

# WMA 'Nouncements

Serving Our Members Since 1969



Vol. 46 No. 3 July 2021

## Our Fallen

As we remember those service members who have given their lives, let us not forget our own fallen, those sister Marines who gave it their all.



**Maj Megan Malia Leilani McClung**  
(4.14.1972 – 12.6.2006)

Maj McClung was the first female Marine officer killed in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom when the vehicle she was riding in struck an IED. She was also the first female graduate of the Naval

Academy to be killed in action since the school was founded in 1845.

**Capt Jennifer J. Harris**  
(11.6.1978 – 2.7.2007)

Capt Harris died when the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter she was piloting was brought down by an Iraqi anti-aircraft missile in Anbar province. Capt Harris was the first woman to be assigned to HMM-364. She had volunteered for one last mission, ferrying blood for wounded Marines, just days before she was to return home after completing her third tour of duty in Iraq.



**Sgt Jeannette L. Winters**  
(5.4.1976 – 1.9.2002)

Sgt Winters was killed in Afghanistan when the KC-130 tanker plane she was in struck a mountainside in Pakistan and exploded near the Afghan border. She was the first female Marine to be killed in a combat zone.



**Cpl Jennifer M. Parcell**  
(6.27.1986 – 2.7.2007)

Cpl Parcell was killed while participating in the Lioness program in Anbar province where female Marines were assigned to checkpoints to search Iraqi women. At the checkpoint, an Iraqi woman she was searching detonated an explosive suicide vest.



**Cpl Ramona M. Valdez**  
(6.26.1984 – 6.23.2005)

Cpl Valdez was killed when a suicide car bomb attacked her convoy in Fallujah killing five others as well. Cpl Valdez was one of a pair to be the first women Marines killed in Iraq.

**LCpl Juana Navarro Arellano**  
(1.22.1982 – 4.8.2006)

While holding down a defensive position guarding other troops during their mission near Taqaddum, LCpl Arellano died from a gunshot to the head.

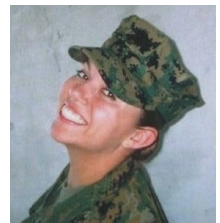


**LCpl Casey L. Casanova**  
(3.27.1986 – 5.2.2008)

LCpl Casanova was on her first deployment to Iraq. On a road near the town of Karmah shortly before midnight, a roadside bomb killed her and three other Marines.

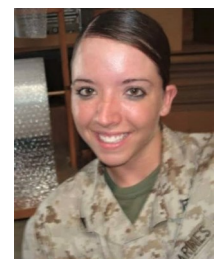
**LCpl Holly A. Charette**  
(1984 – 6.23.2005)

LCpl Charette was the other female Marine with Cpl Valdez when both were killed by a suicide bomber who struck their convoy as she and a group of Marines returned to base. Eleven of the 13 injured troops were women.



**LCpl Stacy A. Dryden**  
(1986 – 10.19.2008)

LCpl Dryden was into her second month in Anbar province when she got into a hostile wrestling match with another service member. She struck her head on the concrete surface but never sought medical care, telling friends she had a knot on the back of her head. She died the next day.



**Deadline for next 'Nouncements**  
**10 October 2021**

# WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

78 YEARS OF PROUD SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND CORPS

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## New 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 change to: WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS, Women Marines Association, 401 Edgewater Place, Suite 600, Wakefield, MA 01880-8501. This material is intended for the sole and express use by the Women Marines Association (WMA) and is not to be distributed or used in any fashion not in accordance with WMA guidelines. Any use or distribution outside of WMA is strictly prohibited.

## INCOMING! *From your National President*

As we enter the summer and get into the swing of a new normal, I hope you are all staying healthy and enjoying the ability to visit with family and friends and fellow WMA members once again. During the quiet cover of the pandemic, we've been working hard behind the scenes to move towards a new normal for WMA as we focus on modernizing the organization to better serve members and our communities.

I wanted to update you on our progress and share the accomplishments over the past year.

**The Ballot to revise our Bylaws and Standing Rules** passed with over 94% and 95% respectively. You'll find details of the voting results as well as a copy of the approved Bylaws and Standing Rules later in this issue. Based on these results, we will continue to affect the needed changes to our Governance Structure to keep WMA on track for our New Way Forward.

**Turnover of 1VP and National Chaplain** – Since the beginning of the year we saw the turnover of our National Chaplain and most recently the 1VP position. I want to extend my personal thanks to Rosa Osborn and Kay Reeb for their dedicated support while serving in their respective positions. Their service will have lasting effect to WMA's future. We welcome Ann Crittenden and Eileen Skahill as they step in to fill the 1VP and Chaplain positions respectively. See more information from Ann in her 1VP article.

**The creation of the "WMA Monthly Minute"** - July initiated the first issue of our Monthly Minute which will act as a means to better communicate with our members. It will be published electronically the first of every month and will provide an update on what is happening at the National level especially in between the publication of our quarterly issues of 'Nouncements.

**Conduct the business of WMA at our Interim Board Meeting (IBM)** – Due to continued post pandemic considerations, the IBM will be held "virtually" vice at an "in-person" meeting as usually done. The IBM will be held in September and our main mission will be to ensure the Board is brought up to speed on all of the efforts being made on the Governance Structure, Re-branding and Member Experience. We will then prepare a presentation to our members in an upcoming Webinar session.

Here is an update as to what has been accomplished since the establishment of the Working Group in late 2019:

- Created a strategic vision for the next three years entitled, "Honoring the Past, Excellence for the Future."
- Worked to improve our governance model, streamlining our Board.
- Conducted a Webinar Town Hall to provide the membership a progress update.
- Revised our National Bylaws and Standing Rules with membership approval.
- Partnered with an association management company to support our growth and administrative success, taking the weight off volunteers, and allowing us to benefit from expert management.
- Began executing our strategy by doing market research to better understand current and prospective member needs to develop a re-branding program for WMA.

**(Note: more details will be presented to the membership in an upcoming Webinar)**

- Began the process of identifying the best vendor partner to create a new website for our organization that tells our story credibly and raises awareness for prospective members. We plan to launch a new website in 2022.

**Our overall efforts have** focused on building a strong, inclusive, community within WMA. To do this, we made the commitment to create a dynamic "member experience" that offers something we can't find anywhere else. We are working to evolve our member experience to focus on a few priority initiatives, "done well." We want to limit bureaucracy and will focus our efforts in three main areas:

**Service** - The opportunity to continue to serve by making meaningful contributions to country and community.

- Define key fundraising and service hour goals and support the success of our chapters and individual members as they choose how best to engage and contribute.

**Connection** - (or re-connection) to/with our Marine Corps sisters and the pride of our experience through:

- Regularly scheduled online networking events
- Local/national events for recruiting, networking, storytelling & community impact
- Honoring the history in the making of women Marines
- Recognition to members and volunteers
- Stronger, deeper connections between multi-generational members, with an emphasis on making sure older members

*(continued on Page 4)*



(National President cont)

know they are supported.

**Excellence** - The power of collective impact, recognizing the value of combining our strengths for excellence.

- Create pathways for our members to continue to bring their honor, courage and commitment to their communities and our nation.
- Commit to telling and amplifying our story of service and impact to members, supporters, funders through digital channels.
- High Quality national meeting content, informative and engaging social media, imagery and storytelling.

As you can see we have accomplished so much in the last year and yet we have so much more to do as we continue to execute our strategy in support of WMA's new Way Forward. A lot of initial planning and leg-work have gone into this effort by our Working Group and Board members. All of this takes a village to accomplish so we look forward to your continued support and engagement as we work together to improve our vision for WMA.

We'll continue to keep you updated as we move forward to include another Webinar session to provide more details on all of these ideas and ask for your participation. If you'd like to get involved in any of our efforts, please let us know. We appreciate your input and we welcome your thoughts. You can contact us through [listening@womenmarines.org](mailto:listening@womenmarines.org) or me directly at [president@womenmarines.org](mailto:president@womenmarines.org).

*Semper Fidelis,  
Rhonda Amtower*

### **WMA Bylaws and Standing Rules Ballot Results**

- WMA mailed 2,528 ballots, 632 were completed and returned; 1,896 WMA members did not vote.
- Revised Bylaws passed with 94% with 594 YES and 5% with 34 NO.
- Revised Standing Rules passed with 95% with 599 YES and 4% with 28 NO.
- Ballots received whereby the member did not mark or check the box for either the Bylaws (4) or the Standing Rules (5) vote were counted as ABSTAIN. (An Abstain vote is not counted as either a yes or no.)
- There were 175 ballots returned as undeliverable by the Post Office.

Ballots were recounted and certified by four members of the MO-2 Chapter.

## **INCOMING:** *From your 1st Vice President*



I am honored to have been selected to serve as your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President during these unprecedented times in our history due to the pandemic. And most importantly, before my selection, I was invited to participate in the original Women Marines Association working group that developed the strategy to successfully transform WMA into what will become an organization of choice for Women Marines. I am also participating in other task forces (Governance and Branding) that have been working quietly behind the scenes to ensure that every good idea that comes forward is being "stress-tested" or "war-gamed" to ensure we have the right strategy and tactics in place before execution of efforts. One lesson I learned while on active duty: if the strategy isn't right, the tactics won't work.

As our country finally begins to open and we are allowed the opportunities to be with our family and friends during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and over the course of the summer, the Women Marines Association is also beginning to surge forward with changes that will have tremendous and long-lasting impacts that all the WMA members, at all levels, will be able to participate in. As your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, I will do what I can to keep lines of communication open between National and the Chapters, members-at-large, and more importantly, for potential members!! We will strive to increase membership and as WMA grows, expands and modernizes its processes, there is only one direction we are going: FORWARD!

In a way, it is rather auspicious that our country was forced into a shut down that caused us to reflect on what is important in our lives and to make changes, not for the sake of making change, but for the good of ourselves, our families, and our loved ones. WMA has taken a hard look at itself and recognized that without change, the Association will not be the organization of choice that provides opportunities, networking, and volunteer capacity and more importantly, that connection that Marines look for whenever we are together.

