

WMA'NOUNCEMENTS

SERVING OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1969

★ **100 YEARS OF SERVICE 1918 - 2018** ★

First integrated recruit class graduates

The Marine Corps' brief and limited experiment integrating female recruits into an all-male unit for their initial training at boot camp came to an end Friday.

And as the recruit class graduated at Parris Island, officials said they were undecided about whether the Corps, which has long refused to fully integrate its recruit training, will ever do it again.

This year for the first time, a platoon of female recruits was part of a company that included five all-male platoons. They were all housed in the same complex, but on different floors — unlike the usual practice that has all female recruits living and doing some of their training on a separate part of the base.

Commanders and Marines in the course told The Associated Press they didn't notice any problems during the brief flirtation with increased integration. But the lack of disaster didn't appear to change minds in a Marine Corps that has steadfastly rejected congressional and other outside pressure to build combined platoons of female and male recruits at boot camp, like the other military services do.

For the recruits, just surviving the rigorous course was all-consuming.

"I showed up to train — everybody trains the



same," said PFC Harley Mesimore, 19, of Greensboro, N.C. "I was focused on myself and getting through the week and just getting out of here."

Top Marine leaders have argued for years that young, female Marines perform better if they do the bulk of their early training in a separate unit where they can build their strength and confidence.

Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press



MCAS YUMA, AZ - Marine Corps Capt Kelsey Casey stands in front of an AV-8B Harrier at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, March 27, 2019. Casey, 30, is from San Francisco and is a 2011 graduate of San Francisco State University. She is the only female AV-8B Harrier pilot in the Marine Corps. She recently deployed with Marine Attack Squadron 311 to the Middle East as part of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command. This is a rotational deployment that began in 2013 where Marines support U.S. and allied operations within U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, most notably, coalition operations against ISIS and other terrorist organizations. Upon the completion of her deployment, she will begin training on the new Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35B Lightning II.



WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION



National Officers

76 YEARS OF PROUD SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND CORPS

APRIL 2019

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WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

WMA 'NOUNCEMENTS (USPS 371410) is published quarterly by the Women Marines Association. Periodical postage paid at San Antonio, TX and additional mailing offices. Membership eligibility: Women who have served honorably or are now serving in the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve 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, P.O. Box 377, Oaks, PA, 19456-0377. 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.

Deadline for materials for next issue:

5 July 2019

Please send all materials for 'Nouncements to the Editor: Sondra Metzger, 3805 NE 141 Circle Edmond, OK 73013 (405) 570-2472 Editor@womenmarines.org

Reporting In...National President

Spring has sprung and hopefully the flowers are in bloom wherever you are. Would you believe that we are already well on our way to planning for our next convention to be held in Omaha September 2020!! The Convention Coordinating Committee is hard at work to make this a special event as we "Bring our OOHRAH to Omaha" and get "back to basics" as we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of WMA. See more details in separate articles in this issue.



You will also see more details from our membership secretary regarding an important initiative that approved Fleet Marine Force (FMF) qualified female Navy personnel to become active members of WMA. The recent Bylaws Amendment Ballot was approved with 2741 ballots mailed to those active members in our membership database with a total of 885 members casting their vote (see the Ballot Report Summary Chart). That is only 32% of our membership participating in this process but it represents nearly three times the number of members who would normally have the opportunity to vote at convention.



Just like our active duty counterparts we have a special relationship in being members of today's "Navy-Marine Corps Team". These "FMF qualified" Navy personnel want to belong to WMA, understanding the importance of supporting the goals and initiatives of our Association and to be a part of this elite team.

To earn the right to wear the Fleet Marine Force badge is no easy task and signifies that they have dedicated at least one year to learning the ins and outs of the Marine Corps. They become experts in everything most Marines only learn the basics of: the Marine Air-Ground Task Force, its subordinate components, history, customs and courtesies. They pass the Marine Physical Fitness Test (PFT), a written test, demonstrate skills used in service with the Marines such as weapon breakdown and familiarization, land navigation, combat communications, and an oral examination by senior enlisted sailors who are FMF qualified.

Our membership secretary is working on an implementation plan to accept our Navy sisters into our midst, and I hope that you demonstrate the esprit de corps which is the hallmark of every Marine in welcoming these new members as part of our Navy-Marine Corps Team within WMA.

*Semper Fidelis,
Rhonda Amtower*

The Fleet Marine Force Enlisted Warfare Specialist Device (FMFEWS) is a qualification insignia of the United States Navy earned by enlisted U.S. Navy sailors assigned to the Fleet Marine Force of



the U.S. Marine Corps who have successfully completed the necessary requirements of the Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist (EFMFWS) Program per OPNAV Instruction 1414.4B. This involves serving one year with a Marine Corps unit (two years for reserves), passing the Marine Physical Fitness Test (PFT), a written test, demonstrating skills used in service with the Marines such as weapon breakdown and familiarization, land navigation, combat communications and an oral examination by senior enlisted sailors who are FMF qualified. The Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist designation is most commonly awarded to the hospital corpsman (HM) and religious program specialist (RP) ratings, although it is also awarded to other sailors who support Marine Corps commands (e.g. Logistics Specialists assigned to medical logistics companies).

BYLAWS MAILOUT BALLOT RESULTS AND CERTIFICATION

		TOTAL	PERCENT	Invalid Ballot	Late Postmark
Date Received					
Ballots Received		885			2
ARTICLE FOUR: MEMBERSHIP Section 2. Qualifications: Membership qualifications are: (1) 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)	YES	592	67%		
	NO	257	29%		
	Abstain	32	4%	3	
ARTICLE FIVE: OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES Section 2. Term of Office: (1) Elected officers of the Board of Directors as listed in Section 1, shall serve for the standard two-year term of office that begins at the close of the convention where they are installed. Should an Elected Officer not serve her full term, the Board of Directors shall appoint a successor to finish the term of office.	YES	816	92%		
	NO	31	4%		
	Abstain	34	4%	3	
ARTICLE ELEVEN: FINANCE: Section 4. Scholarships: (1) WMA Memorial Scholarships up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) each shall be awarded annually. (2) The number and amount of individual scholarships shall be determined annually after consultations between the Scholarship Committee and the Financial Advisory Committee.	YES	816	92%		
	NO	58	7%		
	Abstain	5	1%	5	
Total Mailed Ballots	2741				
Total Received	885				
Percent Received	32%				
Total Received after postmark deadline	2				
Percent Received after 2/7/19 postmark date	0%				
Returned-Bad Address	48				
Percent-Bad Address	2%				
Members Non-participating	1856				
Percent of non-participation	68%				

Reporting In...Membership Secretary

Welcome Spring and Welcome New Members!

Since the 2018 Convention, we have added many new members to the National WMA. This in return has helped create new local chapters and members-at-large all over the United States. If you know of someone that would like to become a National WMA member, please have them email me at MSec@womenmarines.org and I will answer any questions that they might have.

Talking about new members to the WMA, in February, our National President, Rhonda Amtower



Laura Ann Bigley
National Membership Secretary

announced the ballot approval of our Fleet Marine Force (FMF) qualified female Navy sisters to become active members of WMA. As the membership secretary, I am in the process of implementing a plan to ensure the FMF Sailors are assimilated properly into full members of WMA. We are hoping to start accepting new applications no later than June 1, 2019.

