

Special Business Edition #2

WMA's Rebranding Effort

Beginning from grassroots working group methodology in January 2020, the WMA Rebranding effort, to include a new National Logo and Seal design, has undergone a significant transformation and identity change. The new identity had to satisfy the existing expectations of what our original mark stands for...while simultaneously moving the WMA brand forward.

It is important to remember that **we have not changed** our Mission, Vision, or the Goals for WMA. WMA's intent was to never forget our identity as women Marines and more importantly we want to ensure that our legacy and history continues to be told and appreciated by all women who have worn the uniform and earned the title Marine. The new rebranding being incorporated is just an example of how WMA can better tell our story, especially to our younger Marines and prospective Marines that we **want and need** to keep WMA around for years to come.

The integrity of our new brand allows WMA to elevate our mission, grow membership, and move WMA forward. Based on survey input that expressed desires for more engagement with a shared purpose, build camaraderie with our fellow Marines and create a new feel and look while retaining our historical legacy, enabled us to identify specific pillars that define what WMA stands for and how we connect to our membership.

Our Brand Pillars include:

Connect, Serve, Celebrate and Stand

WE CONNECT: Forge friendships and foster opportunity across generations and geography.

WE SERVE: Join forces to make a positive impact on the mental and physical health of our fellow veterans through service and economic support.

WE CELEBRATE: Celebrate the legacy and stories of women who have served and are currently

serving in the United States Marine Corps.

WE STAND: Listen and engage to create a positive culture for those serving today and for generations to come.

WMA SEAL

The WMA National Seal is a reflection of our logo. It embodies the same proud and elite vibe while establishing our date of creation: 1960. The Seal is intended for use at the National level only. The WMA seal will be used on official National documents only or as specified by WMA National.



WMA LOGO

The WMA logo will be used by chapters on printed material, merchandise, banners, and on chapter websites and social media sites.



Design and Guidelines for new Logo and Seal

The design of the new seal and logo was based on the input from members and prospective members to include active-duty Marines, who participated in the process through surveys, focus groups, along with the appointed 2020 Working Group; all of which were made up from a broad spectrum of age groups and experience levels. The inspiration for using the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor in the new logo and seal had a great appeal to younger members, the same members that WMA is looking to attract. We used the main color scheme of the Marine Corps' branding colors to include the addition of the blood stripe to emphasize the Marine Corps' rich history. The **M** in WMA is reminiscent of the uniform trousers with the blood stripe and shows that as MARINES we walk proudly and stand out uniquely as women in the Marine Corps. (cont. Page 3)

Deadline for next issue of 'Nouncements ~ 10 January 2022

Send items to the Editor ~ Address and email on Page 2

78 YEARS OF PROUD SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND CORPS

Interim Board of Directors

President

Rhonda LeBrescu-Amtower
160 Highland, Williamsburg, VA 23188
(757) 564-3496 president@womenmarines.org

Immediate Past President

Betty Moseley Brown
PO Box 1924, Boerne, TX 78006
(202) 461-6198 IPP@womenmarines.org

1st Vice President

Ann Crittenden
4 Timothy Lane, Stafford, VA 22556
(540) 226-3580 1VP@womenmarines.org

2nd Vice President

Jeannine Franz
203 Fullard Dr., Sneads Ferry, NC 28460
(910) 381-3828 2VP@womenmarines.org

3rd Vice President

Pat Lewis
9672 Ashfield Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920
(703) 463-8042 3VP@womenmarines.org

Secretary

Mary Ellen Stone
611 Old Paint Rd., Raymore, MO 64083
(816) 916-5812 SEC@womenmarines.org

Treasurer

Peggy Reiber
13325 106th Drive SE, Snohomish, WA 98296
(760) 521-9093 Treasurer@womenmarines.org

Membership Secretary

Jennifer Homan
17295 Breckenridge Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038
(858) 703-7516 MSec@womenmarines.org

Appointed Officers

Chaplain

Eileen Skakill
22 Jack Rd, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567
(716) 672-9380 Chaplain@womenmarines.org

Editor

Sondra Metzger
3805 NE 141 Circle, Edmond, OK 73013
(405) 570-2472 Editor@womenmarines.org

Public Relations Officer

Mary Ann Merritt
70274 Campground, Romeo, MI 48065
(586) 752-9421 PRO@womenmarines.org

WMA Addresses You Need to Know

Snail Mail - USPS

Business/Legal Address

Women Marines Association
401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600
Wakefield, MA 01880- 8501

Membership Inquiries and Payments/Donations

Women Marines Association
25 Century Blvd., Suite 505
Nashville, TN 37214

Email

WMA@womenmarines.org

For general information about WMA

Membership@womenmarines.org

Membership questions, to include updates to member contact information.

Listening@womenmarines.org

For questions and comments regarding the new governance structure.

WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS

Official Publication of the WMA

WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS (USPS 371410) is published quarterly by the Women Marines Association. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN and additional mailing offices. Membership eligibility: Women who serve or have served honorably in the United States Marine Corps regular or reserve components; or in the United States Navy as "Fleet Marine Force (FMF) qualified" personnel to include corpsmen, chaplains, religious program specialists, and medical officers (these are designated as Active Members) are eligible for membership in the Women Marines Association. Dues are \$40 for two years.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS, Women Marines Association, 401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600, Wakefield, MA 01880-8501.

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(cont. from Page 1)

****Please note that this logo has been approved by the Headquarters Marine Corps Counsel (Marine Corps Trademark and Licensing). The Counsel also provided WMA with a list of approved vendors that must be used to develop and purchase merchandise.**

CHAPTER GUIDELINES

Our design team, led by Jennifer Moffitt, will be sending each chapter a predesigned logo. This will include your chapter designation and name along with the new logo. This will be your **Primary Logo**. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the team at design@womenmarines.org.

We understand that many chapters want to embrace their chapter uniqueness with a **Secondary Logo** that speaks of the chapter, perhaps it shows location, state flower, etc. We encourage that but ask that chapters send it to the design team for review only to ensure that your **Secondary Logo** is in keeping with the WMA brand.

Our **“Vintage Logo”** with the woman Marine superimposed on the EGA will no longer be used for official purposes. You may still sell the merchandise that you have that uses the **Vintage Logo**, but future merchandise purchases should bear the new logo. Remember, chapters must use a vendor from the approved vendor list provided by Headquarters Marine Corps Counsel (Marine Corps Trademark and Licensing) as mentioned above. If you have any questions contact design@womenmarines.org.

Thanks in advance for your support to all of our recent efforts that are focused on making our Association more “Relevant, Integrated and Growing.” As a member of our community, we look forward to your engaged participation which is vital to the growth and success of our Association. Semper Fidelis!

Design Team
Rhonda Amtower

Reporting In...National President



Way Forward Status

This issue of ‘Nouncements is focused on updating the membership on the advances we have made as part of our new Way Forward. We have accomplished a lot this past year; hiring an Association Management Partner, Virtual Inc.; revising our National Bylaws and Standing Rules; along with engaging in a rebranding effort that introduced a new look/marketing approach for WMA to include a newly designed logo and seal. You will find more information on the latter in the front page article of this issue. Over the next couple of months our focus will be on developing a new website as well as preparing for the Nomination and Election process both expected to be active in the 1st quarter of 2022.

The revised Bylaws defined the new streamlined Board of Directors of eight (8) elected positions and the upcoming Elections will reflect these changes. We have revised our Nomination and Election process to help provide a more effective manner to elect our National Board of Directors. See details below. Here is what to anticipate in the New Year:



(cont. on Page 4)

1) Nomination period will open in mid-January and run to mid-March.