Lastly, I would like to say "Thank you" to Rosa Osborn, our former 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and Kay Reeb, our former Chaplain for their efforts. Your hard work has paved the way to make it easier for Eileen Skahill and me to do our jobs well.

I look forward to this next year in WMA! I hope to not have to continue to use my Super User Zoom skills, but in the meantime...we probably will. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [1VP@womenmarines.org](mailto:1VP@womenmarines.org) with any questions or concerns. Semper Fidelis.

*Ann L. Crittenden*

*(Welcome aboard, Ann!)*





# BY-LAWS

Published July 1960  
1st Revision July 1982  
Amended October 1984  
Amended July 1986  
Amended October 1988  
Amended July 1990  
Amended September 1992

Amended September 1994  
Amended September 1996  
Amended August 1998  
Amended September 2000  
Amended September 2002  
Amended March 2005  
Amended September 2006

Amended September 2008  
Amended September 2010  
Amended September 2012  
Amended July 2014  
Amended July 2016  
Amended February 2019  
2<sup>nd</sup> Revision June 2021

## ARTICLE ONE: NAME

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Women Marines Association also known as WMA.

## ARTICLE TWO: OFFICE

**Section 1.** The business office of the WMA shall be the address of its management partner.

**Section 2.** The registered agent of WMA shall reside at an address within the State of Missouri and may be changed by resolution of the Board of Directors (BOD). Such changes shall be duly reported to the Missouri Secretary of State.

## ARTICLE THREE: PURPOSES

**Section 1.** The purposes of WMA shall be to:

- (1) Preserve and promote the history and traditions of women in the Marine Corps from World War I to the present;
- (2) Conduct programs for charitable and educational purposes;
- (3) Counsel, assist, and mutually promote the welfare and well-being of elderly, disabled, and needy women Marine veterans, as well as women serving in the Marine Corps;
- (4) Provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans and members of the armed forces of the United States;
- (5) Promote the civic and social welfare of the community;
- (6) 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;
- (7) Foster, encourage, and perpetuate the spirit of comradeship of women who have served or now serve the United States Marine Corps, regular or reserve components.

## ARTICLE FOUR: MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1. Classes:** There shall be four classes of membership, active, honorary, supporting, and compassionate retention, of whom only active members shall have voting rights and be eligible to hold any office, elective or appointive.

**Section 2. Qualifications:** Membership qualifications are:

- (1) **Active members** are those 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.
- (2) **Honorary Members** are women who serve in senior positions of organizations that support women Veterans such as but not limited to Presidents past and current of the Women In Military Service for America (WIMSA).
- (3) **Compassionate Retention** allows active term and/or life members who are no longer physically or mentally able to maintain active participation in WMA to be retained on the

rolls that ensures they are recognized at the appropriate Memorial Service when they pass.

(4) Supporters include commercial businesses of any size whose philosophies and practices are consistent with WMA's stated purposes. These are designated Supporters and shall be admitted to membership by vote of the BOD. The Board shall establish a separate dues structure and define responsibilities and privileges for Supporters.

## ARTICLE FIVE: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

Also known as the Board.

**Section 1. Elected Board Members:** The Board shall consist of eight (8) elected positions to include President; Vice-President; Treasurer/ Director of Finance; Secretary/ Director of Administration; Director of Development & Fundraising; Director of Marketing & Communications; Director of Member Services; Director of Programs.

### Section 2. Term of Office:

(1) The Board members listed in Section 1, shall serve a two-year term of office that begins when the convention where they were installed closes. Should a Board member be unable to serve her full term, the BOD shall appoint a successor to finish the current term.

(2) Members serving as President and Vice-President, shall be limited to two consecutive terms but may succeed themselves in office after a break in service if reelected by members.

### Section 3. Duties:

(1) Duties shall be prescribed by the WMA Standing Operating Procedures (SOP).

(2) The Board shall manage all WMA affairs and policies to be followed; it shall issue such rules and regulations as it may deem fit and proper for all members. Any Board member and/or potential WMA appointee who does not perform her assigned duties shall be directed to resign by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

**Section 4. Delegation of Authority:** The President may appoint additional positions or committees to fill specific positions deemed necessary by the BOD. All such positions shall be approved by the BOD and specific duties shall be defined in the SOP.

**Exclusion:** The President shall be ex-officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

### Section 5. Board Government:

(1) The Board shall be self-governing and shall adopt internal affairs rules as it may deem fit and proper; meetings shall be held before and following the general membership meetings, and at such other times as the Board shall determine; a quorum shall consist of not less than a majority of the Board members and voting shall not be by proxy.



# SEMPER FIDELIS

## WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

(2) At the discretion of the Board, members of the Association—such as chapters and committees, but not necessarily limited to these groups—may use the United States Postal Service or electronic means to transact business. This includes, at present, email, videoconference, teleconference, fax, and secure web pages as well as other generally accepted means that are not currently in existence but may appear in the future. Members who do not have computer access shall receive a notification via postal mail. Any action taken either electronically or via postal mail shall be ratified or made part of the minutes of the next Board meeting.

### ARTICLE SIX: SPECIAL COUNCIL

**Section 1.** The President may, at her discretion, and with Board approval, appoint any such council including but not limited to:

- (1) an Advisory Council of prominent business and military leaders to advise WMA on operational and organizational issues.
- (2) Past National Presidents.
- (3) Legal Counsel.

**Section 2.** Appointments would be for two years coinciding with other presidential appointments. The number of members could vary based on priorities addressed by the President and the Board.

### ARTICLE SEVEN: CONVENTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

#### Section 1. Conventions:

- (1) Convention and Professional Development Symposium is also known as Convention.
- (2) WMA shall meet in convention biannually during even-numbered years at a location within the three rotating regions.
- (3) These regions shall be divided for convention site purposes only as follows:
  - Region 1.** AL, CT, DE, FL, GA, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, and WV.
  - Region 2.** AR, IA, IL, KS, LA, MO, MN, MS, ND, NE, OK, SD, TX, and WI.
  - Region 3.** AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY.
- (4) Convention sites shall rotate from Region 1 to Region 2, to Region 3, and then back to Region 1.
- (5) In the even-numbered years, bids may be submitted by chapters within the rotationally designated region for a convention to be held four years from the date of bidding.
- (6) If no bids are received, the Board shall work with all chapters to identify at least one willing and able to sponsor an upcoming convention.
- (7) Proposed convention site shall be published to the membership as part of the election ballot for selection or information if only one convention site was proposed.

### ARTICLE EIGHT: ELECTIONS FOR NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

**Section 1. Nomination Solicitations:** Nominations for the elected members of the Board shall be solicited from the members through *Nouncements* and other means.

## BYLAWS

**Section 2. Nominations:** Nominations shall close on a specified date in the even-numbered year to allow sufficient time to process the election ballot before the convention.

**Section 3. Ballots:** An election ballot shall be published only for the office(s) which have received more than one nominee. A copy of which shall be mailed to allow sufficient time to process the election ballot before the convention.

\*New procedures for nomination will require a member to submit their own nomination package and be vetted properly to ensure they are eligible/qualified to serve.

**Section 4: Electronic Ballots:** Electronic ballots can be used, if feasible.

**Section 5. Tallying the Vote:** A majority of the votes cast shall be sufficient to elect a candidate, except in case of multiple choices for a particular office, in which case a majority shall suffice.

### ARTICLE NINE: FINANCE

#### Section 1. Restrictions on Benefits:

- (1) Association income or property of the corporation shall not inure to the benefit of any member.
- (2) Each individual shall disclose to WMA any personal interest which she may have in any matter pending before the WMA and shall not participate in any decisions regarding such matters.

#### Section 2. Dues:

- (1) Dues structure and amounts for both active term and life members, shall be determined by a two-thirds majority of the BOD who shall take into account the limited resources of some of our members, the needs of the Association, and the value members receive from their membership.
- (2) At least 6 months advance notice must be published to the members before the effective date of any change in dues.
- (3) Dues structure and/or amount shall not be changed more than once every four (4) years without membership approval.
- (4) When dues are not received before the end of the member's anniversary month, a delinquent notice shall be sent by the WMA Database Administrator. After a grace period of thirty (30) days, the member shall be dropped from the active membership rolls. A former member shall be reinstated with the anniversary month coinciding with receipt of dues.

#### Section 3. Life Membership:

- (1) WMA offers life membership on a prorated scale depending on the age of the member. Life membership provides the member all benefits of the organization, as well as recognition upon their death as a contributor of \$50.00 to the Memorial Scholarship Fund as noted in an issue of *Nouncements*.
- (2) A Capital Fund Review Board, consisting of all Past National Presidents shall, with their consent, be appointed by the BOD; the National President and Treasurer/Director of Finance shall be members ex-officio.

#### Section 4. Scholarships:

- (1) WMA Memorial Scholarships up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) each shall be awarded annually.
- (2) The number and the amount of individual scholarships shall be determined based on the annual earnings of the Memorial Scholarship Fund.



# SEMPER FIDELIS

## WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

### Section 5. Other Funding:

(1) All regular functions of any committees and/or programs supported by WMA shall be funded through the budget process.

(2) All contributions made to WMA, under any circumstances, shall be governed by the bylaws and standing rules currently in effect as set forth by the members of WMA.

(3) Contributions made to WMA to carry out any of its purposes are tax-deductible as granted by IRS tax laws.

**Section 6. Fiscal Year:** The Fiscal Year shall be 1 July through 30 June inclusive.

### ARTICLE TEN: CHAPTERS

#### Section 1. Who May Form Chapters:

Five or more active members of WMA who reside within a defined geographic area (e.g., state) or share a common USMC special interest/experience (e.g., music, aviation, drill instructor, deployed, etc.) may apply for a chapter charter. The Board may grant an exemption to the five-member rule when the applicants are primarily aboard a military installation or in a limited access area.

#### Section 2. Procedure:

(1) Active members shall submit proposed bylaws with their application to the Secretary/Director of Administration who will ensure such bylaws shall conform with the bylaws of WMA. No charter shall be issued until bylaws have been approved by the BOD.

(2) New charters shall be ratified at the convention.