I want to thank you all for being members of WMA, without you we would not have over 80 chapters across the country (and the world). You are the foundation of the association and for a relatively small organization, WMA has so much to be appreciative of.

Reporting In... Areas 1 - 2 - 3 - 6 - 9 - 10

Area 1

On March 28, 2017, the United States Congress passed into law designating March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Vietnam War took the lives of 58,479 U.S. service members. They are remembered, they are not forgotten, with the Vietnam War Veterans Day now being celebrated in our country on March 29th each year.

This year on March 29th at 1700 in the town of Coventry, CT, veterans representing Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force gathered at the State of CT Vietnam Veterans Memorial. These veterans gathered to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their life here at home to serve our country during the Vietnam war. "The Vietnam War was extremely unpopular and deeply divided our country. So much so, that most veterans returning home were ignored and even disrespected; their service and sacrifice wasn't honored. Today we change that. Today we are here to demonstrate our gratitude to those who served; and to show our pride and



respect to those we mourn and whose names are listed on this monument," said my husband, Peter.

I graduated high school in 1973 when the draft ended. Many of my older friends from high school were drafted and I recall some not coming home. My brother-in-law was drafted as a soldier and was awarded two silver stars for his heroism, but I remember he would never talk about his experiences in the Army until just recently. The news channels during most of my childhood were about the Vietnam War and how the Americans hated them for serving. I remember feeling sad and helpless for these veterans who were treated so disrespectfully. I became a Marine in 1975 just months before the end of the Vietnam War era.

The movement to establish the CT Vietnam Veterans Memorial monument in my hometown of Coventry began as part of a classroom project undertaken by the students at Captain Nathan Hale Middle School in 2001. Mr. Thomas Dzicek, a beloved teacher during that time, assigned his students to write about local veterans who served, then challenged the students into researching the biographies of all 612 Connecticut servicemen who lost their lives in the Vietnam conflict. After a year and half, they printed a book titled "612." That book inspired others to form a committee that raised funds to build this memorial.

In Washington, D.C. it is called the "Wall that Heals." Although it has been forty-four years since the U.S. pulled out of Vietnam, it's important to keep "healing" at this wall, keep remembering and say thank you to the Vietnam War veterans for their service and their sacrifice. U.S. Navy veteran Jack Oshman, who joined me at the ceremony added, "Many who were not killed in action still suffered and died as the results of the war." Jack tearfully shared the story of his buddy, whose name is not on the monument, but died a few years after returning home as a result of Agent Orange.



Pictured left to right: Tim Ackert, USAF; Jack Oshman, USN; Manny Rodrigues, USMC; Ted Benoit, USA; Kevin Vander Wirde, USMC; Jamie DePaola, USMC; and Peter DePaola, USMC.

There are many thousands more like Jack's friend who have died as a result of the Vietnam War, but their deaths do not fit the Department of Defense criteria for inclusion on The Wall in D.C. The Department of Defense only allows names to be added to The Wall of veterans who have died from wounds sustained during the war. They are not allowing the addition of the nearly 3,000 Vietnam War veterans who died from exposure to Agent Orange related illnesses. There are now programs to honor those veterans, many of whom came home to fight a whole new battle and never fully recovered either physically or emotionally.

I was proud to be the organizer for this ceremony celebrating the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. I finally found a way to not feel helpless (like I did in my younger years) as we honored those who served, and those we lost, during the Vietnam War. State Representative and U.S. Air Force veteran Tim Ackert closed the ceremony saying, "We will not forget, and we welcome them home."

Jamie DePaola

Area 2

I would like to take a moment and introduce myself as your new Area 2 Director. I am originally from Round Rock, TX. I served in the Marines from 1987 until 2012. I now live in Conneautville, PA (western PA). I currently work for the Erie VAMC.



I am honored to serve in this billet. I am serving the areas of PA, VA, MD, DE, NJ, WV, and Africa. We have recently created Facebook pages for these chapters. Please make sure you reach out and join. I am hoping this will make it easier to find my sister Marines and for you to find us. We do have some Marines attempting to start new chapters in Erie and Hampton Roads, VA. There are Facebook pages created for those new forming chapters, as well.

I would also like to welcome the ladies of Pittsburgh, The Steel City Marines to the WMA! Good work, ladies! Our goals should be to engage and involve as many Marines in our areas as possible and promote the WMA. I look forward to scheduling dates to visit the chapters in Area 2 in the near future.

The next biennial convention will be in Omaha, Nebraska in 2020. Bring your Oorah to Omaha! I hope to see you all there.

Please feel free to email me at ad2@womenmarines.org for more information.

***Semper Fidelis,
JoEllen Schumacher***

Area 3

Area 3 has been very busy these past few months. Here are a few highlights.

We have several new chapters forming. In Florida we have interest in the Tallahassee area, chapters in formation in West Palm Beach and Cape Coral. In Alabama we have forming chapters in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Huntsville. AL-1 is reforming in the Moline area. Georgia chapters are forming in Augusta and Savannah, and South Carolina is looking to add to their chapters in Greenville and Columbia. In North Carolina, we find a formation in the Fayetteville area. NC-4 is reforming in the Charlotte area. Tennessee has one forming in the northeast area around Kingsport as well as the Memphis area.

If there is not chapter near you, we would love to investigate starting one. Please contact me at AD3@womenmarines.org.

Several North Carolina chapters will be participating in the Marine South Expo the 11th and 12th of April. They have been doing this for several years. They will also be hosting a joint chapter meeting and hosting the National President. Thank you, North Carolina chapters, for all you do.

Some of NC-1 Tarheel Chapter members had bricks laid in the Memorial Garden in Jacksonville. If you are ever visiting, take a walk through the Memorial Garden.



Members of GA-2 walking in Albany

GA-2 Semper Sororibus continues to "inspire and encourage". On 17 March they took part in the Tackle Cancer Breast Cancer Annual Walk in Albany. This great group of Marines is showing the city of Albany who they are on a regular basis. To ensure that all members could participate, they carpoled for a chapter meeting in Eufaula, AL where one of the members lived. This is indeed in the true spirit of WMA.

NC-1 has been busy helping Marines recover from Hurricane Florence. Lisa Potts has been instrumental in leading the charge. Their activity does not stop there. From participating in the promotion of Sarah Parks to Sergeant to hosting Angela Maness at their March meeting. Something is always brewing with this active chapter. Next up for them is the Expo. NC-2 held their meeting at the end of March and are working on upcoming event planning. NC-3 Semper Fi Chapter always has something cooking. They had a fantastic anniversary celebration. Not only will they be participating but they are also a sponsor of the 5th

Annual VA Bull City Run, Walk & Roll 5K, to be held on Saturday, May 4th. NC-5 Port City Marines have been busy at various events from chapter meetings to being part of the Dessert event. Keep up the good work NC chapters.

We are looking forward to 2019 being a banner year for Area 3.