During this time, anyone interested, who meets the criteria needed for each position will have the opportunity to submit their nomination package to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

- An email notification will be sent out to the membership to let you know the nomination period has opened. The notification will include detailed instructions on how to submit your nomination package and the deadline in which you need to submit your application.
- **All nominations will be submitted directly to the Nominating Committee** via email:
nominate@womenmarines.org.

2) The Nominating Committee review will take place in Mid-March to the end of April.

- Review all applications received
- Set up an interview with each nominee
- Create a list of qualified nominees for each position to appear on the Election Ballot
- Qualified nominees will be notified via email

3) Balloting period will be open May and June. (Specific dates to be determined)

- Balloting will be conducted both online and paper. **(It should be noted only those who have requested a hard copy of 'Nouncements will be the only ones allowed to submit a paper ballot).**
- Email notification will go out to all members who have **not** requested a hard copy of 'Nouncements with instructions on how to cast your ballot online.
- A paper ballot will be sent to all the members who **have** requested a hard copy of 'Nouncements with detailed instructions on how to cast your paper ballot.
- All ballots (online/paper) will be **directed back to Virtual Inc. (our management company)** who is responsible for processing all the ballots and reporting the final results to the Nominating Committee.

- Newly elected board members will be notified and results will be announced to the membership.

Please make sure your email and postal address are up to date! Contact our WMA Membership team at membership@womenmarines.org with any changes to your contact information.

4) Board Orientation

During this time, it is important to get the newly elected board members acquainted with their new role and responsibilities.

- Newly elected board members will:
 - Be notified via email of the New Board Member Orientation Meetings
 - Receive an E-binder (Electronic Binder) with information on their role and responsibilities
- Board Orientation meetings will be conducted online and recorded for continued training support.

5) Installation of Board Members

Newly elected Board members are installed at convention

You will find more supporting documentation on the Nomination and Election process following this article to include the new Organizational Chart, the eight elected Position Descriptions (PD's), Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about the process, etc. If you have any questions or have an interest in knowing more before the Nomination period official opens in January, please contact the Nominating Committee at nominate@womenmarines.org. This is the time to let your voices be heard and for your engagement and participation in your Association. Be a part of the change and future of WMA!

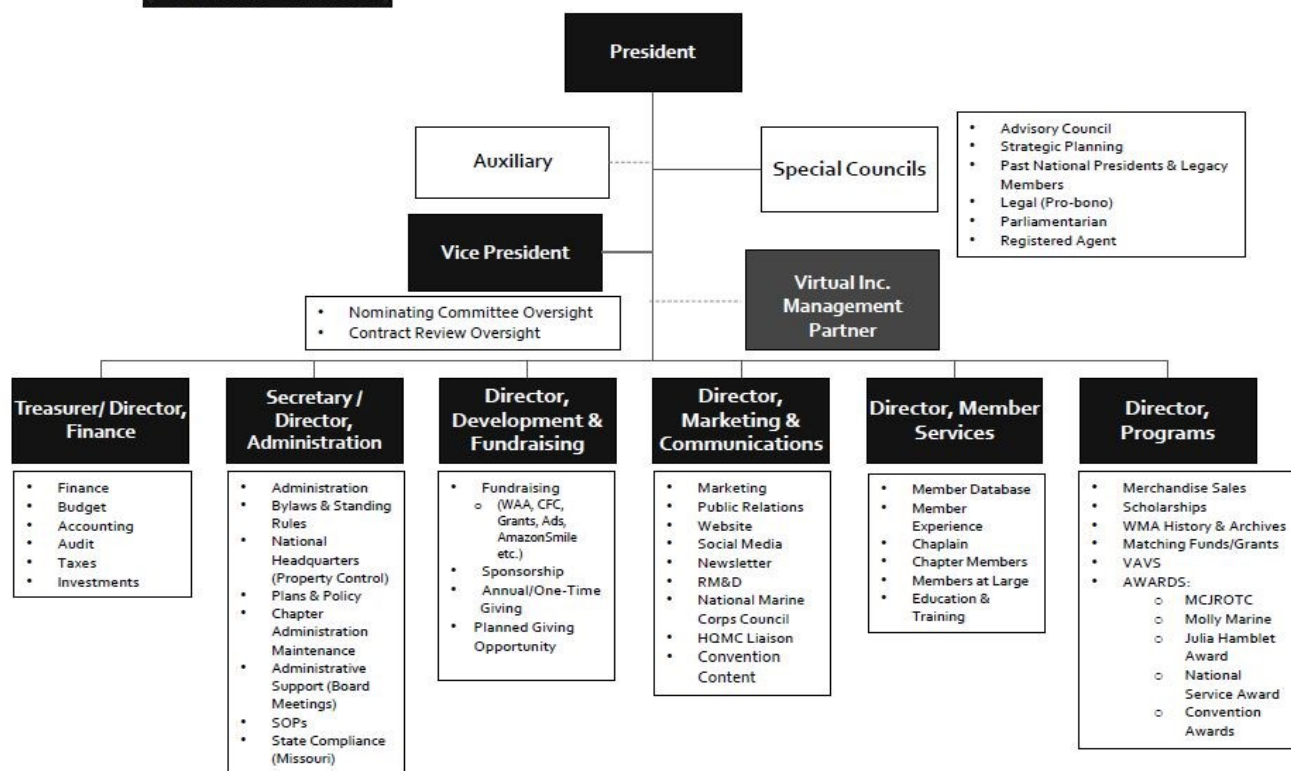
Rhonda Amtower



WMA Governing Board

Last Revised: Sept 15, 2021

Elected Positions



Retirement

After 35 years of dedicated service, LtGen Lori Reynolds retired from the Marine Corps on 9 July 2021. Congratulations, General! Semper Fi!



WMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT

VISION

The Women Marines Association (WMA) will be the veterans' organization of choice for female Marines (past, present, and future) looking for camaraderie, mentoring, and support.

MISSION

To preserve and promote the history and traditions of women in the Marine Corps from World War I to the present; to conduct programs for charitable and educational purposes; to promote the welfare and well-being of elderly, disabled, and needy women Marine veterans, as well as women currently serving in the Marine Corps; to provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans and members of the Armed Forces of the United States; to sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature, particularly those that perpetuate the tradition and esprit de corps of the United States Marine Corps; and to foster the spirit of comradeship of women who have served or who now serve in the United States Marine Corps, regular or reserve components.

WMA'S GOALS These goals are established to help WMA realize its vision and accomplish its mission:

1. Increase membership while retaining as many of our current members as possible
2. Increase visibility of WMA and the charitable and educational events accomplished
3. Keep WMA relevant to women Marines of all ages
4. Grow and maintain an active network of chapters in every state
5. Work with other veteran organizations as we achieve our goals
6. Find additional sources to fund WMA's charitable and other activities and to ensure WMA has adequate financial reserves

PURPOSE OF BOARD

Volunteer members of the Board represent the Women Marines Association (WMA) membership and serve as an Ambassador to support the Association. Collectively they are legally responsible for the corporation, including financial and program accountability. They define and implement the mission, vision, and values of the WMA, based on their understanding of the assets, needs, and goals of the WMA members.

Board Terms

This position will serve a two-year term of office that begins at the close of the convention where they are installed and shall be limited to two consecutive terms in the same office.