#### Section 3. Chapter Amendments:

(1) Chapters shall submit proposed bylaws amendments to the Secretary/Director of Administration who shall ensure the amendments conform with the Association Bylaws before they are voted on by the Board and become effective. The only exceptions are changes to chapter dues and meeting schedules which do not require Board approval.

(2) Chapters shall, upon request of the Board, submit a copy of their bylaws for review; and shall make such revisions as are required to conform with the bylaws of the Association.

**Section 4. Chapter Membership:** Chapter membership is restricted to active WMA members and only WMA Life Members may become chapter Life Members.

**Section 5. Chapter Revocation:** The Charter of a chapter that has had fewer than five members for two years shall be revoked, or a chapter not responding with a list of officers within two years to the Director of Member Services shall have its charter revoked.

**Section 6. Dual Membership:** Members may belong to more than one chapter but must designate one chapter for national use. (Membership rights belong to the individual members and not to the chapters; chapters function for the convenience and pleasure of the members.)

### ARTICLE ELEVEN: AUXILIARY SOCIETY

**Section 1.** The name of the auxiliary society affiliated with the WMA is LOYAL ESCORTS OF THE GREEN GARTER, henceforth referred to as "The Loyal Escorts" or "LE Society."

## BYLAWS

**Section 2.** The LE Society is organized under the bylaws and regulations of the Society, per the bylaws and regulations of the WMA, and is subject to the provisions and requirements of the United States Revenue Code of 501(c)(3) organizations.

**Section 3.** This LE Society may, at its option, establish units affiliated with local chapters of the WMA.

### ARTICLE TWELVE: DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

**Section 1.** In the event of dissolution of WMA, the net assets of the corporation shall be applied and distributed in the following priority sequence:

(1) All liabilities and obligations shall be paid, satisfied, and discharged or adequate provisions shall be made, therefore.

(2) All remaining assets shall be distributed to another veteran's charitable organization(s) that:

a. is/are qualified for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code;

b. shall best accomplish the general purposes for which veterans' associations are organized;

c. shall administer a scholarship program that will best accomplish the purposes of the WMA Memorial Scholarship Program; or

d. shall be selected by a vote of two-thirds of the National BOD then in office.

### ARTICLE THIRTEEN: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

**Section 1.** Proceedings of WMA shall be guided by the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in all matters not otherwise provided for in the Bylaws, Standing Rules, or Rules and Regulations issued by the BOD.

### ARTICLE FOURTEEN: AMENDMENTS

**Section 1. Articles of Incorporation:** The Articles of Incorporation may be amended by the membership under provisions of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, Chapter 355, not-for-profit corporations.

**Section 2. Bylaws:** Proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be:

(1) Submitted in due form;

(2) Received by the Secretary/Director of Administration;

(3) Referred to for review and approval by the BOD.

**Section 3. Voting Procedure:** The BOD recommends the proposed amendment(s) to be submitted for consideration by ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS either by;

(1) The Secretary/Directory of Administration shall send a ballot (electronic or hard copy) to all members for a vote to approve amendments/revisions to the Bylaws and indicating a deadline date for return; OR

(2) Be Considered at a Convention, previous notice shall be given by publication to ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS at least 45 days before the convention start date.

**Section 4. Adoption:** These bylaws shall be subject to amendments by:

(1) Majority vote of completed returned ballots when ballots are mailed or sent electronically to all active members; OR

(2) Two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present to vote at a convention business meeting.



# STANDING RULES

***Preface: Standing Rules are written rules formally adopted by a majority vote by ballot or at a National Convention. These rules may be suspended by a majority vote or may be amended or rescinded by a two-thirds vote, either at convention or by the membership.***

Amended September 2010  
Amended September 2012  
Amended July 2014

Amended July 2016  
Revised June 2021

## **1. APPOINTEES AND COMMITTEES**

The President may appoint, with the Board of Directors (also known as the Board) approval, any position or committee required to fill specific positions deemed necessary by the Board.

## **2. THE RESOURCE MANUAL AND DIRECTORY (RM&D)**

The RM&D shall be published following the biennial convention and shall include but not limited to:

- —Directory of all Active members
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws
- Standing Rules
- Scholarship Program procedures and application.
- All named scholarships

Resource material may also be found on the WMA website or in the WMA member database.

## **3. SCHOLARSHIPS**

A. Scholarship applicants must satisfy all qualification criteria for the award. Criteria and/or procedure changes shall be approved by the Board and published to the membership no later than January of the year in which it becomes effective. All named scholarships shall be listed in the RM&D and on the WMA website.

B. Memorial Scholarship Fund annual earnings shall determine the number and amount of individual scholarships.

C. Any donor may establish a named scholarship by providing the total funds necessary to perpetually fund the standard scholarship amount.

D. Chapters and the Loyal Escorts may establish special scholarships in various amounts. Such scholarships shall be administered by the Scholarship Committee as funds and qualified applications are made available.

## **4. PUBLICATION**

WMA shall publish and/or distribute a quarterly newsletter titled *WMA 'Nouncements* to each Active member.

## **5. WMA LOGO and WMA SEAL**

A. The WMA logo shall be the Marine Corps Emblem with the head of a woman Marine super-imposed on the globe.

B. The WMA seal shall be the logo with WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION inscribed within the rope circle.

C. The official WMA seal shall be imprinted on all charters; and may only be used as authorized by the Board of Directors.

## **6. CONVENTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM**

Convention and Professional Development Symposium is also known as Convention. (WMA Bylaws govern the site selection method.)

A. The Convention shall be open to all active WMA and Loyal Escort members as well as guests. Business meetings; however, are restricted to only Active WMA members in good standing with exceptions granted by the Credentials Committee and the WMA President.

B. A minimum of one business meeting shall be scheduled during each Convention.

C. Conduct of Business Meeting(s):

(1) At each business meeting, the Convention Credentials Committee Chair shall report the total number of Active WMA members who have registered and are present at the convention.

(2) Each WMA member in good standing is limited to one vote with no proxies allowed.

(3) A quorum to conduct a business meeting shall consist of a majority of the active members in attendance at the convention.

(4) The names of all members included in the reported total shall be given to the Secretary/Director of Administration, to constitute the Official Roster of Convention Representatives. Before the President declares the Convention open for the transaction of business, the Secretary/Director of Administration shall move that the members whose names appear on the Official Roster be designated as Chosen Representatives to the Convention. Upon adoption of the motion, the President shall instruct the Secretary/Director of Administration to include the Official Convention Representatives Roster, in the convention minutes.

D. A memorial service shall be incorporated into the program at each Convention.

## **7. WMA GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS**

(This further defines present "Regions" as cited in the WMA National Bylaws.

**Region 1:** Connecticut; Maine; Massachusetts; New Hampshire; New York; Rhode Island; Vermont; Delaware; District of Columbia; Maryland; New Jersey; Pennsylvania; Virginia; West Virginia; Alabama; Florida; Georgia; North Carolina; South Carolina; Kentucky; Tennessee; Michigan; Indiana; Ohio; UK; Europe; the Middle East; Quebec, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Canada;





# SEMPER FIDELIS

## WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

Caribbean Islands and Africa.

**Region 2:** Illinois; Iowa; Kansas; Minnesota; Missouri; Nebraska; Wisconsin; Arkansas; Louisiana; Mississippi; Oklahoma; Texas; North Dakota; South Dakota; Ontario, Canada; and Manitoba and Nunavut, Canada; and Mexico.

**Region 3:** Alaska; Colorado; Montana; Wyoming; Arizona; Nevada; New Mexico; Utah; Idaho; Oregon; Washington; California; Hawaii and Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories, Canada; Central America and South America and British Columbia, and Yukon Territories, Canada; Australia and New Zealand; Pacific Islands and Asia FPO/APO Zips 09XXX and 96XXX.

### 8. BUDGET PREPARATION

Following accepted business practices, the Treasurer/Director of Finance is responsible to have the proposed budget developed for Board review and approval. WMA budgets must be approved by the start of the WMA fiscal year which is 1 July. A mid-year review shall also be conducted in January.

### 9. BUDGETARY ALLOWANCES

Proposed budgets shall establish allowances to help defray expenses incurred by Board members and WMA Appointees responsible for allocated budget lines.

### 10. AUDIT OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

National Treasury accounts shall be reviewed annually by a CPA from outside the WMA membership. Within 60 days following the close of each fiscal year, the Treasurer/Director of Finance shall have paid all bills pertaining to that fiscal year and shall have sent the books to the designated CPA for a financial review as proscribed by the National Society of CPAs. A full audit shall be conducted every fourth year unless the Board deems it necessary to have a full audit conducted sooner.

### 11. CHAPTER EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN) AND GROUP EXEMPTION STATUS

(1) Each chapter shall obtain and operate under its own single EIN. New chapters must apply for an EIN at the same time they prepare and submit their Bylaws and Standing Rules to obtain their charter. The chapter's President/ Treasurer shall notify the Treasurer/Director of Finance of the chapter's assigned EIN.

(2) No chapter is allowed to use the National WMA EIN.

### 12. WMA PRESIDENT PIN AND WMA PAST PRESIDENT PIN

A. An official emblem pin to be known as the President's Pin shall be worn by the WMA President while in office but shall remain the property of WMA. It shall be presented to the newly installed President.

B. An official emblem to be known as the Past President's Pin shall be presented to the retiring President. This pin shall become the property of the Past President.

### 13. OFFICIAL WMA CAP

The WMA cap shall be overseas style, green with scarlet piping with lettering on the left side to read 'WOMEN MARINES

## STANDING RULES

ASSOCIATION' and on the right side, the chapter designation (optional). The only ornament affixed to the Cap is the small, enlisted gold gilt United States Marine Corps left collar emblem and (if applicable and purchased by owner) the gold "LIFE" pin, affixed 1/2" above and centered above the lettering 'WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION.

### 14. CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Charitable donations at the national level shall be directed by the Board of Directors per applicable laws, regulations, and purposes of WMA.