Patricia Collins

Area 6

Spring is upon us, and as we ponder how spring is a time of transition, we can apply this idea of "transition" to the Women Marines Association. As with all of nature's creations, we have to receive nutrients so we can grow and bloom to our fullest potential. For this reason, I ask each of you to donate a little bit of your time to apply some "fertilizer" to our WMA organization to help grow it to its full potential. I would ask each member to get involved with your local chapter – even if you only have a few minutes or hours – there's an opportunity to effect healthy growth, whether it's growing to know your chapter members better or to grow the numbers of the chapter. Try to get out of your comfort zone! Put on something that identifies you as being a



An installation ceremony was conducted for LA 1, Molly Marine Chapter, on 19 January. Left to right: President Laurie Tibberts, Rosa Osborn, Secretary Sarah Park, Vice President Janet Herriot, Treasurer Nora Huete.

Marine – specifically a WOMAN MARINE! Throw on that WMA hat, shirt, blazer, wind breaker – whatever you've got – and rock it!

The MCJROTC is an awesome opportunity for us to engage with the community, grow, and influence youth. Oftentimes, there is a history of military service connected to the kids in MCJROTC – which may even lead you to meet other, potentially, female Marines.

We don't know what we don't know, but we do know that the young ladies involved with MCJROTC have a potential to join the Marine Corps. If they know that WMA exists prior to entering the Marine Corps, they will know WMA exists during their active duty service. Their early exposure to WMA and its purpose will influence their decision-making and could potentially increase the potential to join WMA ei-



An installation ceremony was conducted for TX-1, Lone Star State, on 9 February. Left to right: President Paula Land, Vice President Kathy Kamo, Rosa Osborn, Secretary Leslie Perron, Treasurer Holly Hughes.

ther while serving or after they get out of the Marine Corps. It would be an easy thing to volunteer to hand out awards, provide classes, or even volunteer at pooler functions. Every bit will make a difference and have an impact.



Visited with TX-5, Heart of Texas (Austin) President Cyla R. Huber and Vice President C. Ursula Gruetzner on 29 March.



Attended the RS Houston Pooler meet with Commanding Officer Major Gray, Beverly Franklin, Rosa Osborn, TX-7 Opha May Johnson President Audrea Killalea on 30 March.

answer "No," then ask them if they have updated their information.

And as the flowers are blooming and their stems are growing stronger, so too is this organization also changing and growing. The change means neither that we lose our traditions nor our history, but are continually adding to it. Change is necessary and to change effectively, efficiently, and positively, we need you!

Rosa Osborn

Area 9

Well, we started off 2019 with some very strange and extreme weather. While it may have delayed some of our anniversary celebrations, it did not dampen our spirits.

It is exciting that we have a couple women meeting in the Boise area, and a few more in Spokane. I hope to get to visit Spokane in the next couple months. Hope we can establish a few more chapters to ensure our sisters have the comradery we who are members of chapters enjoy! Semper fi—and welcome spring and scholarship time!



Peggy Reiber

(Peggy has assumed the position of treasurer on the National Board and is working on a replacement at the time of this writing. – Editor)

Area 10

Greetings Lady Leathernecks,

The months have been going by fast. I have been scheduling chapter visits for this year, and I look forward to seeing and meeting you all.

We have a new chapter forming in Northern California, Chapter CA-16, Major Megan McClung Chapter. I look forward to installing their new board members and meeting new faces in the North.

It seems Chapter CA-1 is struggling to reorganize. I am calling out their current board members



to do a recruitment for the Los Angeles area. There are Marines out there willing to step up, and I look forward to working with them to make this happen.

I enjoyed my visit with Chapter CA-29. We celebrated



Members of CA-29

in the desert on March 16, at a nice golf course with a wonderful luncheon. I had the opportunity to speak about WMA and share a poem with them. They have great ideas for fundraising and they have been recruiting new members, growing strong in the sandbox.

I have plans to travel to the following chapters: CA-2, CA-3, CA-7, CA-8, and CA-15. If any of these chapters want me to attend a specific date or event, please email the dates of the event. I am happy to attend any chapter meeting, and I want to assist you in any way I can.

Hawaii Marines HI-2 are doing great. Their chapter is growing and they are partnered up with the Marine Corps League on the island. They are the newest chapter since August 2018.

A reminder for all those Marines who are planning on going to the Biennial Women Marines conference in Omaha, NE. If you plan to attend, start saving your money now and bring your Oooorah to Omaha!

*Semper Fidelis,
Soledad Kennedy*

Coming Soon:

The *Resource Manual & Directory (RM&D)* is in the final publication stages so you should see your copy by the end of May. As a reminder, the RM&D is only published every two years after each biennial convention and includes basic resource information to include our National Bylaws, Standing Rules, Scholarship Procedures, a directory of the National Board of Directors, those serving in National level positions along with current mem-

bership lists. Please remember the RM&D is a "static" document which means the information regarding changes in membership may not be current once published. However, you can always find updates on new members, national officers etc., in the quarterly issues of *'Nouncements*, on our website at www.womenmarines.org as well as through your Area Directors. To make sure that you receive the RM&D as well as other WMA publications/correspondence, please ensure your contact information to include mailing and email address is current by providing to our Membership Secretary at MSEC@womenmarines.org.

WMA Calendar Year 2018 Financial Report

At the close of 2018, the audited WMA balance sheet shows assets of just over \$3 million, equal to the sum of capital and liabilities. WMA continues to maintain its General Fund and Capital Fund at Merrill Lynch and the Scholarship Fund is held at Commonwealth Financial. With assistance from the Financial Advisory Committee, WMA has experienced stability in managing these accounts while continuing to work to bring WMA the biggest returns on its investments it safely can.

A full audit of WMA's accounting was performed by Acord, Cox, & Co. who deemed that WMA's financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Women Marines Association of June 30, 2018, the last complete Fiscal Year."

At the very start of 2018, WMA was privileged to disperse \$55,500 in scholarships to deserving students. In June 2018, WMA was also honored to receive \$150,000 from the estate of Ms. Clare Hockanson, which is to be used for scholarships.

WMA assumed ownership of the Lotus Mort Fund which totaled just over \$32,000. These funds are used to support the history of the women in the USMC by way of annually awarding a recipient the Colonel Julia E. Hamblet Award in the amount of \$500. Until this point these funds were managed by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, who presented the award on behalf of WMA. Beginning in 2018 WMA now handles the funds management and award presentation completely in house.

In November 2017, WMA began seeking donations for the Opha May Johnson Project, which involved the installation and a ceremony at Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, DC to reveal a monument marking the final resting place of Opha May Johnson, the first female Marine. By June 2018 WMA received dozens of donations, ranging from \$10 to \$1100, to collect over \$18,000 for this project, which was 70% of the needed

funds (the rest of which were received before the installation and ceremony).

During 2018 WMA accounted for and reported all income, paid all bills as authorized by the by-laws, standing rules, and Third Vice President; and provided periodic reports of WMA financial condition in accordance with WMA SOP.

The WMA Balance Sheet can be found on page 27.

Peggy Reiber

Where Do I Belong...In WMA?

There seems to be some confusion about where WMA members can or should belong. So perhaps some clarification is needed.

