chapter, October 15th. We hope to invite chapters in area 10 in November or possibly December. We'll be sending out emails to various chapters and hope your members will be interested in joining.

Well that all for now from CA-7. Semper Fidelis.

Iris Biggers

IN-1 Indiana

IN-1 started their summer off by packing up 59 boxes to send to the Marines of 2/3 who had recently deployed overseas.

The chapter sponsored the annual Irreverent Warriors Silkies Hike in Indianapolis, which was held July 11th and attended by roughly 50 veterans. Eight of those participants were women Marines. The MISSION of Irreverent Warriors is to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide. The VISION of Irreverent Warriors is to be the force that unites the veteran community and drives a healthy culture within its members. Through creative engagements, events, and strong veteran-based support networks, we will be known as the catalyst for improving the veteran outlook.



The chapter has taken over the duties of Wreaths Across America and invites all of the chapters to donate to this worthy cause. Please check out the article in this 'Nouncements or check the WMA Facebook page for the link.

The members kept up their meeting schedule by conducting their meetings via Zoom. WMA National President Rhonda Amtower was even able to join them on one of their meetings. They are looking forward to being able to meet in person someday soon!

Semper Fidelis!

Kay Ross

MN-1 Minnesota Leathernecks

In Minnesota and across the nation, it was a turbulent summer. Chapter member Sandra Heredia lives just blocks away from the location that experienced days and nights of civil unrest, leaving her neighborhood with limited access to businesses within walking distance of her residence.

A Zoom Happy Hour Meeting was scheduled in lieu of our Annual Chapter Picnic on August 13, but there were technical difficulties. We're still open to scheduling future events through Zoom as it permits a chance to check in with each other without travel time.



Michelle Livingston & her service dog Chewbacca



Julie Williams

On September 11-13, chapter members Julie Williams and Michelle Livingston joined with other women veterans at the *Gals*

'n Gills Female Veteran Fishing Event at the Minnesota Elks Youth Camp in Nisswa. The event was

courtesy of Mandatory Fun Outdoors, a non-profit organization that promotes camaraderie with the great outdoor experiences. Attendees enjoyed a 9-11 tribute and campfire, fishing, learning how to back up boat trailers, how to rig rods, hayrides, and the great outdoors with other female veterans.

The Elks Veterans Services and Elks Youth Camp provided both accommodations and food. Guides from Women Anglers of Minnesota (WAM) donated their time, equipment, and knowledge for this event.

Stay safe and well.

Vicki Latiolais

NE-1 Lady Leathernecks

NE-1 Lady Leathernecks have been very busy over the last four months but sadly were not as busy as we expected to be as we were planning on hosting the 2020 Women Marines Convention in Omaha. Dang that COVID-19 pandemic!



NE-1 under the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge

We have been doing Zoom or teleconferences and when we get together we try to keep distance and mask in hopes to get all of us safely through this. In July 2020 we got together virtually using the application House Party and played on-line board games. Over the summer our chapter worked on closing the books on the cancelled convention and completed the picture contest for the 2020 Convention's Virtual Fun Run Walk (see Page 14).

The family of the late SgtMaj Grace A. Carle donated her portrait to our chapter. We dedicated it along with a shadow box showcasing her achievements, over the Labor Day holiday, and these are now displayed at the Thurston Co Historical Society, in Pender where Grace lived and attended School. Sgt Maj Carle was a trail blazer and retired as the last Sergeant Major of Women Marines.

Penny Hardiman

NM-1 Sandia

Hello sister Marines from The Land of Enchantment. The year 2020 is turning out to be one of the most consequential years in memory. The women Marines of NM-1 Sandia Chapter send our deepest condolences to all our sister Marines and their families that have suffered in any of the myriad of ways connected to the COVID-19 crisis. We are all doing our best to assist others and to stay safe and healthy by following the health guidelines put in place by our state leaders. Following those safety guidelines caused us to cancel our July 2020 meeting.

As health guidelines eased the ladies of the NM-1 Sandia Chapter scheduled a September 5k run/walk to connect virtually with runners of the MCM running community. Thanks to member Lorena Sims for mapping our course on the hiking trails



Joni Seymour (with puppy Deya), Lorena Sims, Laurel Hull, Stephanie Pugh, Jeannie Pinedo, and Roleen Younis masked up and ready to run.