### 15. RESERVE FUNDS

Reserve Funds of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) shall be held to ensure WMA maintains fiscal responsibility. When necessary to cover a deficit in the General Fund, a Reserve Funds transfer can be approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

### 16. ADMINISTRATION OF MATCHING FUNDS AND GRANTS

Matching Funds and Grants Program is defined in the WMA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and consists of:

(1) Matching funds are provided to chapters in support of veterans and/or in support of local community activities;

(2) Emergency Grants are awarded to Veterans with short-term emergency financial needs. Request criteria is published annually in WMA 'Nouncements and on the WMA website.

## MOLLY MARINES

### Platoon 4016

PFC Cynthia Hernandez  
Reseda, CA

### Platoon 4017

PFC Kaylena Castaneda  
Tacoma, WA

Graduation Date: 30 April 2021

### Platoon 2034

PFC Elisha Thaxton  
Westminster, SC

### Platoon 2038

PFC Jaqueline Mirelessesteban  
Salem, OR

Graduation Date: 21 May 2021

### Platoon 4018

PFC Alejandra Rivera Muniz  
Miami, FL

### Platoon 4019

Pvt Hannah Payne  
Avilla, IN

Graduation Date: 28 May 2021



The first Molly Marine from MCRD San Diego is PFC Ann Parra who graduated with Platoon 3241 and is from Colorado.

With her is Randy Tidmore, CA-2. Randy was stationed at MCRD during WWII.

## 2021 Scholarship Recipients

### Agnes Sopcak Memorial Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Lacey Ambrosino	Self-Sponsored
Alina Cousina	Mary Ann Merritt, grandmother
Mariposa Estrada	Melissa Matranga, Mother
Laura Grabarczyk	Dulcia Grabarczyk, Mother
Erin Hillock	Kimberlee Hillock, Mother
Alexis Nothelfer	Jenifer Matheson, Mother
Bridget Nothelfer	Jenifer Matheson, Mother
Tiffany Nguyen	Self-Sponsored
Gregory Taylor	Claudia Ovalles, Wife
Tina Veith	Self-Sponsored
Danielle Shoemake	Amy Henderson, Mentor
Meghan Goulette	Tegan Owen, Friend
Kathryn Wilson	Lelia Jackson, Friend

### WMA Memorial Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Ava Aguirre	Annette Aguirre, Mother
Jana Bickel	Yvette Clifford, Friend
Dejuan Brown	Roxanne Barnes, Friend
Kevin Cady	Golda Fabian, Friend
Isabelle Cotney	Rosa Osborn, Friend
Eleanor David	Marianne Waldrop, Friend
Michael Effie	Joy Elizabeth Sterling Effie, Mother
Sarah Garland	Elizabeth Rossi, Friend
Meghan Giller	Tracy Crow, Acquaintance
Natalie Khan	Anne Smith, Grandmother
Kjersten Kleinschmidt	Kencis Kleinschmidt, Mother
Laurana Mitchell	Patti Mitchell Grandmother
Alexis Nelson	Tina Veith, Mother
Gabrelle Nicoll	Golda Fabian, Friend
Aidan O'Brien	Kendra Reedy, Friend
Isabella Pickett	Barbara Chagnon, Friend

Darcy Rai	Mary Broussard, Acquaintance
Sophia Sacco	Yvette Clifford, Acquaintance
Asia Stephenson	Andrene Stephenson, Mother
Joseph Stivers	Cindy Stivers, Mother
Kailan Thomas	Connee Thomas, Mother
Ashley Varjas-Easter	Shelley Easter, Mother
Philip Zabel	Roberta Waite Grandmother

### LaRue A. Ditmore Music Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Donna Fullerton	Self-Sponsored
Kate Robertson	Rosa Marcelino- Macias, Friend

### Major Megan McClung Memorial Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Mikaela Brown	Roxane Barnes, Friend

### Margaret Apel Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Austin Auguard	Sandra Morris, Grandmother

### FL-6

Name	Sponsor
Lily Cuellarsola	Brooke Bond, Mother

### Lily H. Gridley Memorial Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Raymond Kleinschmidt	Kencis Kleinschmidt, Mother

### Ethyl and Armin Weibke Memorial Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Thierry Simic	Robin Thomas, Mother

### Fallen Warrior Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Alex Cousino	Mary Ann Merritt, Grandmother

### OR-1. Meg Dawes Scholarship

Name	Sponsor
Rachael Loberger	Sheryl Loberger, Mother

## Women of the Corps Collection (WOCC) July 2021 Update

The Marine Corps has a rich history and women have been a part of that history for over 100 years. The Women of the Corps Collection (WOCC), or commonly referred to as "The Collection," is an extensive gathering of the history of women in the Marine Corps. The Collection started as a history project by the CO-1 Chapter in 2004; in 2011 WMA National assumed the responsibility of ownership and oversight of The Collection. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in 2012 with the Women of the Corps Foundation (WCF), a 501(c)3 organization, to establish a collaborative relationship in which the WCF assumed financial and operational responsibility to support the storage, preservation, and the public display of The Collection.

Over the years, The Collection drastically grew to a monumental size, resulting in a significant increase in the cost and time associated with the operational support requirements. An ad hoc committee was formed with the task to help the Board of Directors (BOD) determine the best course of action for the preservation of this cherished collection. After careful consideration and with the best interest of The Collection in mind, the BOD voted to transfer the responsibility of ownership of The Collection to the WCF. Ownership will allow the WCF to apply for grants needed to continue to preserve and showcase The Collection.

WMA and WCF are currently working on the Transfer of Ownership Agreement (TOA), with mutual legal coordination. The TOA will set forth the terms and conditions to which both organizations will ensure that the transfer is orderly and The Collection is properly preserved for generations to come. Donors will have the opportunity to communicate the desired disposition of their artifacts. More information will be provided in a future *Nouncements* article.

We look forward to effecting this agreement in the near future. The WMA and WCF hope you will join us in our continuing efforts to preserve and promote the proud history of women's service in the Marine Corps.

Rhonda Amtower  
WMA President

Sara Phoenix  
WCF President

### MCJROTC Award Recipients

The following MCJROTC cadets received the WMA Outstanding Cadet Award, but photographs were not taken due to the pandemic. Photographs of other presentations can be found on the following page.

Cadet Isabel Barrientez, Hereford High School, TX  
Cadet Sgt Julia Bennett, Ambridge Area High School, PA  
Cadet Sgt Haylee M. Brungard, Heritage High School, VA  
Cadet Alexa Collins, Hendrickson High School, TX

Cadet Sarah Elske, Kentwood High School, WA  
Cadet SgtMaj Alyssa Fleener, Daniel Boone High School,

TN

Cadet GySgt Angelina Govonni, Mountain View High School, VA

Cadet Libni Guzman Hernandez, North Forsyth High School, GA

Cadet SSgt Eriny Jones, Horn Lake High School, MS

Cadet Mvais Macliver, Ardery Tell High School, NC

Cadet Kailey B. Marr, East Gaston High School, NC

Cadet Valeria Martur-Luna, John F Kennedy High School, AZ

Cadet Cpl Sophie McDonald, Topeka High School, KS

Cadet LCpl Rachel Miller, Casa Grande Union High School, AZ

Cadet Sophia Moore, Como Park High School, MN

Cadet Camryn Morris, Leon High School, FL

Cadet PFC Andrea Mrkaja, J.R. Tucker High School, VA

Cadet 1stSgt Estefani Orellana, Mt Vernon High School, VA

Cadet Lorelei Paul, Alexandria High School, LA

Cadet GySgt Julian Phillips, Lake Cormorant High School, MS

Cadet Janine Scott, Pocomoke High School, MD

Cadet SSgt Angelica Emily Sykes, Smiths Station High School, AL

Cadet Sgt Catherine Torres, Sweetwater High School, CA

Cadet Capt Michell Walker, Lincoln High School, SD

Cadet Jenessa Zuniga, Irving High School, TX

### 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
Burkhart, Catherine (Hayden)	211	11/07/2020	USA3/CA3
Meyers, Grace (Miltenger)	3691	12/30/2020	MAL
Alvarez, Jeanne (Monroe)	2523	06/25/2021	FL-2

### Term Members

Medvid, Tillie (Turecky)	5/06/2021	CA-1/MA
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## Marine Corps Junior ROTC Outstanding Cadet Awards



Cadet Isabella Bernstein,  
LtCol Jason Tubbs, Walker  
High School, Walker, LA



Cadet Cpl Cyanni Burke, Pam  
Kubczak, Bensalem High  
School, PA



Cadet Sgt Tatum Eskew (L)  
Cadet Sgt Caitlynn Chadwick  
Wynne High School, AR  
(Two awards were given since  
none were awarded in 2020.)



Cadet Cpl Morgan Fatal,  
Col Jason Beaudoin,  
Salem High School, MA



Cadet SSgt Chelsi Duplantis,  
Melanie Young (left), Jacqui  
Warrington (right),  
New Orleans Military and  
Maritime Academy, LA



Cadet Jamey Fischer,  
SgtMaj Roy Deyoung, Palm  
Bay Magnet High School, FL



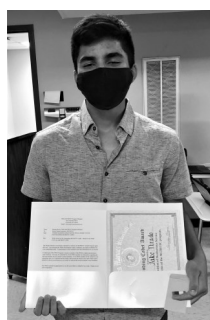
Cadet Sgt  
Kimberly Rosas Gonzalez  
Central High School



Cadet LCpl Jasmin Van Gorder,  
Cathleen Gruetzner, Belton  
High School, TX



Cadet 1stSgt Paige J. Holowka  
First State Military Academy, DE  
Cmdt Gallucci, Col Wallace



Cadet Jake Tirado  
Mandeville High School, LA



Cadet Sgt Alyssa Vargas  
Ross S. Sterling High  
School, TX



Cadet Jazmyn Verdeja  
Sapulpa High School, OK  
LtCol Bill Shannon



Cadet SSgt Jade Selby  
Dallastown High School, PA



Cadet Erika Nunez,  
Apopka High School, FL



Cadet Samantha Walters  
Tomball Memorial High School, TX  
Maj Christopher Iazzetta

**Congrats to all  
the outstanding  
cadets!**



## Loyal Escort Officers

### President

Vacant

### Immediate Past President

Michael E. Pearce  
1645 E. Madge Ave., Hazel Park, MI 48030  
(248) 246-0635, [ipp@loyalescorts.org](mailto:ipp@loyalescorts.org)

### Vice President

Cheryl Roberts  
P.O. Box 217, Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
(304) 707-2020, [vp@loyalescorts.org](mailto:vp@loyalescorts.org)

### Secretary

Alec Cousino  
16915 29 Mile Rd, Ray, MI 48096  
(586) 651-6603, [sec@loyalescorts.org](mailto:sec@loyalescorts.org)

### Treasurer

David Mercure  
48512 Lindon Court, Shelby Twp, MI 48317  
(586) 802-0469, [treasurer@loyalescorts.org](mailto:treasurer@loyalescorts.org)

### Directors

Richard Gruetzner  
701 N Highway 281 E-120, Marble Falls, TX 78654  
(512) 423-5760, [richard.gruetzner@loyalescorts.org](mailto:richard.gruetzner@loyalescorts.org)

### Chaplain

Delsie Young  
2207 NE Bryant St., Portland, OR 97211  
[chaplain@loyalescorts.org](mailto:chaplain@loyalescorts.org)

Vacant

Donald Johnson  
(209) 640-9183, [donald.johnson@loyalescorts.org](mailto:donald.johnson@loyalescorts.org)

## INCOMING: *Loyal Escort Immediate Past President*

Hello Loyal Escorts and WMA Members!