Members-at-Large (MALs) choose not to belong to a chapter for various reasons. Some want little interaction, but want to belong; then this is perfect for them. Then, there are those members who live in areas where it is not feasible to belong to the closest chapter, but they would like to be involved. One idea is to work with your area director to find other MALs in the area and decide if you have enough people to start a chapter.

Many ask, "can I belong to more than one chapter?" The answer is a resounding YES! Sometimes this happens because you move, but have those bonds that were formed, or you became a lifetime member of that chapter. This is fine, although you will be asked to select one as your "active" chapter for publishing in the RM&D. But other chapters can be listed and you can maintain your membership. You may also choose to be a member in your hometown to keep your roots. Although life has taken you far away, there is no place like home! That is fine. Some want to be members with their sisters they shared deployments with, or who brought them into WMA, great—we love to have you wherever you feel you fit.

Chapters may question why they would want to have remote members. One answer is for the dues, although that is usually a small benefit. But added to that is input and ideas your chapter can benefit from other chapters or areas. Ideas for involvement in communities and fundraising. The mind can wander. You can offer remote members to "attend" meetings by phone, or video chat. Newsletters are great for sharing what is happening and coming up. They can maintain rosters, or write media releases, etc. Electronics remove the barriers once present for members who are out of the area.

Your involvement is up to you. If you sit back as a MAL and say no one contacts me, no one reaches out; remember it takes two. Do you respond to emails you receive? Do you read your 'Nouncements to know what is going on? Do you consider attending conventions? Are you on the

local, area page, or WMA FaceBook pages? If in need do you contact someone?

Women Marines Association exists as a place for women to be accepted pure and simply for being Marines and FMF Designate Navy without the concerns of being judged, harassed, or minimized for their gender! Get involved and feel the Marine Corps MOTIVATION!!!!!!

Peggy Reiber

VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Report

By now, the April Volunteer Appreciation activities and events are over. If you received some recognition, please share it with us with photos and articles in 'Nouncements.

Don't have time to be a volunteer? Check out your local VAVS "Needs List," things that are needed but not covered by appropriated funds. Donate as a chapter, or hold a drive to collect the items, or just contribute on your own. Make sure you credit WMA in your donations.

The VAVS office may be able to link you with a larger organization if you are interested in holding a "one and done" event. The VA needs volunteers on an occasional basis for planned events and has actual job descriptions for ongoing volunteer assignments.

By volunteering at the local VAMC I have had the opportunity to see the many dedicated employees in addition to those who are there for the job. I also receive information on the recent changes and improvements in the VA programs. If you haven't registered with the VA yet, or its been a few years, go to a local enrollment event and see what's available. Benefit requirements have changed over the years. My Healthy Vet website has been around for a few years, but now check out the new web site: myva.gov to make scheduling and communications easier as well. Another site, mobile.va, has general health info and wellness phone apps.

The VAVS National Advisory Committee meeting (NAC) was in San Antonio this year. This is where the full voting members approve recommendations for changes in the Voluntary Service Program. Because we do not have representatives and volunteers at over 15 hospitals, we are an honorary member. The NAC annual meeting provides an overview of the Voluntary Service Program and some of the newest and innovative programs, as well. Awards are presented to the top national male and female volunteers.

I am now living in the DC area but my phone and email have not changed. Feel free to contact me if you have comments or want more information.

Kay M. Croll, WMA VAVS National Representative



Molly Marines



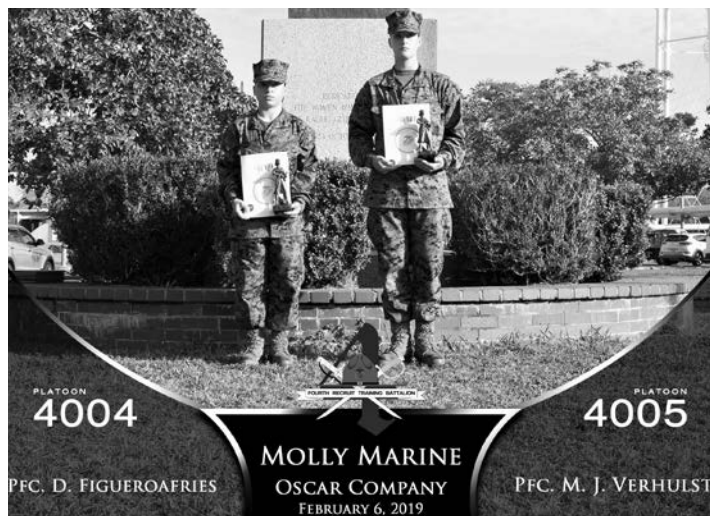
25 January 2018

Platoon 4002

LCpl Sara R. Shaw, Springfield, MO

Platoon 4003

PFC Bethany J. Greve, Kettlefalls, WA



8 February 2019

Platoon 4004

Pvt Dariana P. Figueroa, New Orleans, LA

Platoon 4005

Pvt McKinley J. Verhulst, Barron, WI



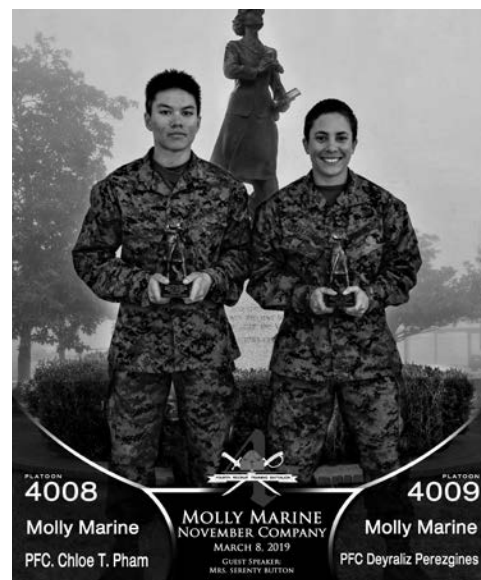
1 March 2019

Platoon 4006

PFC Courtney A. Truett, Prattville, AL

Platoon 4007

PFC Maria J. Garcia, Crete, NE



8 March 2019

Platoon 4008

Pvt Chloe T. Pham, West Des Moines, IA

Platoon 4009

PFC Deyraliz Perezgines, Bayamon, PR

PTSD in Women

Most early information on trauma and PTSD came from studies of male veterans, mostly Vietnam Veterans. Researchers began to study the effects of sexual assault and found that women's reactions were similar to male combat veterans. Women's experiences of trauma can also cause PTSD. This finding led to more research on women's exposure to trauma and PTSD.

Findings from a large national mental health study show that a little more than half of all women will experience at least one traumatic event in their life. Women are slightly less likely to experience trauma than men. The most common trauma for women is sexual assault or child sexual abuse. About one in three women will experience a sexual assault in their lifetime. Rates of sexual assault are higher for women than men. Women are also more likely to be neglected or abused in childhood, to experience domestic violence, or to have a loved one suddenly die.

After a trauma, some women may feel depressed, start drinking or using drugs, or develop PTSD. Women are more than twice as likely to develop PTSD than men (10% for women and 4% for men). There are a few reasons women might get PTSD more than men:

- Women are more likely to experience sexual assault.
- Sexual assault is more likely to cause PTSD than many other events.
- Women may be more likely to blame themselves for trauma experiences than men.