Oohrah! Laurel Hull and Roleen Younis heading to the finish.



Joni Seymour with Deya taking the point.

of the scenic Sandia Mountains in Albuquerque. The weather was beautiful and the course took us through all the elevation and terrain challenges associated with being in the foothills of a beautiful mountain range. It was a fun event and one of the good memories we will

take from the year 2020. Thanks to all that attended as well as our sister Army veteran Jeannie Pinedo for joining our run.

As we look forward to the fall we anticipate additional relaxation of health restrictions and expect to meet as a group in November to honor our 245th Marine Corps Birthday. Additionally we hope to put this unprecedented year in the rear-view mirror and think about celebrating and spending time together again in 2021. Stay safe Ladies! Semper Fidelis!

Stephanie Pugh

TN-1 Rocky Top

Five Rocky Top chapter members spent the morning at the Second Harvest Food Bank where we packaged 64 cartons of 12 bags each of Elbow Macaroni totaling 780 1-pound bags, to be distributed to 18 local food pantries in East Tennessee.

Second Harvest Food Bank, a member of Feeding America, serves 18 counties and covers over 18,000 square miles, distributing to 550+ partner agencies, like food pantries, shelters, schools, and churches.



Masks were part of the Uniform of the Day for Deb, Barbara, Doris, Leah, and Gail

These food pantries then distribute to hungry Tennesseans. At any given time, one in eight adults and one in five children are at risk of being hungry, which equates to 160,000 East Tennesseans at risk.

We are so proud that our chapter is able to assist our neighbors during this unusual time in our country and plan on further involvement.

We hope everyone is staying safe during this pandemic, and those who were/are in harms way during the fires out west as well as the hurricanes in the south.

Barbara Chagnon

TX-2 Gulf Coast

Hello Ladies,

Since my last writing, we have been a bit busy behind the scenes. Due to coronavirus limitations, in person visits have been essentially on stand still.

We have been working with our VAVS representative to see how we can carry on our efforts at the VA Hospital in Houston. It was decided that we could provide prepackaged items for distribution to the patients. In August, Lynn Sparks, Betty Huggins, and Barbara Barnhart gathered at the home of member Beverly Franklin of TX-2 and TX-7 to assemble 10 boxes of lots and lots of bags full of items for the patients. Each bag contained a book, pen, pencil or crayons, candy, and a card from Houston area chapters of WMA. These will be distributed to the wards for further distribution to the patients.



We have also spent some time looking into various nonprofit organizations we might be able to assist over the next couple of years. Some of these organizations need an assist as the holidays approach as well as year round. Decisions will be forthcoming.

Have a safe Fall Season!

Barbara Barnhart

TX-7 Opha May Johnson

TX7 has continued to maintain our operational tempo. We have found ways to get out and help while socially distancing, masking and being careful!

On June 4 and June 11, Audrea Killalea, Dolores Mendiola, LaShondra Jones, Carol Castillo-Luong, Carols' husband Jason Luong, and LE Lourdes Livsey delivered gift bags to Jorge Ruiz, a VA social worker, and to caregivers at an elderly living center. The bags contained coloring books, crayons, puzzles, squish balls, to be together!



balloons and many other fun items. The bags will be distributed to 160 veterans across 42 living centers. LaShondra and Dolores headed up this project and made it a great success!

July 2 many TX7 members joined in on the Area 6 Zoom meeting with Area 6 Director Rosa Osborn. Even though we were two dimensional, it is always fun to be together!

On August 20, TX7 members and Loyal Escorts filmed our virtual fun walk/run to support NE-1 chapter's Oorah to Omaha event! Check out our video on our TX7 Facebook page!

We held our chapter meeting on August 22 via Zoom! We started off with laughs as we viewed our Virtual Run video footage. We were so excited to share our submission with NE-1! We were thankful for the opportunity to gather and have fun together! Chapter business focused on projects ahead to include continued support of Camp Hope; recruiter contacts (making hygiene bags for female poolies); continuing our flag raffle; planning a flag retirement event with the Girl Scouts; our next Habitat for Humanity work day; future events, shooting range day/USMC birthday ball attendance, and so much more!