This has been a very difficult time for all of us, and I wanted to let everyone know that we are still here, and we are doing what we can to better organize and answer your questions.

For those who are not already aware, due to time constraints and an already exhaustive schedule, Isaac Bazile has tendered his resignation as President of the Loyal Escorts. Unfortunately, due to recent events, his free time to be involved with the Loyal Escorts has become severely limited, and he felt it was in the best interest of the Loyal Escorts that he step down.

Cheryl Roberts, as VP will resume his responsibilities in his absence. We are planning to meet as a board to discuss our go forward plan.

Director Alec Cousino was nominated for Secretary, in which he accepted, and was unanimously voted in favor for taking over this position in the last board meeting. I'd like to extend a warm welcome and

appreciation to Alec for taking over this roll.

I hope everyone is doing well, as I know there are many complications related to this being the year of Covid. I am hoping to see a return to normal soon enough, including seeing everyone at our 2022 Convention in Las Vegas!

All emails sent to [president@loyalescorts.org](mailto:president@loyalescorts.org) are being sent to Cheryl Roberts. If you would like to reach out to her, feel free using this e-mail address.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 1-248-752-8870. We're looking forward to the next issue of 'Nouncements' to keep everyone up to date.

I certainly do hope everyone is having a great summer!

Thanks,  
Michael Pearce  
Immediate Past President

## A word from the Investment Committee (IC) formerly the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)

The IC members Carol Mutter, Karen Kelly, and Wendy Woodward have been serving for 17 years! We are very interested in seeking out new members to serve a three year term on the committee. A true background in financial management is not required but that would be a bonus. It is highly desirable that all Committee members have a working knowledge of investment best practices and the various types of investments to include asset allocation, security selection, and portfolio diversification. As we have two independent financial advisors, one for the Capital Fund and one for Scholarship Fund, the committee oversees our investments and makes a decision on the recommendations from the advisors. We hold quarterly calls with the advisors to ensure our needs are being met. And if there is an unexpected issue we would have an additional call.

Members attend the Interim Board meeting and the meetings held at Convention.

If interested please email your name, contact information, and qualifications to Karen Kelly at: [hkkelly21@gmail.com](mailto:hkkelly21@gmail.com).

## 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:

Would you like to get your copy of the WMA Newsletter electronically via email?

\_\_\_\_ Yes   \_\_\_\_ No

### SIGNATURES

Signature of member:

Date:

**Make checks payable to Loyal Escorts  
Loyal Escorts, c/o Alec Cousino, 16915 29 Mile Rd., Ray, MI 48095**

## 2022 WMA Biennial Convention & Professional Development Symposium

Greetings from the CCC in Las Vegas! Life since March 2020 has been a wild ride, and not in a good way. We are wanting you all to come join us next September and start making good memories. We are, without a doubt, looking forward to seeing all of you! We are working diligently to make sure you all are going to have a safe, but wonderful time. In doing so, we must also make sure you have all the pertinent information before we get to the good stuff.

First, do not confuse room reservation and convention registration. We will be opening ROOM RESERVATIONS for the Golden Nugget on 1 August 2021. You MUST make your own reservations for your room. Here is the information you must use in order to be in our block of rooms and to receive the discounts and amenities that we have been contracted for:

Our **GROUP CODE** is : **GSWMA22**. This will be used when you make your reservations online AND by phone.

Below is the link for reserving online:

<https://goldennugget.reztrip.com/ext/promoRate?property=1115&mode=b&pm=true&sr=556144&vr=3>

\*do not worry when you see the \$34 resort fee, you will see the discounted contract resort fee of \$15 before you confirm final booking.

For those Marines wishing to place their reservation by phone, please call **1-800-331-5731**. (Don't forget to use the Group Code!)

Registration for the convention will not be until after the beginning of 2022. More information will be published the closer we get to the date.

Please take note that the convention has been condensed and is three (3) days and four (4) nights. It is also not being held over Labor Day weekend like in the past. This was to accommodate for the heat and your health. The convention is being held Thursday, 29 September thru Sunday 2 October 2022. Checkout is on Monday 3 October 2022. However...our contracted rates are good for two (2) days prior and two (2) days after, so feel free to come early or stay after to enjoy a tour with us, spend more time with your sisters, or to just check out our wonderful city! Join us for a special Happy Hour in Troy's Bar on Thursday evening. It overlooks the Fremont Experience. We will get to watch the zipline, tourists, and look up and see the canopy all while enjoying a cocktail and each other's company! Then it's off to Pebble Beach room for hors d'oeuvres and some meet and greets.

Following the convention there are tours to the Hoover Dam/Grand Canyon, Maverick Ranch breakfast and horse riding, Foodie tours, Emerald Cave Kayaking, and many other things that we can do as a

group or groups to have a great time, make memories, and new friends!

If you have not already joined our Facebook page you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wma2022convention>. Should you have any questions about convention, please email:

**convention@womenmarines.org**

We have included the tentative schedule of events on the following page so that you can know what to expect when you come for the convention at the Golden Nugget 129 E. Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89109.



*Carson Tower double room*



*Emerald Cave Kayaking*



*Fremont Street Experience*

# 2022 WMA Biennial Convention & Professional Development Symposium

## September 29 - October 3, 2022

### Thu 29 Sep 2022

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Registration - Bel Air Foyer Registration  
 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Happy Hour (cash bar) - Troy Liquor Bar  
 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM Welcome Reception - Pebble Beach

### Fri 30 Sep 2022

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration – Bel Air Foyer  
 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM WMA Board Meeting – Pebble Beach  
 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM LE Board Meeting - Shoal Creek  
 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM PX set-up and Grand Opening – Bel Air  
 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM PX OPEN – Bel Air  
 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Flag Ceremony Rehearsal – Grand Ballroom  
 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Open Reception  
 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM Opening Banquet – Grand Ballroom

### Sat 1 Oct 2022

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration - Bel Air Foyer  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM WMA Business Meeting - Grand Ballroom  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Loyal Escorts Business Meeting – Shoal Creek  
 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM Recognition & Awards Luncheon – Grand Ballroom  
 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Workshop 1 – Pebble Beach I  
 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Workshop 2 – Pebble Beach III  
 TBD - PX