Attendance

Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and IBM Board meetings. To do its job, the Board must act as a group, so attendance at meetings is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Rules of Order (Parliamentary Procedure)

Agenda - Ensures that important business is covered, and discussions are on topic.

Motions - Proposals for formal action beginning with, "I move we..."

Second - Required for the motion to be put to vote, "I second the motion we..."

Amendments - May be made to a Motion to improve and/or clarify the original motion.

Tabling - Lays the motion aside.

Calling the Question - Refers to ending the discussion and voting on a motion.

Voting - Official action after discussing to adopt, amend, kill, or table the Motion. "All in favor, signify by saying 'Aye.' Those not in favor signify by saying 'No.' Anyone abstaining from the vote?"

Minutes - Protect the organization by recording the time and location of the meeting, participants, and the outcome of any motions. They are not a place to record conversations, assignments, reports, etc.

Quorum - Number of directors required to conduct official business.

President Responsibilities

- To serve as the principal administrator of the Association, exercising leadership consistent with the express

will of the membership and the prerogatives of the Board of Directors.

- To represent the Association, or provide for its representation, at appropriate functions.
- To coordinate all Association activities through the Board of Directors (BOD).
- To provide guidance and support, upon request or observation of need, therefore, to all members of her administration.
- Fiduciary Responsibility: Read each quarterly financial report and understand what is going on with the Organization's finances to include an understanding of budgets for the Association.
- To keep the 1st Vice President informed of Association matters.
- To work closely with the National Secretary to initiate, direct and authorize certain procedures of general correspondence and items that require a vote by the Board of Directors (BOD); and/or to relay any information you may wish to get out to the rest of the BOD. (Such as send out ballots or agendas for board meetings.)
- To serve as a member, ex-officio, of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- Work with the Secretary to request annual reports from all positions who serve at the National Level.
- To submit the President's message for each quarterly issue of '*NOUNCEMENTS*'. (Maintains contact with Editor of '*NOUNCEMENTS*').
- To prepare agenda before each meeting of the Board of Directors and each business session of the National Biennial Convention.
- Any Presidential mementos must be prepared before the convention and will be funded from the President's budget.
- Send a personal letter of congratulations to all members of your new board as soon after the convention as possible.
- Provide an annual report to the members through an article in '*NOUNCEMENTS*' that describes the progress of the business of the Association.
- Coordinate with the Capital Fund Review Board (CFRB) and the Convention Planning Committee (CPC) in the performance of their duties since they report directly to the National President.
- Responsibilities of the National President at Convention (See Convention Planning Guidelines)
- Participate in the strategic planning process

Qualifications

- Be a member of WMA in good standing
- Served as a Board Member, Area Director /Chapter Officer or in some capacity within the National level WMA and be familiar with WMA procedures and processes
- Demonstrated breadth and depth of management and leadership experience, preferably in a senior leadership role in a large or recognized organization.
- Integrity and high ethical standards.
- Financial and business acumen or relevant industry experience.

Skills

- Excellent communication skills to include both verbal and written, and interpersonal skills
- Familiarity with Microsoft Suite, Google Suite, and Video Conferencing
- Familiarity with Parliamentary procedures and Roberts Rules of Order.

Expectations

- Must have working WiFi and computer
- Should a member of the Board or Chair of a committee fail to perform duties mandated by the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Standing Operating Procedures, the Board shall take appropriate action which may result in that individual being asked to resign.
- To prepare an annual report of her activities and other reports that may be required.
- To ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility upon relief from office by the prompt surrender of all pertinent records of her office to her duly named successor. Records for the past term(s) served and historical data as provided by the prior holder of the office should be sufficient.

- Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share said drive as required.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision-making.
- Experience in WMA activities and participation at the biennial Convention.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association's Code of Conduct.
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.



WMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS VICE PRESIDENT

PURPOSE OF POSITION

Volunteer members of the Board represent the Women Marines Association (WMA) membership and serve as an Ambassador to support the Association. Collectively they are legally responsible for the association, including financial and program accountability. They define and implement the mission, vision, and values of the WMA, based on their understanding of the assets, needs, and goals of the WMA members.

Board Terms

This position will serve a two-year term of office that begins at the close of the convention where they are installed and shall be limited to two consecutive terms in the same office.

Attendance

Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and IBM Board meetings. To do its job, the Board must act as a group, so attendance at meetings is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Vice President Responsibilities

- To serve as assistant to the National President, exercising leadership consistent with non-interference with presidential prerogatives.
- To conduct the duties of the National President in the event of her absence or incapacitation.
- Board Management: In coordination with the National President, manages Association activities with the Board of Directors (BOD).
- Perform duties/tasks as assigned by the President.
- Fiduciary Responsibility: Read each quarterly financial report and understand what is going on with the Association's finances to include an understanding of budgets for the Association.
- Nominating and Election oversight.
- Contract review oversight.
- Coordinates the Recognition and Awards Event Program with Director, Programs at the convention.
- Refer to the SOP for in-depth information on the position.
- Participate in the strategic planning process and development.

Qualifications

- Be a member of WMA in good standing
- Served as a Board Member, Area Director /Chapter Officer or in some capacity within the National level WMA and be familiar with WMA procedures and processes
- Demonstrated breadth and depth of management and leadership experience, preferably in a senior leadership role in a large or recognized organization.
- Integrity and high ethical standards.

Skills

- Excellent communication skills to include both verbal and written, and interpersonal skills
- Familiarity with Microsoft Suite, Google Suite, and Video Conferencing

Expectations

- Must have working WiFi and computer
- Should a member of the Board or Chair of a committee fail to perform duties mandated by the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Standing Operating Procedures, the Board shall take appropriate action which may result in that individual being asked to resign.
- To prepare an annual report of her activities and other reports that may be required.
- To ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility upon relief from office by the prompt surrender of all pertinent records of her office to her duly named successor. Records for the past term(s) served and historical data as provided by the prior holder of the office should be sufficient.
- Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share said drive as required.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision-making.
- Experience in WMA activities and participation at the biennial Convention.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association's Code of Conduct.
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.



WMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TREASURER/DIRECTOR, FINANCE

PURPOSE OF POSITION

The role of the Treasurer/Director, Finance is a voluntary position that is in direct support of the President of the Women Marines Association (WMA) and serves as an Ambassador to support the Association. The Treasurer/Director has oversight for budgeting, forecasting, account reconciliation, and profit and loss reporting as well as working with the Investment Committee (IC). The Director of Finance will oversee all accounting activities related to income auditing, donations, accounts payable processing, accounts receivable processing, accounts receivable collection, IRS compliance, and contracts; collectively with the Finance Committee are legally responsible for the Association, including financial and program accountability. They define and implement the mission, vision, and values of the WMA, based on their understanding of the assets, needs, and goals of the WMA members.

Board Terms

This position will serve a 2-year term and be eligible for re-election for unlimited additional terms.