Later that evening, some members met for a Sip'N'Sew event. We sewed patriotic drawstring bags for our recruiter contact project. It was a learning experience for sure!

On September 1, local WMA members Rosa Osborn, Melissa French, Bev Franklin, Jane Thomas, Barbara Barnhart, and Marti Raney offered a special prayer at a service honoring the life of our sister Marine, Private Marjorie Hutcherson. She was one of the first women to enlist during WWII.

September 9 was sadly our last weekly delivery to PTSDUSA Camp Hope. Nearly \$5,000 was collected and 24 deliveries of food were made to the warriors. We will be serving them a hot, home-cooked meal on October 24, so they know we will be back!

On September 12, ten of us, to include LEs and family members, participated in a Habitat for Humanity (H4H) Veterans Day Build, sponsored by Veteran Energy. We donated our work hours to veterans who need the "sweat equity" hours to qualify for one of these homes. The day was long, the work was hard - especially while wearing masks! The H4H crew (also veterans)



instructed us on the tasks. We started with a concrete slab and ended with the framing complete! Veteran Energy surprised us with a very sizable donation for our chapter. This was an amazing experience and we truly felt honored to have worked with such a professional organization!

On September 19, we had our first in-person meeting at VFW Post 9187. We had a potential new member and four potential Loyal Escorts in attendance. Twelve WMA members were either at the VFW or on Zoom. Thank you 1VP Rosa Osborn for joining us for this meeting. It was great seeing everyone and taking care of business!

September 24, we started delivering the drawstring bags we made in August to various recruiting offices in Houston. The bags are filled with feminine products, our chapter business card, and a letter from our chapter president. The letter to each female poolee, introduces her to WMA and TX7. We provided an address if she'd like to send us a note so we can support her throughout boot camp and her career. We invite her to be part of us and let her know we have her six!

On September 30, TX7 members joined a Marine Corps League VA Benefits and Disability Claims briefing. MCL Service Officer Jeremy Williams led us through a very informative briefing via Zoom. We were made aware of some important benefits and changes to benefits. We hope to schedule a future briefing on homebuying with the VA guaranty.

September - October our members and Loyal Escorts have been volunteering at the Abundant Harvest Kitchen. We have sorted food donations, filled boxes with food orders, cleaned, stocked and organized areas at this food bank. We have even had members help prepare hot meals to go!

Between July 11, and October 02, we had an online fundraiser and sold raffle tickets for a beautiful, hand-crafted wooden flag with the WMA logo. On October 02 we conducted a Facebook live drawing. Congratulations to our winner and sister Marine, Jessica Van Dop DeJesus! After the drawing, while still decked out in our red polo shirts and WMA covers, we went to dinner at a very chic Vietnamese restaurant and enjoyed catching up.

On October 04, TX7 got Pretty in Pink and went to work at the local VFW to raise funds for the daughter of a veteran who has breast cancer. A few of our members are breast cancer survivors and felt a connection with the family member!

Heather Brodersen
Audrea Killalea

WA-3 Northsound

Greetings from WA-3 Northwest. We hope everyone is staying well and healthy. All WA-3 members are doing well. Life continues here with fall garden

cleanup, changing leaves, and pumpkins galore, which seems like it happened overnight! What a surprise.

We have had days of smoke from the fires in the mountains and blowing up from Oregon and California, but so far no fires near any of us.

I am sad to report that because many of our members are not able to ZOOM we have not been able to meet as a group since February. Vice President Karen Wheeler, Secretary Peggy Reiber, and I have been trying to keep up with our members through periodic phone calls, cards and emails. This has been helpful but definitely not the same.

We are also very sad that the convention was cancelled this year and hope that 2022 will be a better year for everyone. Our sincere appreciation to the Nebraska chapter for all their efforts and willingness to host. We dearly missed getting together with all our sisters!

We wish everyone peace, safety and good health. Semper Fidelis.

Bettie Glassey

P.S.: This is Peggy Reiber. I am the secretary for WA-3 and I want to shout out to my fellow WA-3 officers. Bettie makes it a habit to call and check up on our members, and Karen Wheeler, VP and Treasurer, always sends little note cards and even sent a care package to one of our members who is 90+ in Bellingham--Love you Elizabeth "Betty" Strand. WA-3 is small and mighty--and cannot wait to get together again!