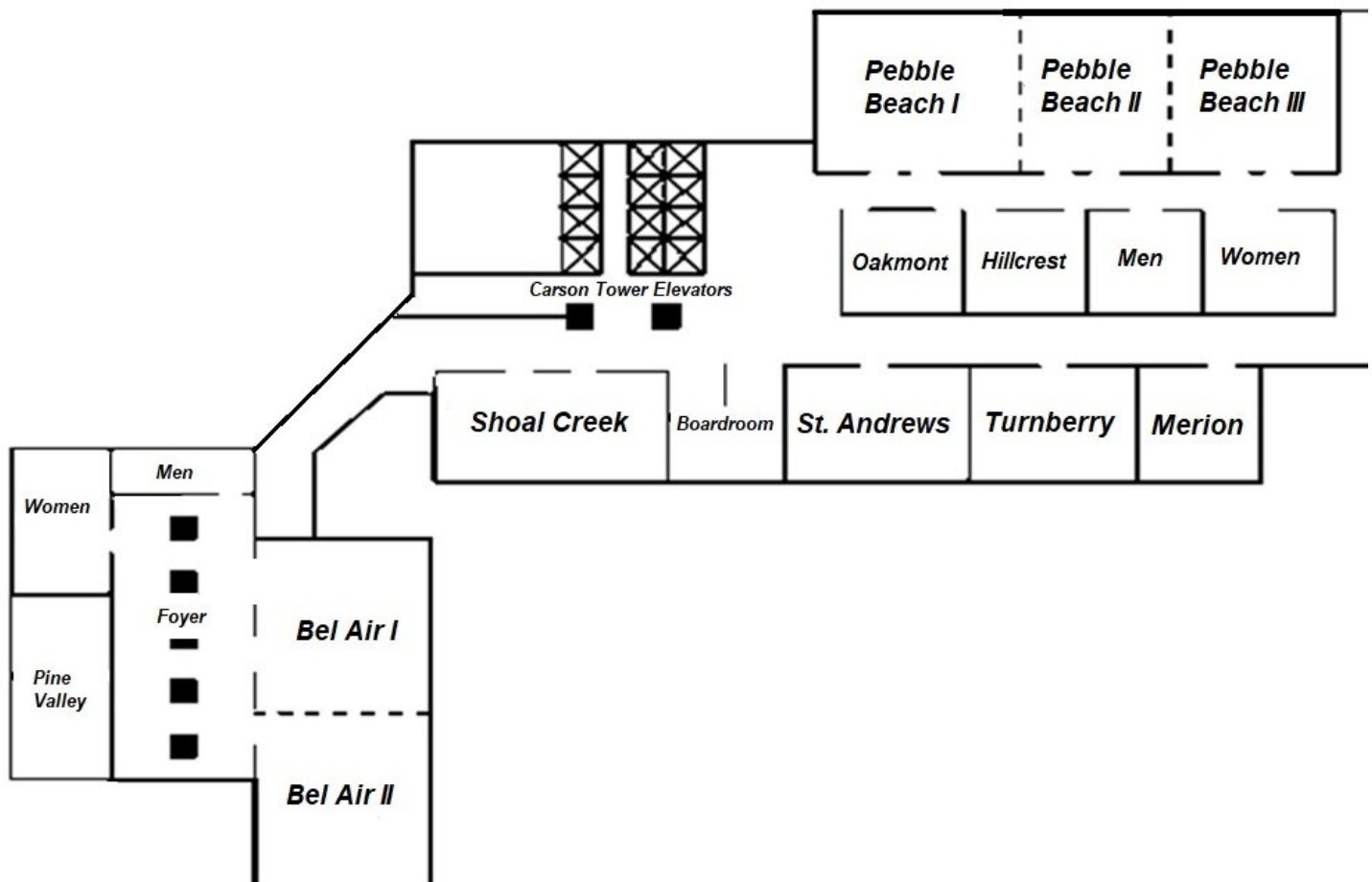
### Sun 2 Oct 2022

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM Fun Run/Walk  
 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Registration - Bel Air Foyer  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Chapter Member Meeting – Pebble Beach I  
 9:00 AM - Loyal Escorts Business Meeting – Pebble Beach II  
 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Memorial Service – Grand Ballroom  
 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM 2022-2024 LE Board Meeting – Pebble Beach II  
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Closing Reception – Grand Ballroom  
 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM Installation/Closing Banquet – Ballroom

### Mon 3 Oct 2022

8:00 AM 12:00 PM WMA Board Meeting - Pebble Beach I

This schedule is **TENTATIVE**  
 and subject to change between  
 now and the convention





## Chaplain's Corner



One of the items on my checklist in preparing TAPS is to read each and every obituary if there is one. It never ceases to amaze me what incredible lives so many women who never had the opportunity to become members of WMA have had. Sharon Schaeffer Moran was only two years older than I. Ouch! I am not ready, but it served as a wakeup call to get my affairs in order. But that's not where I'm going here. She married and raised six children; went back to school graduating as an RN the same year as her oldest graduated high school in 1992. She lost her husband unexpectedly and became a traveling nurse enjoying many adventures roaming the East Coast. She left six children and 21 grandchildren to remember her remarkable life. While Sharon isn't listed in TAPS, she will be on the list of non-members whose families believed that their service in the Marine Corps was note-worthy enough to put in their obituary, which will be posted at our next convention.

While summer has barely begun, there have been significant weather events and I pray you are all safe and unharmed. There were many Veteran's Remembrances in May and June. NY-6 remembers Ramona Valdez with a Memorial Service the last Sunday in June, which falls close to her dates of death and birth – only three days apart. I know there are many of us who mourn a loved one this time of year, but please, feast your eyes on the splendor of Our Creator's gardens. Hopefully you all are now vaccinated and can get out and enjoy the smells that only Summer can bring.

*Eileen Skahill*

*Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.*

*~~ John Lubbock*

## Passings

As editor, I get requests to post obituaries about members who have passed, and in some cases, sister Marines who weren't members. According to my SOP, I'm not supposed to include obituaries. However, there are exceptions.

The first is for Betty Jean Allen Vannucci Elinoff. Betty Jean passed away in December at the young age of 88.

She proudly served from 1948-1952, primarily in the Pentagon. She was an active member of the Lady



Marine Sage Brush Chapter in Las Vegas, and did over 2500 hours of volunteer service at the VA Hospital in Las Vegas.

Betty Jean enjoyed playing bingo, and was known as a feisty gin rummy player, sometimes making new rules as the game went along!

Betty leaves behind a family that is very proud of her and will be greatly missed by them, her friends, and sister Marines. Semper Fidelis, Marine.

The second one is Marvel Edna Dahlen. She joined the Women's Reserve during WWII and was stationed at Treasure Island, working at SWFPAC (Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific) processing top secret messages from the war zone and helping to expedite delivery of critical parts sent overseas to combat units.

Marvel certainly lived up to her name. She was an "amazing, energetic, and charming woman, plus a delight and an inspiration to all who met her. At 101, she still had sharp wits and a wonderful sense of humor," according to Mike Allen, Daniel E. Crockett Detachment 1228, MCL.

Marine Marvel served as chaplain for many years in the Detachment. She was also a member of the Pacific Northwest Lady Veterans. She reported to her final duty station on 6 July 2021.

Semper Fidelis, Marine.

Why did I share these? Because both ladies were trailblazers for ALL of us and should be remembered with a great deal of respect, honor, and thankful appreciation.

*Sondra Metzger*



*U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Brenda McCarthy poses for a photo at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., May 27, 2021. McCarthy is the last female Marine to receive her wings as a weapons systems officer.*

*U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Mellizza Bonjoc*

## 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 was still operating under restrictions.

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

During this period – CA-3 member Kathleen Wright attended the funeral of Marine Alice Eloise Gunnerson in Santa Clara. As was previously reported, Alice passed away following a long illness. She was one of the earliest members of CA-3 when it was chartered over 50 years ago. Kathy read the Prayer for a Woman Marine, which Alice's brother appreciated very much.

Kathy Wright and CA-3 member Janet Johnson went to Elk Grove to visit former member Alice Engle who turned 100 in October last year. They were both excited to see her again! The residents at her assisted living facility can hardly believe she is 100 because she is so active. She broke her leg in two places last year and you would never know it. She trots around with her walker like it never happened.



*Kathy Wright, Alice Engle, Janet Johnson*

CA-3 member Lily Brockmeier's company held a Memorial Day Remembrance event on May 25th. They displayed poster boards of the company employee's



fallen family members at the ceremony. They also invited the city police department color guards to display colors. They provided information on what Memorial Day represents as well as the poppy pins that were passed out to attendees. Lastly, they held a moment of silence to pay tribute to the fallen. Here's a photo of Lily with the color guard from the city police department.

CA-3 member Susan Johnston participated in the placing of flags on the over 2000 veterans buried at the Tracy Public Cemetery for Memorial Day. We placed the flag, stood at attention, saluted, stated the veteran's name and any other information we had – including their branch of service, rank, and era served, and thanked them for their service. It is said that you are not forgotten as long as someone says your name out loud. We honored veterans from those who were laid to rest this past year, back to a couple of veterans from the Spanish American War!

Susan is also a member of the combined American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard which led the City of Tracy 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, posting the colors at the end of the parade to begin the day long festivities in the park, culminating with a fireworks display.

For the 13th year in a row, CA-3 Loyal Escort and Marine veteran Vern Smith and his Marine Corps League Detachment met at a local restaurant for breakfast on Memorial Day. They split into two groups and visited seven Bay Area cemeteries and a beach to pay homage to 59 of their departed comrades, both male and female Marines. This year they added the niche of recently deceased CA-3 woman Marine veteran Barbara Naas. At each grave site, crypt, niche, and the beach, they placed a US Flag and a USMC Flag. A prayer was said at each site and concluded with a very vocal exclamation of "Semper Fi!"

They reminisced about each Marine. As usual, the best story told was of CA-3 Sister Marine Betty Lieser and her ability to out drink young Marine Reservists on a Marine Corps Birthday cruise. Vern states that he loves supporting CA-3 as a Loyal Escort and looks forward to each meeting with us. We love having him as a Loyal Escort.

During this quarter, CA-3 member Susan Johnston participated in two Memorial Services as a part of the combined American Legion/VFW Honor Guard.

*Semper Fi  
Susan Johnston*

### CA-7 Edith Macias Vann Southern CA

Hello everyone. It's so nice to see the country getting back to normal. Hope you all are doing well and enjoying the summer.

We would like to thank Mary Anthony, Chapter Scholarship Committee Chair, for her outstanding work in thoroughly reviewing each applicant and their application. We awarded three scholarships in the amount of \$1000 each to local high school seniors: Kale Hernandez, Benjamin D. Davis, and Adelle Priest.

On April 24, a few chapter members participated in the MS Walk for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Our team name was Women Marines and Team Captain was Kathleen Ables. We enjoyed our walk around the park and afterward we enjoyed a picnic lunch. We will continue to support and participate in this yearly event.



On May 18, our chapter attended the Ammunition Company Female Marine Symposium aboard Camp Pendleton. We presented a 45 minute presentation on women in the Marine Corps and information about the WMA organization.

Mary Anthony and Iris Biggers met Major Dayton, Company Commander of Ammo Co and the first female officer in charge of the ammunition supply point aboard Camp Pendleton.

On May 31, the Veterans Association of North County (VANC) held a Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony. Twenty-seven veteran organizations and programs were in attendance to lay wreaths to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Iris Biggers, Mary Anthony, and Lillian Cross laid the wreath on behalf of WMA Chapter CA-7. Chapter member Chaplain Charlene Itchkawich gave the invocation and the benediction for the ceremony. We were each presented with two challenge coins. Chapter members in attendance were:



Lillian Cross, Mary Anthony, Maria Morales-Vargas, Marleen Alegria, Charlene Itchkawich, and Iris Biggers.



Speaking of getting back to normal, looking forward to seeing chapter members at our Summer Social August 7th from 1100 am -

2 pm. Please check our monthly newsletter for more details.

We are looking forward to meeting face to face for the next Chapter meeting Saturday, September 11th at 1100am at VANC, 1617 Mission Ave., Oceanside, CA. Make sure to bring your lunch.

### Chapter Life Membership Info

Anyone not already a Life Member can now join CA-7 as a Life Member for \$100.00. That means you don't have to pay yearly dues anymore. Life Membership is open from now until December 31, 2021. You must first be a Life Member of the National Women Marines Association. See Lillian Cross for details.

Make sure you check out and follow our social media and website.