Attendance

Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and IBM Board meetings. To do its job, the Board must act as a group, so attendance at meetings is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Treasurer/Director, Finance Responsibilities

- The WMA Treasurer/Director of Finance is the custodian for all money of the Association.
- Coordinate with the investment committee to ensure alignment of goals/cash flow needs with investment earnings and investment strategy.
- The Treasurer may be assisted in performing her duties by one or more support contractors and monitor the oversight of the following responsibilities:
 - ◊ Maintaining financial records of all transactions, following accepted business practices.
 - ◊ Receiving and recording receipt of cash, checks, and money orders, that come for payment of dues, donations, purchases, bequests, or services.
 - ◊ Reviewing all financial reports monthly.
 - ◊ Guide the Scholarship Committee as to the number of scholarships that can be awarded

- based on the earnings from the Scholarship Fund investments.
- ◊ Reviewing payment requests and disbursing funds as payment for the Association's financial obligations.
- ◊ Annually coordinate with WMA chapters to verify Group Exemptions as "recognized subordinates" by the Internal Revenue Service.
- ◊ Annually advising subordinate chapters of the requirement to file an IRS Form 990N postcard.
- ◊ Arrange for timely completion and filing of WMA National tax form 990.
- ◊ Preparing and reviewing financial reports to be sent to all Board members.
- Serve as an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee and the Capital Fund Review Board.
- Perform such other duties as may be lawfully assigned by the National President of the WMA Board of Directors.
- Fiduciary Responsibility: Read each quarterly financial report and understand what is going on with the Organization's finances to include an understanding of budgets for the Association.
- Refer to the SOP for in-depth information on the position.
- Participate in the strategic planning process and development.

Qualifications

- Be a member of WMA in good standing.
- Integrity and high ethical standards.
- Administrative competence and database experience.
- Financial and business acumen or relevant industry experience.
- Knowledge of non-profit financial management.

Skills

- Knowledge of non-profit management.
- Impeccable mathematics and analytical skills.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, and Video Conferencing.
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.
- Familiarity with Quick Books accounting software.
- Expertise in Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- CPA or bookkeeper experience or experience in the Marine Corps as a disbursing officer/comptroller or other related experience in finance.

Expectations

- Must have a working WiFi and Computer.
- Should a member of the Board or Chair of a committee fail to perform duties mandated by the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Standing Operating Procedures, the Board shall take appropriate action which may result in that individual being asked to resign.
- To prepare an annual report of her activities and other reports that may be required.
- To ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility upon relief from office by the prompt surrender of all pertinent records of her office to her duly named successor. Records for the past term(s) served and historical data as provided by the prior holder of the office should be sufficient.
- Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share said drive as required.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision-making.
- Experience in WMA activities and participation at the biennial Convention.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association's Code of Conduct.
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.



WMA

WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

WMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECRETARY/DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION

PURPOSE OF POSITION

The role of the Secretary/Director, Administration is a voluntary position that is in direct support of the President of the Women Marines Association (WMA) and serves as an Ambassador to support the Association. The Secretary/Director of Administration is a member of the WMA Board of Directors and has oversight for all administrative procedures/process to include the official organizational oversight in coordination with WMA's management company of the Board of Directors meetings, agenda development, archiving of records/results and if required, voting procedures required as per the Bylaws and SOP.

Board Term

This position will serve a 2-year term and be eligible for re-election for unlimited additional terms.

Attendance

Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and IBM Board meetings. To do its job, the Board must act as a group, so attendance at meetings is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Secretary/Director, Assigned Duties

- The Secretary ensures records are kept regarding Board attendance and Board voting. The Secretary advises the President on Board attendance and voting record for appropriate action.
- To prepare and maintain a record of all proceedings of the Association.
- To obtain contact information for all Board members and Appointees for an in-house directory.
- To conduct Board ballot voting electronically or vocally and maintain all voting records until votes are ratified at the next annual Board meeting.
- To receive and process Chapter charter petitions, proposed Chapter bylaws, and standing rules, and proposed amendments to the Chapter bylaws and standing rules as prescribed in the Chapter "How To Book."
- To maintain the permanent official record of Chapters Charters, Bylaws, and Standing Rules as approved and/or amended. Make a copy of the charter before it is issued and place it in the official files.
- To maintain the WMA Official Seal and be responsible for placement on formal documents as required.
- Pertaining to special ballots other than Board elections:
 - ◆ The Secretary will have oversight in coordination with WMA's management company of ballots mailed to members regarding special elections.
 - ◇ To receive and safeguard ballots cast by mail.
 - ◇ To supervise tally of votes cast (select a committee of at least 4 to count ballots).
 - ◇ To certify election results (all tellers must sign certification).
 - ◇ To retain documentation of election results until the disposal thereof is authorized. (Ask for a vote at the next board meeting to destroy ballots. Keep tally sheets in special folders in Secretary's files.)
 - ◇ Prepare results of the election for publication in the next issue of 'NOUNCEMENTS. (See previous election results printed in 'NOUNCEMENTS for proper form.)
 - ◆ Vacant Board positions during a term of office will be appointed by the President with approval of the Board.
- Receive all annual reports from Board members and Appointees, and Loyal Escorts President, and prepare all reports for either the Interim Board Meeting (IBM) or publication for the Special Pre-Convention Issue of 'NOUNCEMENTS.
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- Coordinate and maintain with the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee the original Bylaws and Standing Rules master document to include Amendments.
- To prepare for timely membership notification of all proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules.
- To assist the National President in preparing an agenda before any Board of Directors meeting.
- To notify all Board members, Past National Presidents, observers, and invited guests of time and place of board meetings. Notify the President of those that will be attending.
- Bring nameplates, flags, and seal to Board Meetings.
- Prepare seating chart for Board Meetings – President, Parliamentarian on her left, Secretary on her right. Professional Recorder placed where most convenient for her to see and hear.
- For historical purposes put together a ‘Convention electronic file” of all convention-related material. Ask the Convention Committee to provide you with all items needed for this book to include speeches from NP and guest speakers; a copy of event programs; photos of major events, etc. Once final, one copy each should go to the National President, the National Headquarters, the Convention Planning Committee, and the WMA Historian for their files.
- To request donations from board members for the purchase of a “thank you” gift for the National President. Ask members of her family or friends as to what she might like as a gift. Present gift at the last meeting of the outgoing Board.
- State Compliance for the State of Missouri.
- Responsibilities of Secretary at Convention (See Convention Planning Guidelines)
- Participate in the strategic planning process
- To perform such other duties as may be lawfully assigned by the National President or Board of Directors.

Qualifications

- Be a member of WMA in good standing
- Integrity and high ethical standards.
- Administrative competence (may be useful to have USMC Admin background)

Skills

- Excellent communication skills to include both verbal and written, and interpersonal skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Suite, Google Suite, and Video Conferencing

Expectations

- Must have working WiFi and computer
- Should a member of the Board or Chair of a committee fail to perform duties mandated by the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Standing Operating Procedures, the Board shall take appropriate action which may result in that individual being asked to resign.
- To prepare an annual report of her activities and other reports that may be required.
- To ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility upon relief from office by the prompt surrender of all pertinent records of her office to her duly named successor. Records for the past term(s) served and historical data as provided by the prior holder of the office should be sufficient.
- Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share said drive as required.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision-making.
- Experience in WMA activities and participation at the biennial Convention.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association’s Code of Conduct.
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.



WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

WMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

PURPOSE OF POSITION

The Director, Development & Fundraising is a volunteer position that directly supports the President, of the Women Marines Association (WMA) and serves as an Ambassador to support the Association. Oversees WMA's donor relations program and manages fundraising initiatives. The successful Director will be responsible for developing non-profit fundraising campaigns, communicating with current and prospective donors, and building a stronger development team for WMA. This position involves managing individual and corporate gifts as well as planned and annual giving campaigns. The Director will work in partnership with the Convention Coordination Committee (CCC) to enable the success of the event.

Board Terms

This position will serve a 2-year term and be eligible for re-election for unlimited additional terms.