U.S. Marines visit Opha May Johnson's burial site as part of a professional development event at Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D.C. on Aug. 13. Photo by Lance Cpl. Fatima Villatoro



There was a grand total of 100 1st Timers at the San Antonio Convention in 1996.



That wasn't the case at the Washington, DC convention in 2018.

WMA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION * DENOTES MANDATORY FIELD

*Full Name:			
*Current address:			
*City:		*State:	*ZIP Code:
*Date of Birth:	*Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
*Email:		*Email must be provided for electronic issues	

ALTERNATE ADDRESS INFORMATION

Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	E-mail:	Reason for alternate:	
Start Date:	Stop Date:		

EMERGENCY CONTACT

*Next of Kin			
*Address:		*Phone:	
*City:	*State:	*ZIP Code:	
*Relationship:			

MILITARY INFORMATION

*When Served: mm/year to mm/year			
*Name (s) Served Under:		*Maiden Name:	
Plt./Co and Series/OCS/ FMF qualified date		___ USMC	___ FMF NAVY

RM&D AND 'NOUNCEMENTS PREFERENCES

The Resource Manual & Directory (RM&D) and Nouncements will be sent in electronic format. If you prefer another format, please check below. Help WMA "Go Green" choosing the electronic copy for your RM&D and Nouncements.

___ Hard Paper Copy	**Must provide current for email electronic copy
WMA 'Nouncements is the organizational quarterly magazine	
___ Hard Paper Copy	**Must provide current email for electronic copy

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ___ NEW ___ RENEWAL ___ REINSTATEMENT

___ 2 year Membership \$40	Life Membership: Pick One:
Chapter Name if Known:	___ Age 30 & Under \$295 ___ 31-39 \$260 ___ 40-49 \$210
Enrolled By/ How did you hear about WMA:	___ 50-59 \$180 ___ 60-65 \$150 ___ 66 & older \$120

***FMF Must submit via hard copy with payment and documentation of FMF qualification with application.**

SIGNATURE AND VERIFICATION

By my signature, I verify that all information contained within is correct and that I am eligible to apply having served or honorably serving in the United States Marine Corps or as Navy FMF qualified. I understand my basic information is listed in the RM&D. I will abide by the WMA Bylaws and Standing Rules.

*Signature of applicant:	*Date:
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Effective May 2019

WMA will never share any of your information with outside sources.

**Fill in application, print and mail with payment to:
Women Marines Association
25 Century Blvd, Suite 505
Nashville, TN 37214**

www.womenmarines.org



Chapter Merchandise

Send chapter ads to: Editor@womenmarines.org.

IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE:

When chapter sales items are no longer available, please notify Sondra so they can be removed from the listing.

BOOKS



Not "Just Another Cookbook" - Chapter NC-1 - more than 100 recipes by grouping - size: 6"x9" - Cost: \$5.75 (includes shipping)

Contact: Naomi Malone, 218 Sunset Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546-7045, (910) 545-7154 nmalone@ec.rr.com

CLOTHING

WMA Apron - Chapter CA-11 - apron, short, three pockets with WMA logo—Cost: \$10.00 plus \$6.00 shipping

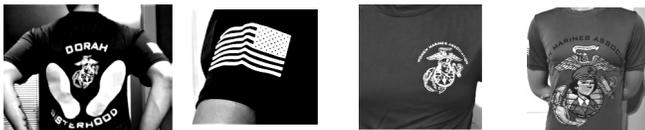
Contact: Soledad Kennedy, 4062 Capella St., Lompoc, CA 93436, Fax/Office: (805) 733-2176 - Cell: (805) 588-0650

4th Bn Shirts, Crew Neck Unisex - Chapter MI-2 - comes in black and burgundy, large logo on back and small crest on front - Cost: \$23.50 (includes shipping) - Check or money order - Sizes: M, L, XL, 2XL - Please state color and size

Ladies Cut T-Shirt with V neck - comes in vintage khaki and gray with logo in hunter green—Cost: \$23.50 (includes shipping) - Check or money order - Sizes: S, M, L, XL

Contact for items: WMA Motor City, PO Box 590, Romeo, MI 48065

Shirts, OD Green Crewneck (men's size) -



Chapter OR-1 - footprint logo on back, flag on right arm, and a choice between two front logo options - Size S-XL cost: \$28 plus \$4.75 shipping - Size 2XL-3XL cost: \$30 plus \$4.75 shipping