Chapter Facebook: @wmasocalca7  
Chapter Instagram: ca7womenmarines  
Website: www.womenmarines.net

*Semper Fidelis,  
Iris Biggers*

### FL-7 Florida First Coast

Florida First Coast FL-7 has been more active in 2021 since Florida relaxed COVID-19 restrictions.

Hubbard House Walk 2021 in March - We started our walk Saturday morning at Ed Austin Regional Park in Jacksonville under overcast skies. Nine walkers were in our group: Staci & Mike Duncan, Arddy Farrell, Ryan Gallagher, Betty Grogan, Sharon Russell, Jennifer



Solomon, Nick and I...four women Marines, a mom of an Army veteran, a retired Marine and two civilians. We leisurely walked approximately 2.25 miles around the park; introducing ourselves, sharing stories and learning there is such a thing as Frisbee Golf! Sharon Russell actually made another loop of the walking trail in honor of a team mate, Tracey Anderson, who was unable to attend. We walked to raise awareness of domestic violence and received \$1,035. Our Chapter gave \$200, (\$100 for 2020 and \$100 for 2021). In the photo is Sharon Russell, Jennifer Solomon and Arddy Farrell. #HubbardHouseWalk2021



18 May 2021 - Our Diana Cunningham presented the WMA Outstanding Cadet award in Glynn County, near Brunswick, GA.

July was a field trip to a Doing Dishes, a

ceramic painting studio and then lunch at Mojo's BBQ. With five Marines and our Loyal Escorts, we are getting our numbers back up to pre COVID-19 levels!

FL-7 member Sharon Russell and Treasurer Arddy Farrell,



Loyal Escort Roseanne Coady sitting in front of President Bernie Klepac and Loyal Escort (Ret. Maj.) Nick Klepac at a Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp AAA baseball game, July 2021. Just some Marines watching a baseball game!

*Bernie Klepac*

### FL-13 Sgt Reckless

On May 22, WMA FL-13 Chapter members joined with members of the local Marine Corps League Marion Detachment 061 in conducting a flag disposal ceremony. Cadets from Vanguard High School NJROTC provided the color guard and flag bearers. The chapter plans to continue such ceremonies on a quarterly basis in cooperation with the MCL Marion Det 061.

Christine Williams, WMA FL-13 Chapter President (center) is accompanied by members of the Marine Corps League Detachment 061 as colors are posted by the Vanguard High School NJROTC Color Guard.

WMA FL-13 Vice President Patty Collins is also a military instructor with the NJROTC unit at Vanguard High School in Ocala. Two graduates of the NJROTC







"first salute"!

unit recently graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and the US Naval Academy where Gunny Collins was invited to their commissioning ceremonies and to render their



*Kathleen Potthoff*

## HI-2 Wahine Koa

The Wahine Koa chapter has a new member! So, what a great reason for the HI-2 Executive Board to fly from Honolulu on Oahu to Hilo on the Big Island (Hawaii) for the 4th of July weekend at the Kilauea Military Camp located in Volcano National Park.

We were met by our newest member, Peggy Johnson, who served as our guide extraordinaire! We all had a great holiday weekend thanks to Peggy's hospitality. Pictured (L to R): Deb Straight, Kathleen (Kath) Kincaid, Peggy Johnson, Jan Powell-Campbell, and Betty (BJ) Kramer. Unfortunately not pictured is Bonnie Diamond Skinner who had to fly back to Oahu before the presentation.



A great time was had by all. Aloha, and Semper Fi!

*Deb Straight*

## MO-2 MO-KAN

The MO-KAN 02 Chapter that serves members who live in and around Kansas City hosted LtGen Carol A. Mutter USMC (Ret) at a dinner at J. Gilbert's Steaks. She was in town as the keynote speaker for the Missouri Korean War Veterans Memorial, Flag Day Retirement Ceremony. Several members of MO-2 volunteered to



work the event. Pictured L-R: Celia Grayless, Selina Washington, Yvette Clifford, Judy Perkins, Mary Crosby, Julia Lee, Carol Mutter (center), Mary Ellen Stone, and Virginia Walker.

*Mary Ellen Stone*

## NE-1 Lady Leathernecks

NE-1 Lady Leathernecks have met twice in person this quarter!

We gathered for a Cinco de Mayo celebration with lots of good food, cocktails and fellowship!



Then at our June business meeting, we had four new Marines join in the fun. They not only joined us for the meeting, but also joined our Chapter! Oohrah!

We continue to work on getting our chapter name changed from "Lady Leathernecks" to "Grace Carle."



SgtMaj Carle graduated from Pender High School in Pender, NE. It's our way of honoring the last Sergeant Major of Women Marines. We are honored to have this connection with her!

Front row (l-r):

Emily Wolfenbarger, Elizabeth Shotkoski-Jurgens, Gina McManus, Penny Hardiman

Back Row (l-r) Diane O'Keefe, Tami Schmidt, Venus VanDeventer, Deb Gillespie

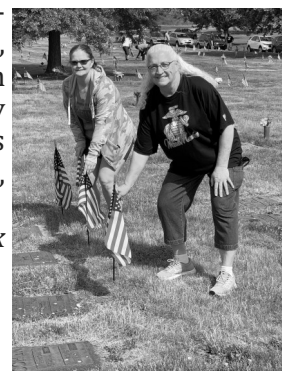
*Kathy Montira*

## PA-2 Tun Tavern Marines

Ahead of Memorial Day remembrances and celebrations, members of PA-2 Tun Tavern Marines were on hand to carry on the tradition of placing flags on veterans graves in Pottstown, PA.

*Pam Kubczak*

Jennifer Cruse (left) and Pam Kubczak



## TX-7 The Gruene Marines

TX-7 has had a very busy past 10 months! On October 10 and 11, President Audrea Killalea, Vice President Heather Brodersen, Sgt at Arms Beverly Franklin and Loyal Escort Cecelia Killalea traveled to Waco. They were to attend a Marine Corps League meeting, WMA session. When it was canceled due to Covid, we still went and turned it into a fun trip! We visited the Dr Pepper Museum and the Texas Rangers Museum.



We enjoyed a lot of laughs and good fellowship!

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, TX-7 served a hot, homecooked meal to 80+ residents of PTSDUSA Camp Hope in Houston. Eleven members and Loyal Escorts were on hand to help serve as well as some friends and veterans. The men enjoyed a meal of rotisserie chicken, sloppy joes, loaded baked potatoes, rustic bean soup and mini Bundt cakes. It was a great event!

November 7 was the Marine Corps Coordinating Council Southeast Texas Marine Corps Ball. We believe it was the only ball held last year due to Covid! Many of our members, Loyal Escorts, friends, and family members attended. It was an excellent ceremony, dinner and dance! Vice President Heather Brodersen was presented the inaugural "Carry the Load" Award. She collected donations, shopped, sorted, and delivered 27 weekly truckloads of food to Camp Hope residents from April to September, 2020. This brought community awareness to PTSDUSA.org along with the warriors' battles with PTSD and successes through the program. During the fall months, donations continued from member Diamantina Rodriguez and LE JoAnn Mata. Members Carol Castillo, Shelly Easter, Heather Brodersen and Steve Cutrer (President of MCCC SETX) donated seven juicers for the resident bays as well as a grocery cart full of oranges to get them off to a good start juicing!

December 18-22, member Guadalupe "Lupita" Hernandez ran 250 miles from Dallas to Houston! She did so to bring awareness to and raise funds for the Travis Manion Foundation. Every mile, she stopped and planted a flag in the ground. Each flag commemorated a person with PTSD. Many are no longer with us. It was especially poignant to watch her plant the flag, salute and say the person's name. No doubt, anyone driving along the freeway was aware of those veterans. Some members and LEs donated and went out to run a few miles with Lupita. She is a true motivator!

On December 19, TX-7 participated in the laying of wreaths for Wreaths Across America and the Houston National Cemetery. We also participated in the clean up on January 23.



On February 13, the chapter gathered and had attendees via Zoom for the celebration of the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. We met at a local restaurant where they had a special room

just for us. We had a good turnout and also conducted our officer installation. Heather Brodersen is the President, Audrea Killalea is the Vice President, Dolores Mendiola is the Secretary, and Melissa French became the Treasurer. Audrea Killalea was honored with a plaque. She was instrumental in forming this chapter and was the President for the first three years straight! We owe her a debt of gratitude for all the sisters we are in contact with now and the wonderful friendships we've formed. What's more, our veteran community is being served by our chapter! The luncheon was great fellowship and a lot of fun!

Shortly after our February gathering, Texas was hit with a polar vortex. Many of us were without power and some of us had major damage to our homes from frozen pipes bursting. Just as Houstonians react to a hurricane, we reacted to this storm and power outage. We checked in on each other and offered what help we could. Member Melissa French and her husband distributed a huge supply of water to their area. Some of our members and Loyal Escorts obtained water from them. Five months later, VP Audrea Killalea and her family are just getting their house back in order. Everything is bigger in Texas – to include storms!

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, VFW 8790 in Houston held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Appreciation BBQ. TX-7 attended and we had an information table set up to greet attendees. We networked and visited with other veterans in attendance. ESTEM MCJROTC was on hand to work the event and serve the food. These young men and women are definitely being prepared to succeed in the Marine Corps. They are hard workers and extremely polite and respectful. So many have servant hearts!

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, VP Audrea Killalea attended Montgomery High School's MCJROTC award ceremony. She awarded the WMA Outstanding Cadet Award to both the 2020 and 2021 recipients. It is always an honor to be invited to these events and a pleasure to attend!

April 28, Beverly Franklin opened her home to TX-7 members, LEs, and other women veterans for an 8-hour work day. The ladies prepared silk flower arrangements, filled gift bags and wrote cards for the women veteran patients of Michael E. DeBakey VA Hospital Houston. The ladies who receive these beautiful items will no doubt be touched that we are thinking of them and care for them.

May 10, President Heather Brodersen attended the MCJROTC Award Ceremony at Royal High School in Brookshire. It would be a 3-hour car ride in the morning crossing the city of Houston, so member Judith Hirst provided lodging at her home in Richmond. 1stSgt LaShan Bland, also a TX-7 member, is the leader of the cadets at Royal High School. She runs a tight ship and those students are impressive! Heather not only awarded the WMA Outstanding Cadet Award, they let her give out all the awards to the cadets. It was such a privilege to shake each of their hands and tell them to keep pressing onward! There are over 90 students in the program at that school – more than double since

1stSgt Bland took over! OORAH!