Attendance

Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and IBM Board meetings. To do its job, the Board must act as a group, so attendance at meetings is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Director, Development & Fundraising Responsibilities

Oversees WMA's donor relations program and manages fundraising initiatives. The successful Director will be responsible to:

- Identify prospective individual and corporate donors and develop strategies to cultivate those relationships.
- Maintain ongoing communications with private and corporate donors.
- Define and implement prospective donor relation programs.
- Ensure timely and accurate report deliveries regarding donations to prospective donors, the BOD, as well as the newsletter editor and website manager as appropriate.
- Publish an annual or biannual public report providing information to members, prospective members, and donors regarding WMA accomplishments.
- Collaborate with convention committee on the management and planning of fundraising related to biennial conventions.
- Initiate a donor recognition program to ensure all get appropriate recognition.
- Coordinate print marketing collateral related to fundraising in collaboration with Director of Marketing and Communications.
- Define and implement a Planned Giving Campaign.
- Define and implement an Annual Giving Campaign.
- Coordinate social media marketing in partnership with the Director of Marketing and Communications.
- Fiduciary Responsibility: Read each quarterly financial report and understand what is going on with the Organization's finances to include an understanding of budgets for the Association.
- Refer to the SOP for in-depth information on the position.
- Participate in the strategic planning process and development.

Qualifications

- Be a member of WMA in good standing
- Integrity and high ethical standards.
- Administrative competence and database experience
- A background in non-profit fundraising and development desired.

Skills

- Experience in Business Administration, Communications, Finance, or related field helpful.
- Applied understanding of basic fundraising principles and development best practices.
- Experience in fundraising.
- Experience with online fundraising, email marketing, and internet research
- Working knowledge of investment strategies and markets.
- Familiar with Facebook, Twitter, and Zoom.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, and Video Conferencing.
- Database and spreadsheet proficiency.
- Excellent written, interpersonal, and verbal communication skills.

Expectations

- Must have a working WiFi and Computer.
- Should a member of the Board or Chair of a committee fail to perform duties mandated by the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Standing Operating Procedures, the Board shall take appropriate action which may result in that individual being asked to resign.
- To prepare an annual report of her activities and other reports that may be required.
- To ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility upon relief from office by the prompt surrender of all pertinent records of her office to her duly named successor. Records for the past term(s) served and historical data as provided by the prior holder of the office should be sufficient.
- Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share said drive as required.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision making.
- Experience in WMA activities and participation at the biennial Convention.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association's Code of Conduct.
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.



WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

WMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

PURPOSE OF POSITION

The role of the Director, Marketing & Communications is a voluntary position that is in direct support of the President of the Women Marines Association (WMA) and serves as an Ambassador to support the Association. The Director, Marketing & Communications is a member of the WMA Board of Directors and has oversight for all association activities related to communications, marketing, advertising, and public relations. Oversees telling the WMA story to stakeholders and other audiences via social media channels, news media, member communications platforms, the WMA website, and other available communications platforms.

Board Term

This position will serve a 2-year term and be eligible for re-election for unlimited additional terms.

Attendance

Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and IBM Board meetings. To do its job, the Board must act as a group, so attendance at meetings is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Director, Marketing & Communications Planning

Oversees the development of an annual marketing and communications plan that aligns with organizational strategic objectives.

Communications – Continually analyze Board and association activities through the lens of marketing and communications, thinking about how, what, and whether association activities can or should be communicated to members and other stakeholders.

Metrics – Working with Board and partners, establishes the systems that will be used to evaluate the performance of marketing and communications activities.

Promotion – Serve as an idea generator and ambassador always looking for opportunities to expose WMA and its services to members and new audiences.

Campaigner – Be the ultimate champion of WMA as an organization, mobilizing and pushing organizational programs, services, and initiatives and, in so doing, modeling an attitude that will encourage fellow Board members, volunteers, chapters, and others to tell the WMA story in a sustained and compelling manner.

IT Administrator – to oversee and manage WMA’s various software packages and licenses.

Director, Marketing & Communications, Assigned Duties

- To supervise the development and execution of marketing and communications plans.
- To work with committee members, the Board, and contractors to develop and implement marketing and communications tactics in support of association strategic objectives.
- To lead a collective effort to oversee the content and user experience of the WMA website and ensure its contribution toward the achievement of association objectives.
- To serve as a spokesperson for the association when called upon to do so with the news media and other platforms to amplify WMA’s positions on relevant issues and exposure to key audiences.
- To organize and lead a sustained discussion of how to collect and disseminate content through available channels that tells the WMA story specifically, and women Marines generally, that amplifies the association’s voice and builds its reputation on an ongoing basis.
- To serve as the ombudsman of the WMA story, ensuring the association is represented in a manner that is representative of its history, mission, and evolving role among women Marines.
- To serve as the keeper of the WMA brand, helping to advance the association’s connection to its membership and within its growing sphere of influence within and among external communities and audiences.
- To be the ultimate negotiator of the written word that WMA uses to define itself via available marketing and communications channels.
- To perform such other duties as may be lawfully assigned by the National President or Board of Directors.

Qualifications

- Be a member of WMA in good standing
- Integrity and high ethical standards.
- Administrative competence and database experience
- Working knowledge of Google Drive and other associated archiving capabilities.

Skills

- Administrative competence (may be useful to have USMC Admin background)
- Advanced skillset in verbal and written communications.
- Comfort and familiarity with social media and their platforms.
- Familiarity with website design and HTML editing.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, and Video Conferencing.

Expectations

- Must have a working WiFi and Computer.
- Should a member of the Board or Chair of a committee fail to perform duties mandated by the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Standing Operating Procedures, the Board shall take appropriate action which may result in that individual being asked to resign.

- To prepare an annual report of her activities and other reports that may be required.
- To ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility upon relief from office by the prompt surrender of all pertinent records of her office to her duly named successor. Records for the past term(s) served and historical data as provided by the prior holder of the office should be sufficient.
- Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share said drive as required.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision-making.
- Experience in WMA activities and participation at the biennial Convention.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association's Code of Conduct.
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.



WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

WMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTOR, MEMBER SERVICES

PURPOSE OF POSITION

The role of the Director, Member Services is a voluntary position that is in direct support of the President of the Women Marines Association (WMA) and serves as an Ambassador to support the Association. The Director/Member Services in coordination with WMA's management company, oversees the Membership Database, Member Experience to include Chapter Members, Members at Large (MALs), and Chapter Education and Training.

Board Terms

This position will serve a 2-year term and be eligible for re-election for unlimited additional terms.

Attendance

Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and IBM Board meetings. To do its job, the Board must act as a group, so attendance at meetings is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Director, Member Services Responsibilities

- Member Database
 - ◊ Director, Member Services will be assisted in this position by WMA's management company.
 - ◊ Facilitate updates for the WMA membership database.
 - ◊ Forward reports and mailing lists from the WMA Membership Database to Chapters, and vendors as needed.
- Member Experience
 - ◊ Respond to member queries and collaborate with internal departments to optimize member services and brand awareness.
 - ◊ Coordinate with Director, Marketing & Communications to promote and expand membership.
- Chaplain
 - ◊ Notification of death to Member Services.
 - ◊ See SOP for in-depth Chaplain duties.
- Act as Liaison Officer to all WMA members to include chapters and members-at-large (MAL), and Compassionate Retention (CR) members.
- Chapter Education and Training
- Fiduciary Responsibility: Read each quarterly financial report and understand what is going on with the Organization's finances to include an understanding of budgets for the Association.