Not all women who experience a traumatic event develop PTSD. Women are more likely to develop PTSD if they:

- Have a past mental health problem (for example depression or anxiety)
- Experienced a very severe or life-threatening trauma
- Were sexually assaulted
- Were injured during the event
- Had a severe reaction at the time of the event
- Experienced other stressful events afterwards
- Do not have good social support

Some PTSD symptoms are more common in women than men. Women are more likely to be jumpy, to have more trouble feeling emotions, and to avoid things that remind them of the trauma than men. Men are more likely to feel angry and to have trouble controlling their anger than women. Women with PTSD are more likely to feel depressed and anxious, while men with PTSD are more likely to have problems with alcohol or drugs. Both women and men who experience PTSD may develop physical health problems.

There are good treatments for PTSD. However,

not everyone who experiences a trauma seeks treatment. Women may be more likely than men to seek help after a traumatic event. At least one study found that women respond to treatment as well as or better than men. This may be because women are generally more comfortable sharing feelings and talking about personal things with others than men.

Women in the military are at high risk for exposure to traumatic events, especially during times of war. Currently, about 15% of all military personnel in Iraq are women. Although men are more likely to experience combat, a growing number of women are now being exposed to combat. Women in the military are at higher risk for exposure to sexual harassment or sexual assault than men. Future studies are needed to better understand the effects of women's exposure to both combat and sexual assault.

Dept of Veterans Affairs

Found in Email

Last month, Paula Sarlls reported on the passing of Marge Alexander. Since then, I received the below in email.

— Editor

"What a delightful surprise to find in the current *WMA/NOUNCEMENTS* the sunny smiling face of someone I hadn't seen for almost 70 years, but one I could never forget: Marge Alexander. It was 1950 and I had accepted a position as Recreation Director of the Y.W.C.A. in Clinton, Iowa. One of my "duties" was coaching—and traveling with—the women's basketball team. Marge was the leader of that team: explosive, aware, dependable; in short, dynamite.

Tears formed as I read of her remarkable life and accomplishments. Socrates said, 'An unexamined life is not worth living.' Marge showed the life lived is worth examining. Her life was worth examining and WOW...did she live! She gets my vote for National Treasure.

Susan Radder

Singin' the Hymn

Marines better make sure they remember all the words to the *Marines' Hymn* come April 15, because the top Marine wants you to sing it out loud when it's played, according to Marine officials.

That's one of a slew of changes coming to the Corps' new drill and ceremonies manual, which is expected to be published around April 15, Training and Education Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Grigsby told Marine Corps Times in an interview.

"It is now directed that Marines, present and who have served honorably, who are not in formation or part of an actual ceremony, or marching in a parade or review, who when they hear the playing of the *Marines' Hymn* will stand at attention,

face the music and sing the words to the *Hymn*," the updated drill and ceremonies manual reads.

Previously Marines were directed to stand at attention during the playing of the Corps' official song, the *Marines' Hymn*, a tradition that dates back to just after World War II.

Other major changes include the removal of the complicated drill movement known as "stack arms," various modifications to the Marine birthday ball ceremonies, and added language to former Commandant Gen. James Conway's direction that the Marine ball ceremony include a reference to fallen comrades. Conway's call for a reference to fallen comrades during the Marine ball originally was published in a Marine message, but was never included in the official drill and ceremonies manual until now.

And stack arms is a difficult drill movement where Marines skillfully stack their rifles in groups of five without dropping a rifle. That maneuver has now been removed.

The Corps' hallowed drill and ceremonies manual was written in 2003 and last updated in 2006.

The task to overhaul the drill manual was spearheaded by GySgt. Zane Moorman, a former regimental drill master aboard the recruit depot at Parris Island. Moorman worked with other drill masters at Parris Island, San Diego, and Officer Candidates School aboard Quantico for more than one and half years to refine the drill manual. That effort kicked off around October 2017 when Moorman flew to Quantico to meet with Grigsby. Moorman told Marine Corps Times.

They looked at "what was broken and what needed to be fixed," Moorman said.

Out of the nearly 600-page manual, there's roughly 300 pages of changes, but a lot of those changes include updating photographs that display Marines in outdated uniforms, according to Grigsby. For example, the old manual included photographs that showed Marines in the old tri-color woodland utilities. The updated manual displays Marines in the digital camouflage utilities.

The updating of the drill manual is important: Drill is about self-discipline that creates unit pride, Grigsby said.

"Drill and ceremonies are the cornerstone of Marine Corps customs, courtesies and traditions, Grigsby said. Drill "teaches an immediate obedience of orders."

"A well drilled unit is going to be a pretty disciplined unit."

The updated drill and ceremonies manual has been approved by SgtMaj of the Marine Corps Ronald Green and the commanding general of Training and Education Command, MajGen. William F. Mullen. The manual is currently at Records,

Reports, Directives & Forms Management Section with Headquarters Marine Corps and is awaiting a final signature from the commander of Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Lt. Gen. David Berger. Berger was just recently nominated to replace Gen. Robert B. Neller as the next top Marine.

Marine Corps Times

Mother-Daughter Pilot Team

This has nothing to do with the military and everything to do with women.

A mother-daughter pilot team for Delta Airlines inspired people around the world when they shared the cockpit of a Boeing 757. Captain Wendy Rexon and her daughter, First Officer Kelly Rexon, flew together from Los Angeles to Atlanta in March. When only 6% of commercial pilots in the U.S. and less than 5% globally are female, female pilots are already a rare sight but mother-daughter flight teams are virtually unheard of. Dr. John R. Watret, who took the pilots' photo, observed that such role models are important to encourage young women's interest in aviation: "The first officer had a great role model for becoming a pilot – her mother... It's good for aviation and inspiring for all of us."

Given the scarcity of women pilots, it's no wonder that the pair captured the imagination of Dr. Watret and others. Federal Aviation Administration



data from 2018 shows that, while the number of women pilots has increased since they started collecting data in 2004, they still make up only 7% of all licensed pilots and 6.4 % of commercial pilots. According to the International Society of Women Airline Pilots, 4,000 of the 130,000 airline pilots around the world are women, and only about 450 of them are captains. In the next 20 years, however, experts estimate that the industry will need 790,000 new civil aviation pilots and 754,000 new maintenance technicians, and there is strong interest in encouraging more women to enter the field.

Already, there are a number of promising signs for the future of women in aviation. Women now make up 13% of student pilots, and every year, girls around the world explore possible careers

at Women of Aviation Worldwide Week events. Role models like Captain and First Officer Rixon — and Kelly Rixon's sister Kate who is also a pilot — provide visible signs to girls and young women considering careers as pilots that they belong on the flight deck. For his part, Watret is proud that his photograph has sparked the imagination of people around the globe, observing that it's critical that the industry become more welcoming to all interested pilots, especially women: "There has to be more diversification in the industry.... When there are more opportunities, everyone wins."

2020 Biennial Convention

Just a short year out from the 2020 Convention! Start stealing from the grocery bill and save up for our biennial trip by land, by air, and NOT by sea - this time. We are landing in Omaha, Nebraska for our 2020 Biennial Convention and Professional Development Symposium. Come join us, September 3-7, 2020, and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Women Marines Association!