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Southeast Texas held the first Tour de Corps Bicycle Ride. It was 17.75 miles and was held in League City. Members of TX-7 supported the MCCC and member Dolores Mendiola and her daughter and Loyal Escort Anyssa Martinez both participated in the ride! Funds that were raised will go to a scholarship in the name of Colonel "Iron Mike" Harrington.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Southeast Texas held the First Annual Greater Houston Area Post 9-11 Veterans Commemoration. TX-7 Vice President Audrea Killalea is a member of the MCCC. She and President Heather Brodersen were both on the committee for this event. Audrea was instrumental in putting this whole event together. She was on top of all the logistics, food, drinks, parking, security, etc. She is a workhorse! A moving ceremony was held at the Fallen Warriors Memorial and after, everyone moved one mile down the street for a Veterans Engagement at the Fallen Warriors Gallery. Artist Ken Pridgeon, who also turned 86 that day, has been painting all the fallen warriors of Texas throughout the Post 9-11 era. The gallery is breathtaking, but also very emotional. To see all of those young faces looking out at us and knowing they all made the ultimate sacrifice is quite an experience. It was good to finally have a commemoration for all the Post 9-11 veterans.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, 15 members, LEs, friends, and family of TX-7 gathered to participate in the Flags for the Fallen at Houston National Cemetery. We were given a section of the cemetery and hundreds of flags to place. Each veteran's name was spoken, a salute rendered and a flag placed front and center on their grave. The cemetery looked gorgeous with all the flags dancing on the wind, but we still remember that each grave represents an honored servicemember and loved one. Together, we also visited the graves of loved ones of our chapter members.

On May 31, we returned to Houston National Cemetery to place flowers on the graves. There were far fewer flowers this year than in the past due to Covid. On both days, we were able to connect with many family members visiting their loved ones' graves. Tears were shed and hugs were given. It seems we are all part of one huge family of veterans. After the flower placement, we moved to a restaurant for some fellowship and air-conditioning! Bev Franklin brought a cake replete with an EGA to celebrate Judy Hirst's birthday and many of us met member Patricia Schmidt for the first time as well! We love to welcome new members! We had a wonderful time together and talked a little chapter



business as well.

June 5<sup>th</sup>, we returned one more time to Houston National Cemetery. This time, we were to pull all the flags off the graves, wipe the mud off the sticks, and roll them up. We had 8 people RSVP that they were coming. We had a huge section with thousands of graves. It was a daunting task – and then people started showing up! We ended up with 23 volunteers in our section who were our members, family, friends, and veterans. Again, ESTEM MCJROTC showed up to support us! Another group of 20+ from the Young Men's Service League showed up and made quick work of over half of the flags. We were so blessed!

June 12 is Texas Women Veterans Day. TX-7 Member LaShondra Jones and a committee of other veterans and friends created an outstanding event that day for women vets! It was held at VFW Post 8790 and was an afternoon of hearing women's experiences, meeting other women from all branches, seeing our Marine sisters who traveled all the way from San Antonio to attend, as well as honoring passed women veterans. We had ladies aged 17 to at least 87 in attendance! Women entrepreneurs shared their businesses with us and had very generous items that were raffled off. The time and energy that the committee put toward this great event means a lot to everyone who attended. It was an extremely special afternoon!

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vice President Audrea Killalea attended ESTEM Academy's MCJROTC Award Ceremony and dinner. She was personally invited to attend and represent women Marines because she is so dear to them.

On July 3 and 4, President Heather Brodersen carried the Marine Corps Colors and led the multi-service color guard at Second Baptist Church, Houston. The church had a 40 minute patriotic ceremony honoring the United States flag, a salute to the military, and a musical performance of patriotic songs celebrating our great nation. When each service song was played, veterans of that service were asked to stand and be recognized. Heather's sister Heidi Ruiz, who is also a Marine, was in attendance on Saturday and TX-7 members Beverly Franklin and Judith Hirst were in attendance on Sunday.

We have held meetings every other month whether in person or via Zoom. When we were closed down by law, we did all Zoom meetings. TX-7's op tempo was not affected much by Covid-19. We have many events already on the calendar for the coming months and enjoy being a force for good in our community, supporting women veterans, and taking care of each other. We had our first in-person meeting in quite a few months on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July. We will also continue with Zoom availability to increase meeting attendance. Semper Fidelis, Lady Leathernecks!

*Heather Brodersen*

*I don't know about you, but I'm exhausted after all that! Well done, TX-7! ~ Editor*

## WA-3 Northsound

It was wonderful to finally get together in person! WA-3 decided to spend our time together after so long just catching up and sharing time with each other.

Our get together was held at a Tea House in Mt. Vernon, WA. The food was great - but greater was seeing all our members and Loyal Escorts alive and well! We survived the pandemic!

We did discuss the assistance we provided to the VA Homeless housing in December with help from a WMA National grant. WA-3 is now working on ensuring the women at the VA hospital have access to under garments.

Members pictured are (l-r): Floor - Cristi Erickson; Front row Lynda Wolfe, Betty Strand, (behind Betty) Lisa Saar; Standing Gloria Hanson, Karen Bellinger, Peggy Reiber, Leah Cupps, Linda Lockhart, Bettie Glassey, Whitney Mason, and Crystal Hadel.

*Peggy Reiber*



## Notes of Appreciation

The following are parts of thank you notes from a few of our scholarship recipients.

"Thank you for believing in me for these audacious dreams and goals. I'm honored and privileged to receive the 2021 Agnes Sopcak Memorial Scholarship. I hope this organization will continue to thrive and prosper for the next generations to come. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

*SSgt Tiffany Nguyen*

"I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the Women Marines Scholarship possible. I am deeply appreciative of your support with awarding this scholarship to me. It has been a big dream of mine to pursue the field of Nursing since I can remember, and with this scholarship it is a big help to make that dream come true. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you I will work very hard and eventually be able to give back to others, as you have here."

*Ashley Varjas-Easter*

"I can't describe my excitement as I opened my email to discover that I have been selected to receive the Women Marines Association Scholarship. I am thrilled to represent women Marines. I consider this scholarship a very prestigious award. Growing up in a military family and community has not only offered financial and academic challenges, but has also helped me realize the value of a college education. My educational pursuits would not be possible without generous support from scholarship sponsors like your organization. Thank you for enabling this opportunity!"

*Thierry Jade Simic*

"I would like to thank the entire WMA organization for funding and offering this scholarship. This donation towards my education will help me achieve my dream of reaching my bachelor degree that is over 20 years in the making. I am currently in my junior year working towards my degree in behavioral health. I am excited to continue to learn about the areas where so many people are struggling and in need of support."

*Jana Bickel*

"I wanted to reach out with my sincere appreciation for being awarded the WMA Memorial Scholarship. I am very excited to receive this scholarship and use it to its full potential. I cannot thank the national WA Scholarship Committee enough for awarding me with the chance to focus more on my studies. I know that my education and skills will benefit greatly."

*Ava Aguirre*

"I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Women Marines Scholarship. Your scholarship will help further my education, and I am incredibly grateful. I hope to pursue my aspirations of working for the federal government. The work of government employees makes a difference and impacts American lives around the world. I am genuinely grateful for the scholarship support. Thank you."

*Asia Stephenson*

# CHAPTER MERCHANDISE

Send chapter ads to: Editor@womenmarines.org.

## IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE:

When chapter sales items are no longer available, please notify the Editor 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

### 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)



THE FEWER, THE PROUDER NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A WOMAN



THE WOMEN MARINES  
Option 1



Option 3



WHO HAS A DD214  
Option 2



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

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

**For infant/toddler contact seller**

Chapter OR-3  
Five (5) embroidery options  
Sizing and pricing includes shipping

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

# MO-3 IS ON THE MOVE MERCH

**Infant & Toddler Sizes:**  
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T-Shirts: 6mos, 12 mos, 18 mos, 2T, 3T

**Youth Sizes:**  
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S (6-8)  
M (10-12)  
L (14-16)

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Include the quantity and size(s)  
Complete Mailing Address:  
First & Last Name, City, State, Zip

**ORDER YOURS TODAY**

You will receive a confirmation email with the amount due and you will then be instructed on how to pay using CashApp, Money Order, or by check.



# CHAPTER MERCHANDISE

## JEWELRY

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

**Contact:** OR1@womenmarines.org



## 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](http://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](http://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

**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](http://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 ship-  
ping) - make checks payable to WMA Chapter NM-1

**License Plate Frame** - weather resistant white plastic  
"WOMAN VETERAN" across top, "U.S. MARINE CORPS"  
along bottom edge

Cost \$20.00 (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



# 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
<b>WMA 'Nouncements is the organizational quarterly magazine</b>	
____ Hard Paper Copy	**Must provide current email for electronic copy

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION \_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_ REINSTATEMENT

____ 2 year Membership \$40	<b>Life Membership: Pick One:</b>
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 July 2020

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](http://www.womenmarines.org)



## 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

WMA Afghan. . . . . \$ 55.00

WMA Ceremonial Flag. . . . . \$200.00

Chapter Ribbon (replacement). . \$ 20.00



Cover Pin



WMA Afghan



WMA Ceremonial Flag 3' x 5'



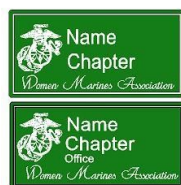
WMA Logo Pin



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

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)



Example



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 1/2" - 20 7/8")

Medium. . . . . (22" - 22 3/8")

XLarge. . . . . (23 1/2" - 23 7/8")

Small. . . . . (21 1/4" - 21 5/8")

Large. . . . . (22 3/4" - 23 1/8")

XXLarge. . . . . (24 1/4" - 24 5/8")



Green WMA Cover

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](http://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  
1608 Mallette St. **(NOTE NEW ADDRESS)**  
Victoria, TX 77904

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



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

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