- Refer to the SOP for in-depth information on the position.
- Participate in the strategic planning process and development.

Qualifications

- Be a member of WMA in good standing.
- Integrity and high ethical standards.
- Administrative competence and database experience

Skills

- Excellent communication skills to include both verbal and written, and interpersonal skills.
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Suite, Google Suite, and Video Conferencing

Expectations

- Must have working WiFi and computer.
- Should a member of the Board or Chair of a committee fail to perform duties mandated by the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Standing Operating Procedures, the Board shall take appropriate action which may result in that individual being asked to resign.
- To prepare an annual report of her activities and other reports that may be required.
- To ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility upon relief from office by the prompt surrender of all pertinent records of her office to her duly named successor. Records for the past term(s) served and historical data as provided by the prior holder of the office should be sufficient. Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share said drive as required.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision-making.
- Experience in WMA activities and participation at the biennial Convention.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association's Code of Conduct.
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.



WMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS DIRECTOR, PROGRAMS

PURPOSE OF POSITION

The role of the Director of Programs is a voluntary position that is in direct support of the President of the Women Marines Association (WMA) and serves as an Ambassador to support the Association. Is the liaison to the President and has oversight for all Program procedures to include the official organizational oversight. The Director of Programs coordinates with WMA's management company for the Board of Directors meetings, agenda development, the financial health of the Programs, and the annual reporting requirements.

Board Terms

This position will serve a 2-year term and be eligible for re-election for unlimited additional terms.

Attendance

Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and IBM Board meetings. To do its job, the Board must act as a group, so attendance at meetings is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Director, Programs Responsibilities

- The Director acts as a Liaison Officer to the National President for the following:
 - ◊ Merchandise Sales
 - ◊ Scholarships
 - ◊ WMA History & Archives
 - ◊ MCJROTC
 - ◊ Molly Marine
 - ◊ Julia Hamblet Award
 - ◊ National Service Award
 - ◊ Recognition and Awards (Convention)
 - ◊ Matching Funds/Grants
 - ◊ Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service (VAVS)
- Coordinate the submissions of all annual reports from the programs listed above.
- Refer to the SOP for in-depth information on the positions listed above.

Qualifications

- Be a member of WMA in good standing
- Integrity and high ethical standards.
- Knowledge of program management and leadership experience.

Skills

- Excellent communication skills to include both verbal and written, and interpersonal skills
- Familiarity with Microsoft Suite, Google Suite, and Video Conferencing

Expectations

- Must have a working WiFi and computer.
- Should a member of the Board or Chair of a committee fail to perform duties mandated by the Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Standing Operating Procedures, the Board shall take appropriate action which may result in that individual being asked to resign.
- To prepare an annual report of her activities and other reports that may be required.
- To ensure an orderly transfer of responsibility upon relief from office by the prompt surrender of all pertinent records of her office to her duly named successor. Records for the past term(s) served and historical data as provided by the prior holder of the office should be sufficient.
- Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share said drive as required.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision-making.
- Experience in WMA activities and participation at the biennial Convention.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association's Code of Conduct.
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.

The End

And there you have the duties of our new board. So many members have complained about the board consisting of the same people all the time. This is how you change that, by volunteering to serve as an officer of the WMA board.

This will be a new WMA, going where WMA hasn't gone before! Same mission, same goals, more technology, less individually time consuming!

So step up! Learn things! Get out of your comfort zone! Be a part of the restructuring of WMA!

WMA Nomination & Election FAQs

Revised: 18 October 2021

Q: What's required for a position to serve on the Board?

- Be a member of WMA in good standing
- Have a working computer and WiFi
 - ◊ Knowledge of conferencing software e.g., Zoom, Teams, etc.
- Attend required annual meetings (Convention/off-convention year the Interim Board Meeting (IBM)) and other scheduled Board meetings (online/in-person).
- Provide guidance and participate in committee(s) meetings for which you have oversight. (See OrgChart)
- Collaborate with the Board as needed.
- Prepare in advance for board and committee discussions and decision-making.
- Coordinate with committees that fall under the position
- Prepare an annual report of activities and other reports that may be required.
- Maintain records on the official WMA Google Drive assigned to the position and share documents in the drive as required.
- Acknowledge and comply with the Association's Code of Conduct.

Q: Is travel required in the conduct of business?

- Yes. Members are expected to attend scheduled Board of Directors (BOD/Board) meetings at a minimum. There is an expectation of travel to the Convention and Interim Board Meeting (IBM). To do its job, the Board must act as a group. Attendance at meetings, therefore, is critical to ensure that all voices are heard.

Q: Do I have a budget to assist in the conduct of business in this position?

- Each position has a limited budget for attendance at annual Board meetings and budget for required expenditures.
- Any necessary expenditures above the budget require prior board approval, without which expenditures will not be reimbursed.

Q: Will I receive an orientation before taking office?

- Yes. Board orientation is provided to new members following the election results and before assuming duties.

Q: How much decision authority is inherent with this position?

- Participation in Board voting
- During orientation Board members will be briefed on the responsibilities of their positions in the following areas:
 - ◊ Fiduciary
 - ◊ Policy
 - ◊ Bylaws & Standard Rules
 - ◊ Standing Operating Procedures

Q: After I submit my application, how long will it take to get a response?

- You will receive an automatic response to confirm receipt of your application. Once the nomination period closes, the Nomination Committee will vet all nominees and then create a list of qualified nominees that will appear on the election ballot. All nominees will be notified whether or not they meet the required qualifications and if they will be included in the election ballot.

Q: How will I be informed about the final election results?

- After the election ballot period closes all nominees will be informed of the results in writing. The election results will be announced to the membership immediately thereafter.

Q: Will I have a separate email account through WMA that will allow me to communicate with my committees?

- Yes. The Communications Director will assign you a Google email account based on the Board member position you hold.

Q: What is my reporting chain? This is a voluntary position: do I have a supervisor or someone who I can contact if I have questions other than the National President?

- All Board members report to the WMA President; however, the WMA Vice President is responsible for the management of Association activities with all members of the Board of Directors (BOD); thus allowing for an avenue for better communication and coordination among the entire Board.

Q: Are there any other policies or regulations that I must be aware of in becoming a member of the WMA Board?

- You must be aware of and abide by the National Bylaws and Standing Rules as well as the WMA Code of Conduct.

Q: Do I have to have a personal Zoom account, or will WMA provide me with one?

- Virtual meetings have been the way WMA has been conducting business during the past 18 months. WMA will have a Zoom account for each Board member; however, meetings cannot go beyond 45 minutes. Plan accordingly for your meetings. If you have a personal Zoom account, there is nothing to prevent you from using that to conduct board business; however, it is not a reimbursable expense.

Q: Who answers the questions on listening@womenmarines.org? Will I be required to respond?

- The email address is a communication tool designed to obtain feedback from the membership. The President, Secretary, and an Association Management team member will respond to questions via listening@womenmarines.org. Occasionally, issues may arise that will need to be addressed by another Board member.

Q: How is the personal information on the nomination application used? Is it protected or safeguarded?

- The information you provide in your nomination package will only be used by our Association Management organization and the Nominations Committee. After the elections, packages will be maintained for 6 months and eventually destroyed. Your personal information will not be published or released per WMA policy.

If you have any other questions, please submit them to [**listening@womenmarines.org**](mailto:listening@womenmarines.org).
You WILL get a response!

VA to do more Mammograms for younger women who served in toxic areas

WASHINGTON — The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee advanced legislation Wednesday to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to begin conducting mammograms at younger ages for female veterans.

The Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environments bill, introduced by Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., would extend access to mammograms for all female veterans who served in areas with burn pits or other toxic exposures, regardless of their age, symptoms or family history.

According to a report from the National Institutes of Health, female veterans and female military personnel are estimated to be 40% more likely to develop breast cancer than the general female population.

VA guidance now allows women to start yearly screenings for mammograms at age 40 at the earliest. The department encourages all women between ages 50 and 75 to undergo a mammogram once every two years — a policy that advocates contend is “outdated” given the potential linkage between breast cancer and toxic exposures.

“Early detection and treatment for those individuals who may have a higher risk of developing breast cancer because of where they served is key to fighting this disease,” Boozman said in a statement.

Kate Hendricks Thomas, a Marine veteran and a public health professional, shared her written testimony with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee before they considered the bill. At age 25 in 2005, Thomas served in Iraq and was near multiple burn pits in Anbar province.

In 2018 when she was 38, Thomas went to a routine health care appointment at her local VA, and her doctor encouraged her to get a mammogram. Following the mammogram, she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Thomas has no family history of the disease and believes it's related to her burn pit exposure.

“My watch as a Marine is over, but I still feel a tremendous responsibility to the community I call home,” Thomas wrote in her testimony to senators. “We need to raise awareness about toxic exposures so that other women veterans know their risks and push for early screenings.”

Boozman's bill was one of 13 pieces of legislation advanced by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on Wednesday. The bills still must get approved by the full Senate and House before becoming law.

Reps. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R-Calif., and Julia Brownley, D-Calif., introduced a companion bill last week in the House.

Nikki Wentling

Molly Marines

Platoon 4032

Pvt Sonya D. Wilson
Rochester Hills, MI

Graduation Date: 6 August 2021

Platoon 4034

PFC Ashleigh J. Parker
Oakridge, TN

Graduation Date: 20 August 2021

Platoon 4036

PFC Courtney R. Lawrence
Wilmington, NY

Graduation Date: 17 September 2021

Platoon 4038

Pvt Leticia S. Dossantos
Milford, MA

Graduation Date: 1 October 2021

Platoon 4040

PFC Cayley T. Jobes
Chesapeake, VA

Graduation Date: 8 October 2021

Platoon 4033

Pvt Angelina Doan
Seattle, WA

Platoon 4035

PFC Kassy A. Redman
Ellijay, GA

Platoon 4037

PFC Cameryn Friesen
Granby, CO

Platoon 4039

PFC Carolyn Harrison
Seminole, FL

Platoon 4041

PFC Hannah Lanmon
North Pole, AK

MCJROTC

Awarded on 23 September instead of earlier in the spring because of Covid restrictions, Desert Hot Springs High School and CA-29 presented the WMA Outstanding Cadet Award to Cadet Capt Adriana Vasquez.



Capt. Vasquez and 1stSgt Nichelle Webb (ret)

More Fallen

Just when we thought it was over. Troops were leaving Afghanistan, assisting those who assisted them during the war and their families. And then all it took was one...big...bang.

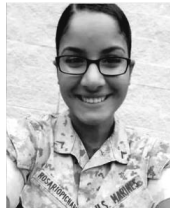
In that big bang, we lost two sister Marines, Sgt Nicole Gee and Sgt Johanny Rosario Pichardo, and 11 other servicemembers, nine of which were Marines.

You have seen photos of Sgt Gee holding a baby and saying how much she loved her job. When she went to boot camp, she wrote home complaining she wasn't getting enough of a work out. She was always self-driven and motivated.



Nicole cared about people, and they cared about her. People congregated on highway overpasses and lined procession route roads with American flags in hand as a way to salute Sgt Gee as her funeral procession passed through Sacramento. Among her survivors is her husband, Sgt Jarod Gee, also a Marine.

Sgt Johanny Rosario Pichardo was 25, and was commended by her unit, the Naval Amphibious Force, Task Force 5 1/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, in May for excellence in a supply chief job that is usually given to someone of higher rank.



Like Sgt Gee, Sgt Pichardo was also a member of the Female Engagement Team that was screening women and children at the Abbey Gate of the Kabul airport. Johanny was from Lawrence, MA, but her birthplace was in the Dominican Republic. The ambassador to the US tweeted that the Caribbean nation shares in the loss.

"Her service was not only crucial to evacuating thousands of women and children, but epitomizes what it means to be a Marine: putting herself in danger for the protection of American values so that others might enjoy them," Marine First Lt. John Coppola said.



The photo to the left shows what our sister Marines must do in the Engagement Team.

In April, we sadly missed the passing of Sgt Amanda Brazeal. At age 26, Amanda was in Iraq as a Marine Security Guard. A member of the Corps since 2017, Amanda was a member of the Parris Island band until 2020 when

she was transferred to Quantico to train at the Marine Security Guard school.

She was on her first tour in Iraq when, while conducting physical training on April 22nd, she experienced shortness of breath. During transport to the hospital, Amanda went into cardiac arrest and could not be revived.



Sgt Brazeal was assigned to the U.S. Consulate in Erbil, Iraq. She was from Chunchula, AL.

Semper Fidelis, Marines.

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. Blessed be their memories. May their souls and the souls of all our departed sisters, rest in peace.

Life Members

Name	Member #	Death Date	Chapter
Cassidy, Regina	2610	05/29/2021	OR
Choate, Della (Howard)	1516	07/25/2021	NM
Desmond, Josephine	613	07/14/2021	MA
Desposito, Anna (Tawney)	2721	09/09/2021	NM-1
Franco, Rose (Acosta)	3005	10/02/2021	FL
Hughes, Mary (McCarthy)	1283	08/21/2021	MA
Nannes, Goldie Particia (Kiser)	1382	08/09/2021	CA
Syverson, Elaine (Martin)	1424	05/04/2021	IA
Turvey, Ruth (Kinball)	1439	10/02/2021	OR
Wehry, Maxine (Cardinal)	1772	09/10/2021	FL-2

Term Members

Kramp, Henriette (Sununu)	10/04/2021	MA
Weller, Helen (Fallon)	09/14/2021	AZ-1

Chaplain's Corner

The season of cold will soon be upon us, and we are still living our lives in a pandemic. Now, more than ever, flu shots are a must. They have proven to be very effective in protecting against the flu, and we need all the help we can get. The COVID booster shot is available for only one of the 3 vaccines as I write this in mid-Oct, and I am still waiting for the vaccine I got to have a booster approved.

It amazes me that so many people are willing to put "Personal Liberty" ahead of "Community Safety." Basic common sense is not so common, so we continue to see friend and family struck down needlessly. I continue to wear a mask when in public, and have had to be content with Facetime visits with some friends who are not vaccinated. I know I'm supposed to nurture the soul, but the nurse in me is compelled to address your health and wellbeing. Being able to visit your friends and family IS food for the soul. Unless you've dedicated your life to solitude in prayer for the world, we need communication, and touch, with others to be complete. I wish I could give each and every one of you a big HUG to say I care, be safe, God loves you.

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." ~ Albert Camus

Eileen Skakill



Boots line the road to the main gate of Camp Lejeune to honor the Marines stationed there who were killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan.



CHAPTER CLIPPINGS

CA-3 Greater San Francisco Bay Area

Greetings to all from the San Francisco Bay Area. CA-3 continues to meet monthly via Zoom meetings, hosted by Marine Corps parents Elaine Vallecillo-Miller and Greg Miller. Our normal meeting location is still operating under restrictions. However, we plan to meet in person in October, following all required protocol for the Bay Area.