Contact: OR1@womenmarines.org

THE FEWER,
THE PROUDER



THE WOMEN
MARINES
Option 1

NEVER UNDERSTIMATE
A WOMAN



WHO HAS A DD214
Option 2



Option 3

I
♥
MY
WOMAN
MARINE
Option 4

MY
HERO IS A
WOMAN
MARINE



Option 5

Adult and Youth Shirts from Port Authority

Adult:
Ladies Polos
(Crew neck)
S-XL: \$35
2XL: \$37
3XL: \$39
4XL: \$41
5XL: \$43

S/S T-Shirt
S-XL: \$25
2XL: \$27
3XL: \$29
4XL: \$31
5XL: \$33

Chapter
OR-3 - five (5) embroidery options - Sizing and pricing, includes shipping:

Youth:
Polo - S-XL - \$30
S/S T-Shirt - S-XL - \$20

Contact: Stephanie Wilcox
swilcox818@yahoo.com
(541) 554-6015
<http://wmaor3.wixsite.com/shirts>

**For infant/toddler
contact seller**

Woman Marine Veteran Hats - Chapter TX-7

Blue with red bill, pink Woman Marine
Cost: \$15 plus \$5 shipping
Black patch with red bill, red patch with black bill
Cost: \$20 plus \$5 shipping

Contact: TX7@womenmarines.org
(for email / PayPal payments)



JEWELRY

Charm "Semper Fi" - Chapter OR-1 - Cost: \$5

Contact: OR1@womenmarines.org



Chapter Merchandise

TRAVEL MUGS



Arctic Tumblers - Chapter TX-7 - with 100 years or Proud Female Veteran Marine Corps

Cost: \$20 plus \$5 shipping

Contact: TX7@womenmarines.org

(for email / PayPal payments)



Travel Mug - Chapter CA-7 - white aluminum with green WMA logo on one side and gold "Oohrah Sisterhood Women Marines Association" centered - Size: 15 oz - Cost: \$15 (includes shipping) - checks payable to: EMVSC CA-7 WMA

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056-4011 (760) 724-9861

Visit www.womenmarines.net to see the item in color

WWII Poster Mug - Chapter IN-1 - vintage women Marines recruitment poster art, "Be a Marine - Free a Marine to Fight" - Cost: \$12 each plus \$7 shipping & handling - make checks payable to IN-1



Contact: Kay Ross, (317) 698-6637, kayross@comcast.net

MISCELLANEOUS

Car Flags - Chapter CA-11 - WMA logo - clips to car window - Cost: \$10.00 plus \$6.00 shipping

Table Flag - Chapter CA-11 - WMA logo with stand - size 4"x6"; Cost: \$5.00 plus \$6.00 shipping

Contact: Soledad Kennedy, 4062 Capella St., Lompoc, CA 93436, Fax/Office: (805) 733-2176
Cell: (805) 588-0650 usmcrfemale@yahoo.com
www.centralcoastwomenmarines.com

Women Marines Padfolio - Chapter MI-2 - WMA logo, zips all the way around, has a pocket on the outside and several on the inside, zippered one on the inside, writing pad included - Cost: \$28.50 (includes shipping)

Contact: WMA MI-2 Motor City, PO Box 590, Romeo, MI 48065

Clear Vinyl Bag - Chapter NC-1 - with long zipper, green/white WMA logo - Size: 9"x12" - Cost: \$6.25 (includes shipping)

Contact: Naomi Malone, 218 Sunset Rd, Jacksonville, NC 28546-7045 (910) 545-7154, nmalone@ec.rr.com

Luggage Tag - Chapter CA-7 - 3.5"x2.5" aluminum "Proud Member Women Marines Association, WMA logo on one side and "Oohrah Sisterhood" and WMA logo on other - Cost: \$10 (includes shipping) - checks payable to EMVSC CA-7 WMA

License Plate Frame - aluminum, "Oohrah Sisterhood" on top, "Women Marines Association" on bottom - Cost: \$12 (includes shipping) - checks payable to EMVSC CA-7 WMA

