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Monthly Minute September 2021

This September issue is the third edition of the WMA Monthly Minute. As we approach the end of summer your WMA Board has been busy focusing on the business of WMA

IBM:

Considering the continued Covid concerns the decision was made to hold our Interim Board Meeting (IBM) virtually instead of meeting face to face. The IBM was held via a Zoom conference call over a two day period on the 10th and 11th of September. Minutes of the meeting will be published with more details soon, however in summary:

1. The first day, Virtual Inc. our Management Partner briefed the Board regarding ongoing projects to include our new Member Experience effort, a report on membership, as well as a look at convention fundraising and the use of a new convention registration program, Cvent. More details coming soon!
2. On the second day the Board met to conduct the ongoing business of WMA. Topics of discussion included:
 - o **Convention Planning Update:** We will use an online event registration program called Cvent. This will provide a “one-stop shopping” for getting us all prepared for the 2022 Convention. We will be able to register for Convention, make Hotel Room Reservations as well as sign up for tours, arrange for a roommate etc. All of these capabilities will be available via Cvent after the first of the year (2022). More details will be posted on our 2022 Convention Facebook page and in upcoming issues of *'Nouncements*.
 - o **Nomination Process:** Will open this Fall in preparation to elect our new Governing Board next spring. We will use a new electronic voting program to allow for online voting and will include the ability to cast a hard copy ballot as well.
 - A new orientation/training program will provide the new Board members the ability to learn the duties of their job before they are installed at Convention.
 - o **Website development:** The new website development has begun and we expect the roll out in the 1st quarter of the new year. We are looking forward to a total new look that will be more interactive and responsive to current and prospective members.

WMA 'Nouncements:

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don't see it until late October or early November.

[Loyal Escorts Update:](#)

The Loyal Escorts (LE) leadership has undergone some changes over the past few months and are in the process to re-organize especially in preparation for next year's convention. Cheryl Roberts is acting President and requests that any questions be sent electronically to president@loyalescorts.org and ipp@loyalescorts.org. Mail membership applications to: 1645 E Madge Ave, Hazel Park, MI 48030.

[Rebranding Webinar Recording:](#)

Just in case you didn't have a chance to view our special Webinar Presentation on our new Rebranding effort you can view it through this link found on our blog: <https://womenmarines.wordpress.com/2021/08/25/wma-a-new-look/> We want to hear from you so please send your comments to us at listening@womenmarines.org

[Convention 2024:](#)

Calling all chapters within Region 1 (Areas 1-4). Who would love the privilege of hosting the 2024 convention? This is a great opportunity to show off your chapter. If interested please contact Patty Collins at ad3@womenmarines.org. She will be the contact for any chapter interested in hosting the 2024 convention. Can't wait to see where we will be headed to in 2024.

[Hispanic Heritage Month:](#)

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from September 15 through October 15. The 2021 observance theme is "Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope."

- In 2004 **Abigail D. Olmos** became the first Hispanic female Master Gunnery Sergeant in the history of the Marine Corps.
- Two years later, in 2006, **Angela Salinas**, MajGen Ret, made history when she became the first Hispanic female to obtain the rank of "General" in the Marine Corps.
- **Corporal Ramona M. Valdez** (1984-2005) deployed with her unit to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom serving with the Female Search Force when she was killed when her convoy was attacked by a suicide bomber. The Marine Corps honored her memory by dedicating the II MEF Communications Training Center in Camp Lejeune, N.C. as the "Valdez Training Facility."

[Monthly Minute Topics of Interest:](#)

What do you want to hear more about in these monthly updates? We want to hear from you and appreciate your involvement in our Association! Provide your questions/comments to our new email address: listening@womenmarines.org.

Semper Fidelis,

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