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

This has been a quiet quarter for CA-3.

On the 2nd of August, CA-3 member Carolina Rudisel attended the promotion ceremony for her daughter, Dominique, who is on active duty at the time, stationed in the Bay Area. Cpl Rudisel was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant, re-enlisted, and received her second Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal at the same ceremony! Quite a day for now Sgt Rudisel. Congratulations, Sgt. Dominique Rudisel! Carolina was excited to see that she was able to "get into cammies for the first time in 25 years" – enabling her to actually participate in the promotion ceremony! Way to go Carolina!



CA-3 member Susan Johnston is a member of the combined American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard which participated in the Patriot's Day 9-11 ceremonies, conducted by the West High School AFROTC in Tracy.

During this quarter, CA-3 member Susan Johnston participated in four Memorial Services as a part of the combined American Legion/VFW Honor Guard. And, sadly, I also attended, via Zoom, the military honors funeral service for my Uncle, who passed away in Florida during this time. Semper Fi.

Susan Johnston

CA-29 Twenty-nine Palms

In September, 2021 the chapter was delighted to hold their first in person meeting in 18 months at member Georgia Shirey's beautiful home in Yucca Valley. Kathy Arbaczewski assumed the duties as incoming president from Brenda Roberts. The chapter thanks Brenda for her dedication to the chapter.

Despite the Covid restrictions that limited chapter participation in many community activities, this past year the chapter recognized Escort Isaiah Harrison-Lee with a monetary scholarship to assist with college expenses. Isaiah has been an active escort member of the chapter since he was six years old. Other organizations that received monies were the Young Marine Mojave Vipers and the Junior ROTC in Desert Hot Springs, CA.



Chapter membership consists of women that served in the Marine Corps during WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Gulf war, Iraq and Afghanistan. We welcome all former, retired and active duty women Marines to share in the camaraderie and join us at our next chapter meeting.

Information on the Women Marine Association, 29 Palms Chapter can be obtained from the chapter's face book page: WMA CA-29 or email at ca29@womenmarines.org.

Elaine Bowden

LA-1 Molly Marine

Happy Fall from Molly Marine LA-1! We met at the end of July for a "Family Chapter Cookout"



hosted by our Secretary Jacqui Warrington. Our sisters residing in Alabama also made the long drive to enjoy the camaraderie and fun!

We have not been able to meet in person since our last event in July but have a ZOOM meeting scheduled for early October.

It has been a rough past few months in Louisiana. Along with dealing with COVID and all of its restrictions, we were hit with a Category 4 hurricane, IDA. Unfortunately, it created much havoc and destruction. Some of our members lost their homes due to flood damage and are still trying to recover. The majority of members lost electricity for numerous days. The weather following the

hurricane was also inclement. However, we are pleased to report that everyone from our chapter is safe. We pray that this recovery is fast and that we can go back to our normal lives soon.

We are looking forward to the convention in Las Vegas! We can certainly use a good time. Stay strong ladies and pray for our hurricane IDA victims. Semper Fi!

Janet Heriot

(Editor's note: The house the chapter had their family cookout in was one of those houses completely destroyed by the hurricane.)

MN-1 Leathernecks

Our annual Chapter picnic, previously scheduled for August 7 was rescheduled to August 28 due to inclement weather. We enjoyed the beautiful day at the Fish Lake Regional Park in Maple Grove. Julie Williams, Lori Hennes Huffman, Michelle Living-



Michelle, Lori, Vicki, and Julie

ston, and Vicki Latiolais attended. Special guests and assistants were Julie's granddaughter and grandson. They were enlisted to retrieve wind-blown objects, voluntarily taste tested and provided quality assurance of potluck items. Michelle Livingston was the grill master and provided burgers and hot dogs. The weather was cooperative, and the storm clouds dissipated. Before departing, Lori mentioned she had brought her platoon book. It was discovered that Julie and Lori had gone through and graduated from boot camp at the same time as well as attended the same admin school afterwards before receiving orders to Cherry Point and Hawaii.

The DAV of Minnesota sought female veterans and active duty to attend a Minnesota Lynx open practice event at the Target Center on August 29. Both Julie Williams and Lori Hennes Huffman expressed an interest in attending. Julie had previously attended a Minnesota Lynx event a couple of years ago and confirmed it was well attended, nicely presented, and enjoyed the opportunity to meet team members.

On September 18, we will be doing a Chapter hike at Lake Bemidji State Park which is the northern trail head for the Paul Bunyan State Trail. There is a Bog Walk and an Eagle/Osprey viewing. It is

both a great place to hike and possibly see some fall colors in northern Minnesota.

If you're in Minnesota, come join us on December 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Lunds & Byerlys on France Avenue in Edina to watch the Army v. Navy football game. More details to follow as the date draws near.

Vicki Latiolais

NM-1 Sandia

Semper Fi from New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment!

With health restrictions lifting after our lockdown year our members have taken advantage of the ability to safely get out and about. As our Chapter started back to in-person meetings, it was decided to make our July meeting a hybrid, both in-person and Zoom for those that were unable to attend in person, and it was a great success. This past year has allowed us to stretch as we utilized technology to stay connected to distant members.

The Women Marines of NM-1 are always first to support the youth in our community and member Laurel Hull was proud to present an Outstanding Cadet award along with a gift card to MCJROTC Senior Cadet Valeria Chavez of Atrisco-Heritage High School. Cadet Chavez has enlisted in the Marine Corps and will ship out to Parris Island following graduation. She takes with her our best wishes as she begins her Marine Corps career.



In August our members visited the 'New Mexico's Navy' exhibit at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts. It was fascinating to learn of the many ships named for New Mexico people and places honored by the U.S. Navy since the Civil War (yes, even before we became a state).



And in September the New Mexico State Fair returned to great fanfare in Albuquerque and the Sandia Chapter Women Marines were there to make our presence known and spread the word about the Women Marines Association. The best part of this day had to be visiting with the many Marines (men and women) who stopped by the booth to share their stories and



wanted to hear ours as well. Great fun!

Our chapter wishes to thank all the Women Marines who have supported our fundraising this year by purchasing the Women Veteran license plate frames through our 'Nouncements ad. Your purchases allow you to show your pride in being a Women Marine Veteran while allowing us to grow our donations to the veterans and youth in our community. I look forward to seeing those license plate frames on the road when I start traveling again next year!

Finally, it is with a heavy heart we ask all our Marine brothers and sisters to join us in a final salute to WWII Veteran Anna Desposito, who passed away September 9, two days shy of her 100th birthday.

As was true of so many trailblazing women of the greatest generation, Anna was quick to enlist and do her part after the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was formed in February 1943. She became an Aviation Supply Clerk and served through the duration of the war being honorably discharged as a corporal in September 1945.



Shortly before her discharge, Anna married fellow Marine Michael Desposito. They raised a loving family and this past August celebrated their 76th wedding anniversary.

Anna was a proud Marine and attended the Marine Corps Ball every year where she took part in the cake cutting ceremony as the Oldest Marine Present. She will be greatly missed this November.

Anna was a proud Lifetime member of the Women Marines Association, Sandia Chapter, the American Legion, and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Semper Fidelis, Corporal Anna Desposito.

Wishing all a Happy 246th Marine Corps Birthday! Semper Fidelis.

Stephanie Pugh



WMA APPLICATION

LE APPLICATION

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