Ribbon Magnet - "Proud to be a Marine" - Size: 8"x3" - Cost: \$6 (includes shipping) - make checks payable to EMVSC CA-7 WMA



Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056-4011 (760) 724-9861

Visit www.womenmarines.net to see the item in color

Bumper Sticker - Chapter NM-1 - "The Few, The Proud, The Women Marines" - Cost: \$1.50 (includes shipping) - checks payable to WMA Chapter NM-1

Travel Neck Pouch - black w/two zippered sections on one side, clear section on reverse with WMA logo, adjustable strap - Size: 6.5"x4.5" - Cost: \$5 (includes shipping) - make checks payable to WMA Chapter NM-1

Contact: Laurel Hull, 28 Tejon Canyon Rd, Placitas, NM 87043, (505) 867-9172 - prism@lobo.net



Ladies! If your chapter purchased anything to sell at the convention, let's get it posted here!

WMA National Merchandise Sales – Your Purchases Support Our Association!

WMA Patch, Large. \$ 10.00
 WMA Life Member Pin. \$ 10.00
 WMA Cover Membership Pin. . . \$ 10.00
 WMA Logo Lapel Pin \$ 10.00
 Gold EGA for WMA Cover. . . . \$ 10.00



Cover Pin



WMA Afghan



WMA Ceremonial Flag 3' x 5'

WMA Afghan. \$ 55.00
 WMA Ceremonial Flag. \$200.00
 Chapter Ribbon (replacement).. \$ 20.00



WMA Logo Pin



Chapter Name Ribbon



Example



Name Tags: 1.50" x 3.00" . . . \$12.00



Example



Nametags are laser etched on dark green acrylic with white text and have magnetic hardware. Please indicate your Name, Chapter and Chapter designator exactly as you wish it to appear on your nametag. (See Example)

WMA Cover with Chapter Embroidery and EGA. \$55.00
 Cover with Chapter and LIFE embroidery. \$60.00

Sizing: (Measure crown of head 1" above ears, allow for hair style)

XSmall. (20 ½" - 20 7/8")	Small. (21 ¼" - 21 5/8")
Medium. (22" - 22 3/8")	Large. (22 ¾" - 23 1/8")
XLarge. (23 ½" - 23 7/8")	XXLarge. (24 ¼" - 24 5/8")



Please specify your cover size, chapter information, if "Life" is requested, shipping address and contact information (phone number and email). Covers are custom ordered - please allow 4 – 6 weeks for delivery.

Chapter Designation is limited to 5 characters max, (i.e. CA-29 or USA 1)

Please verify the size and information you provide—COVERS ARE SPECIAL ORDER AND NOT RETURNABLE

(if you measure near the top of the size bracket, you may want to order the next size up...)

Sale Items!!

WMA Cammo Drawstring Bag. . . \$8.00 Turner WMA History Book. . . . \$15.00
Above and Beyond. \$10.00 by Rudy Socha and Carolyn Darrow

You may order any of these items on our website at www.womenmarines.org, Shop, Members

Or

Mail the item information, quantity, your mailing address and contact info including email address along with your check

Payable to **Women Marines Association** to:

WMA Sales
 C/o Gail Horn

Contact info: sales@womenmarines.org
 Gail Horn (910) 355-0293

210 E. Lakeridge Landing **(NOTE NEW ADDRESS)**
 Jacksonville, NC 28546

WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION
WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS
401 EDGEWATER PLACE, SUITE 600
WAKEFIELD, MA 01880



FINAL WARNING!! **WMA is going green!**



Publications

If you have not already done so, please either go online and login to our website at www.womenmarines.org to verify that your contact information AND your publication preferences are correct. If you do not have a computer, please contact your chapter president or the national Membership Secretary. Her contact information is on Page 2.

If you have ever tried to use our online website and experienced difficulty logging in, please **DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT**. Instead, contact Public Relations Officer Mary Ann Merritt at pro@womenmarines.org and she will assist you. We cannot stress enough to check your publication preferences.

Beginning with the **first publication of 2021**, the publication default for all new members and anyone with an email address in our database, is electronic copies **ONLY** of 'Nouncements and the RM&D.

Physical paper copies will only be sent to members who have specifically requested paper copies. So please follow the contact information above if you want hard copies.

FINAL WARNING!!