Come to Omaha and take a stroll into Iowa!

The Hilton Omaha Hotel sits between two downtown districts, one is the "Old Market District" that houses a lively shopping, dining, and nightlife destination. Street musicians and artists offer entertainment as you wander in and out of the many boutiques and galleries that line the cobblestone streets. The other downtown district is called the "Capitol District" which includes dining and entertainment surrounding a modern town square. See what Omaha has to offer at Visit Omaha <https://www.visitomaha.com/things-to-do/stories/>.

We have a lot in store for convention as well. It's a secret now, but plans are in the works for special guest speakers. Smaller workshops will include 6-8 round table discussions regarding leadership, chapter development, women's interests, and veteran's interests. Our fun run/walk will be across the "Bob the Bridge," the Bob Kerrey Memorial Bridge which goes across the Missouri River and is linked to several walking/biking trails. We are working on a trip to our nationally famous Henry Doorly Zoo and a tour through the Durham Museum. The museum displays Omaha's western history including a hands-on train exhibit and a working soda fountain.

Now is time to get your chapters working to be recognized at the Recognition and Awards Ceremony. Chapters are able to compete in several ways including history, recruitment, website, and several other areas. Check out your "How To Manual" or contact your local area director or chapter president for ideas. In addition to all this, we will

enjoy our opening and closing ceremonies, installation luncheon, business meetings, memorial service, and much, much more.

Come to the 2020 WMA Convention in Omaha where you'll make lifelong friends. Come because we have shared experiences. Come - you belong here.

*NE-1 Lady Leatherneck Chapter
2020 WMA Convention Committee*

Trailblazing Female Kicked out for Fraternization

Remedios Cruz joined the Marine Corps in 2013 as a supply clerk. One year later, she completed infantry training, and in 2017, made history when she became one of three females to join 1st Battalion, 8th Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Now, Cruz, 26, is awaiting separation from the Marine Corps after pleading guilty to maintaining a romantic relationship and eventually marrying a lower-ranking Marine in her unit, according to The New York Times.

"The biggest mistakes I've made in the infantry were from my personal relationships," Cruz told the Times. "I really want to move on."

Cruz was reduced in rank from sergeant to corporal and restricted to the base after pleading guilty to fraternization as part of a broader plea agreement. The commanding general of 2nd Marine Division will now decide if she will be forced out with an other-than-honorable discharge, according to the Times.

*Andrea Scott
Marine Corps Times*

Reporting In...Loyal Escorts

Greetings everyone, this year has been really busy for the Loyal Escorts. The year began with getting adjusted to my new position, learning more about our outstanding auxiliary, making contact with our WMA chapters and the leadership. It has been an exciting challenge, one that I welcome.

Several chapters have experienced a surge in LE membership applications which is our goal, not just to increase our numbers but to be able to better serve and assist the WMA.

We are still working through our transition in leadership and ask for your patience and support. Until next time keep moving forward and supporting your local WMA chapters.



*Semper Fidelis,
Isaac J. Bazile*

LOYAL ESCORT MEMBER APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Date of birth:

Phone:

Cell:

Current address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Email:

New Renew Reinstated Life (Sponsor must be Life member)

2 YR \$30 LIFE 40 AND UNDER - \$180 41-45 - \$150 46-60 - \$130 61-70 - \$105 71-80 - \$80 81+ \$55

SPONSOR INFORMATION

WMA Sponsor Name:

Recruited by:

Chapter Affiliation:

Do you live with sponsor Y N

Sponsor Life Member # if applicable

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name of a relative **not** residing with you:

Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Relationship:

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER INFORMATION IF APPLICABLE

Name:

Date of birth:

Email:

Phone:

SERVICE INFORMATION IF APPLICABLE

Dates of Service

Branch:

How long?

MOS

Duty Stations:

ABOUT MYSELF

How did you hear about the Loyal Escorts?

Recruited By:

WMA Newsletter is sent electronically to members with an email

SIGNATURES

Signature of member:

Date:

Make checks payable to Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter. Mail to: Michelle Gutt, 2300 Marigold Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76111

Taps

"If the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines." (Third stanza of the *Marines' Hymn*)

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

Life Members

Fritts, Ethel.....	3131	11/07/2018.....	FL-2
Guillot, Elizabeth (Shoemaker)	1536	12/21/2018.....	WA
Hanauer, Lillian (Meyer)	2328	01/11/2019.....	FL-6
Ingram, Mary Caroline (Bohan)	2434	01/12/2019.....	IA-1
Johnson, Edith (Paljavcsik)	2408	05/06/2017.....	USVI
Meredith, Rita Z.....	2611	03/28/2018.....	MA-1
Peterson, Hazel (Erikson)	2051	01/29/2019.....	IL-3
Pobozny, Dorothy (Cigler)	1577	02/25/2018.....	FL
Purser, Eleanor (Wise).....	1339	03/22/2019.....	FL-6/2
Rowand, Elizabeth (Adee)	2137	01/29/2019.....	NC
Sandos, Mildred (Pasternak)	1816	02/09/2019.....	NY
Smith, Bernice (Dolata)	944	03/12/2019.....	WI-1
Stewart, Dorothy.....	2006	10/22/2018.....	MA
Wohlfarth, Norma (Graham)	2303	02/18/2019.....	CA-7

Term Members

Battin, Emily (Jones)	04/03/2018.....	IL-2
Meikrantz, Frances (Burrill)	12/19/2018.....	AZ-2
Murray, Pat (Delphone Patke).....	02/04/2019.....	CA-15
Vauthier, Karlynnne (Wade)	12/28/2018.....	OR-1
Weiss, Annebelle (Dorfman)	02/xx/2019	NY-7

Chaplain's Corner

I'd like to share with you some observations I've recently made....

Since last October I've been on a merry-go-round of various health issues. Some were potentially serious, maybe even life threatening. I believe resolutions are around the corner, and am grateful that the final reports say I'm not on my way out, but do need interventions. Without my friends – old and new – I don't know where I'd be. My children have their own problems and I didn't want to burden them with my worries needlessly. It was my friends who kept my spirits up, waiting for biopsy results, keeping me company when going for endless tests. I didn't realize how emotionally drained I was, how incapable of doing what needed to be done I was, until the last report came in. We pride ourselves in being strong – Marine strong – but we cannot forget how important it is to have



a strong support system. We have to allow ourselves to share our worries with others, not keep them bottled in. We need the encouraging word, the smile, the chocolate bar just because, to help us keep our equilibrium and be able to accept the inevitable outcome. I was lucky, so very lucky, to have positive people around me. My wish for all of you is to have that support when you need it.

Bobbi Taylor is willing to start an online gathering spot for the remembrances our sisters have accumulated and have no way of sharing. You can email or snail mail her any obits, memorial cards, service programs, or other "special recognition" items to put in a new album. Once we iron out the details, we'll let you know how to find them. Here is Bobbi's contact info: Bobbi Taylor, 15147 Flight Path, Sale Creek, TN 37373, usmcsgt98@me.com.

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. — Henry van Dyke

Eileen Skahill

First African American Female General in the Marine Corps



Brigadier General Lorna Mahlock is the Director, Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4) and the Deputy Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Marine Corps. Prior to her current assignment, she served as Deputy Director, Headquarters Marine Corps Plans, Policy and Operations and Commanding Officer, Marine Air Control Group 18, Okinawa, Japan.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, she immigrated to Brooklyn, New York and enlisted in the Marine Corps. She was selected for the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program, graduated from Marquette University and was commissioned in December 1991.

Designated as an Air Traffic Control Officer, she earned certifications as a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Tower Local Controller and a Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Instructor. She has commanded and led at various levels globally and in combat including but not limited to: Air Traffic Control Detachment Commander; Executive Officer – 1st Stinger Battery; Director –

Marine Corps Instructional Management School; Air Control Officer – G3 Future Operations 1st Marine Aircraft Wing; Company Commander – Operation Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom 01; Operations and Executive Officer – Iraqi Freedom 02; Director – Marine Air Command and Control System Experimental; Commanding Officer – Iraqi Freedom 8; Information Management Officer; J3 Land Operations Lead and Division Executive Officer, Headquarters European Command; Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs; and Assistant Chief of Staff G6.

She holds a Master's Degree in Adult and Higher Education from the University of Oklahoma at Norman; a masters in National Security and Strategic Studies with distinction from the Naval Post Graduate School, Newport, Rhode Island; a masters in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College and a Masters Certificate in Information Operations from the Naval Post Graduate School. She also is a graduate of the United Kingdom Defense College Higher Command and Staff.

Brigadier General Mahlock's personal awards include Legion of Merit; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Joint Service Achievement Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

As a servicemember, can I contribute to an IRA?



Answer: You may contribute to an IRA if you're a member of the armed forces. The rules that apply to servicemembers regarding IRA contributions and distributions generally are the same rules that apply to civilians.

You're allowed to contribute up to \$5,500 to a traditional IRA in 2018, as long as you're under age 70½ and you have earned income. In addition, if you're age 50 or older, you can make an extra "catch-up" contribution of \$1,000 in 2018. You can make your annual contribution up to April 15 of the following year. Also, if you meet certain conditions, you may be able to contribute an additional \$5,500 in 2018 to an IRA in your spouse's name (plus an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution if your spouse is age 50 or older), even if your spouse has little or no income. However, whether you can deduct your traditional IRA contributions will depend on several factors, such as your income, your tax filing status, and whether you or your spouse is covered by the Thrift Savings Plan or an employer-sponsored plan. You may be able to deduct all, a portion, or none of your contribution for a given year. You may also qualify for a partial tax credit.

On the other hand, contributions to Roth IRAs are never tax deductible, but qualified distributions will be tax free. Also, even though the same dollar caps on yearly contributions apply to Roth IRAs (\$5,500 in 2018, and a \$1,000 catch-up contribution if age 50 or older), not everyone will qualify to take full advantage of a Roth IRA. The amount you can contribute to a Roth IRA (if anything) will be based on your income and filing status. As with traditional IRAs, you may be able to contribute to a Roth IRA on behalf of your spouse. However, your contribution to a Roth IRA for any tax year must be reduced by contributions made to other IRAs during the same year. For example, your combined annual contribution to all of your IRAs in 2018 — Roth and traditional — cannot exceed \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you're age 50 or older).

In addition, members of the Armed Forces may include nontaxable combat pay as part of their taxable compensation when determining how much they can contribute to an IRA (their own or a spousal IRA). For service members with only nontaxable combat pay, Roth IRA contributions generally will make more sense than nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA.

GPS Financial, Wendy Woodward

AAMS®, AIF®, Financial Advisor, 4611 E. Newport Road, Newport, MI 48166

734-586-0011, 734-586-0432

wwoodward@GPSFinancialLLC.com, www.GPSFinancialLLC.com

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CA-2 - San Diego County



Francis Styles, Randy Tidmore,
Ruth Gallivan, and friend

On January 19th, the chapter participated in the 3rd Annual Women's March San Diego, #TruthTopower, at Waterfront Park. This march is a peaceful demonstration in support of civil rights, disability rights, ending violence, environmental justice, immigrant rights, LGBTQIA rights, reproductive rights, and worker's rights.

February 9th was the luncheon for the 76th Anniversary of the USMC Women's Reserves. Members of CA-2 joined CA-7 to celebrate the anniversary. A lovely luncheon was followed by a message from our national president and a presentation on Sgt Reckless, a hero who served in Korea.



National President Ronda
Amtower and President
Kassandra Wurts, CA-2



CA-2 Chaplain Babs Meairs with
Marines and a member of the
Marine Corps League

Members rode with the Marine Corps League in a Humvee on March 16th in the St Patrick's Day Parade. Also on that day, the Silent Drill Platoon, the US Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Color Guard from 8th & I performed at MCRD San Diego.

Ruth Gallivan celebrated her 103rd birthday on April 1!

Kassandra Wurts

CA-3 - Greater San Francisco Bay Area



Zita Cussary and Angelina Miller

Greetings from the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. In January, CA-3 celebrated the New Year at a meeting hosted by CA-3 members Susan Johnston and Nell Marie Forsey. At the meeting hosted by CA-3 Vice President and Treasurer Kathy Wright in February, we celebrated the Anniversary of the Women Marines Reserves with the traditional cake cutting ceremony. The oldest Marine present, Zita Cussary, passed the traditional first piece of birthday cake to the youngest Marine present, Angelina Miller.

In March at the meeting hosted by CA-3 member Barbara Naas and



Verne Smith, Kathy Wright

Loyal Escort Sarah Rivera, we celebrated St Patrick's Day with everyone wearing green.



Susan and Donald Johnston

During this time period, CA-3 member Lynn Giadrone and Loyal Escort Paul Giadrone showed their continued support of veterans by attending meetings in support of building a new VA facility in the San Joaquin Valley - a project eagerly anticipated by the multitude of veterans in the area. They have been attending these meetings since 2005!

Loyal Escort Donald Johnston attended the Vietnam Moving Wall Fundraising Breakfast, an event to help pay the expenses to bring the Vietnam Moving Wall to Stockton. All veterans were invited and enjoyed a complimentary breakfast as part of the program.

CA-3 President Susan Johnston participated in one funeral/memorial service as a member of the combined American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard.

Susan Johnston

CA5 - Orange County CA Members-At-Large



Guess who made her first impromptu meeting with the first WMA Chapter she

ever belonged to? Yup! President Rhonda LeBrescu-Amtower celebrated our 76th Anniversary with some of CA-5's remaining members...from the left: Rhonda; Patricia Singer; Sonia Gryske; Eileen Sampson; Ellie Fox; Valorie Lephart; Cheryl Garbett; and Eleanor Wilson. All of us were spoiled by CA-7's celebration luncheon. They are WONDERFUL! Valorie had her lucky charm in her hand... she won 4-door prizes!

Jibber-jabber...Ann Erb had a new hip installed and is becoming oriented anew...Vanda Bresnan is back to being perfect! She drives, she knits, she crochets, she quilts! Well done, Vanda! We are so happy for you and Nurse Mike!...Eleanor Wilson's much beloved brother, CWO-4 James McElroy, left earth's bounds in early January; he will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery... "Sue" Sousa and Eileen Scanlon have also had a change of address, same city though.

Not New Orleans Mardi Gras celebrants but OCCMAL revelers none-the-



less partying, masked and with beads and more beads...Patricia, Carlene, Eileen and Ellie..."Let the good times roll!"

And for our special Marine Birthday Queens: congratulations and best wishes to: 5-10 Angela Madsen; 5-11 "Tippy" Paine; 5-13 Sue Roley Malone; 5-14 Ann Conover; 5-21 Patricia Singer; 5-31 Connie Schroller; 6-16 Sarah Martinez; 6-17 Mary Ann Merritt; 6-27 Jeanette Clayson; 6-30 Vanda Bresnan; 7-1 Lorry Vaca; 7-5 Eileen Scanlon; 7-10 Betty Moseley Brown; 7-20 Sonia Gryske; 7-22 Kathy Kincaid; 7-27 Mary Ann Rogers; 7-31 "Lee" Kearney. And close to my heart, CA-8 celebrates their anniversary on 3 June. I was their installing officer in 1974! It's been 45-years of spectacular contributions!



Our OCCMAL's and all other women veterans were invited by the Navy Yacht Club Long Beach to a 2-hour Duffy boat tour of Alamitos Bay and a bar-b-que on 23 March 2019. Wow! They pulled out all of the stops for us. We led off in Boat #1 and we remembered to ask

"Permission to come aboard Sir!" This year only Carlene and Ellie could attend...but next year let's get our act together and show them we can get a boat-load of we Women of the Corps. We are beholden to Laurie Rudisill of the Long Beach, CA VA and Robbi Nagashima of the NYCLB for their dedication.

May the approaching days of summer find each of you in good health and with many occasions to celebrate and adventures to happen to thee and those you love and cherish...Happy Mother's Day...wedding wishes...graduations...fireworks for the Fourth...but most of all, for Memorial Day and remembering all of our sister Marines and the fellas too. They were the best of the best!

"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle." Semper Tua (Always Yours).

Patricia Singer

CA-7 - Edith Macias Vann Southern California



Lillian Cross; MGen Kevin Killea, CG, Installations West; and Anne Johnson at the Marine West Military Expo

January saw CA-7 members picking up right where they left off in December: busy. At our January meeting, planning for the 76th Anniversary of the Women's Reserve continued, and we set the tone for the remainder of the year until June when we break for the summer.

In February, the chapter was at the Marine West Military Expo. This year we had the 75th Anniversary

Commemorative magazine to pass out to our lucky women Marines, and their commanders. The day after the Expo was over, we had the honor of hosting our WMA President Rhonda Amtower and her Loyal Escort husband Jim Amtower at



Members of the Memorials Committee are (l-r): Loyal Escort Dennis Kovats, Mary Lou Voigt, Lillian Cross, and Lee Tusa

our annual WR Anniversary luncheon on February 9. This year we held the luncheon at the Veterans Association of North County building in Oceanside. We had 50 ladies attending from chapters all around Southern California. The food was great, and we all had a good time. However, nine days later, our dear friend and long-time chapter member Norma Wohlfarth passed. We held her services on March 11 in Vista with a caisson burial at the California Regional National Cemetery at Miramar. The weather cooperated with us and didn't rain, although it was cool.

In March our Memorials Committee met to start our first annual laying of roses on our deceased sisters' graves at Eternal Hills Cemetery in Oceanside. We gathered the names, purchased full bloom, long stem artificial roses, attached ribbons and tags saying, "Sister Marines, you are not forgotten". We went to the cemetery and located the grave sites. Before Memorial Day in May, we will visit the graves and place the roses on their head stone.

In anticipation for the wonderful season of Easter, we wish you all Joyeuses Paques!

Lillian Cross

CA-11 - Central Coast



Greetings Lady Leathernecks, Central Coast Women Marines are thriving here on the golden coast of California. We celebrated our 76th Anniversary on February 2 at the Lompoc Memorial Veterans building, hosting two women Marine displays and

enjoying a warm lunch. We had a good turnout considering the flooding down south and the down pour of rains in California. We had a great time sharing stories and meeting new people.

We will be joining other veterans' orga-



nizations to recruit and get exposure at the local community events. When Marines get together, we make things happen.

We are looking forward to a growing membership of Marines and Loyal Escorts.

Semper Fidelis
Soledad Kennedy

CA-29 - Twenty Nine Palms



In January, new officers were elected to serve the chapter. President Diane Durden turned over the chapter to incoming president Brenda Roberts. Other incoming officers are Kathy Arbaczewski as vice president, Elaine Bowden as secretary, and Betty Laferriere continued as treasurer. Lorraine Chamberlain continues to serve as the chaplain, and Barbara Pudinski assumed the duties as editor of the chapter newsletter.

Chapter members were happy to welcome Captain Nicole Kreis, USMC active duty, and Josie Nemeth, USMC retired, to join their ranks in March.

The chapter celebrated the 76th Anniversary of the Women's Reserve on March 16th with a catered lunch highlighted by a visit and speech by Area 10 Director Soledad Kennedy. In addition, Soledad presented the chapter streamer to president Brenda Roberts, then assisted her in attaching the streamer to the chapter flag. Dorothee Irwin, our oldest member, and Nicole Kreis, our newest member received a slice of the Anniversary cake along with the guest of honor, Soledad Kennedy.

Chapter membership consists of women that served in the Marine Corps during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. We welcome all former, retired and active duty women Marines to share in the camaraderie and join us at our next chapter meeting on Saturday, May 18th.

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

Elaine Bowden

GA-1 - Dogwood of Atlanta

Great news, the Georgia Dogwood Chapter of Atlanta (GA-1) is back!! Our chapter has been re-established through the ongoing efforts of our women Marines in the greater Atlanta-area. Our chapter was first organized in December of 1971

and was active for many years. Unfortunately, attendance declined because of logistical issues. If you're familiar with Atlanta, then you are aware that no one location is convenient for any of us. That's why,



March 2018



as a team, we agreed to meet at different locations throughout the greater Atlanta area, to be as fair as possible to everyone. Our first official launch as a chapter was at the Olive Garden in Duluth March 2018. And our guest of honor was our Area Director (AD3) Patricia Collins who traveled from Florida to partake in our inaugural event. Patty even met up with a sister Marine from the Augusta area who visited our meeting with hopes of gleaning ideas for starting a chapter in eastern Georgia.

Here are some highlights of events we participated in as a chapter.

We are definitely on our way. September 2018, I attended the WMA Convention and Professional Development Symposium in Washington, D.C. This was the best convention I've attended thus far.



Wreaths Across America

The camaraderie was genuine, and we enjoyed the occasion. We also picked up our first chapter award. The first of many to come.

In November, GA-1 took part in the DAV5K race! Lots of veterans, several women Marines and most importantly, course friendly. Go Fasters!!!

Then GA-1 celebrated our beloved Corps' birthday with much rabble-rousing at Semper Fi Bar & Grille. Five other women Marines outside of GA-1 were identified at this grand celebration, including the proprietor. A great time was had by all between the food, the cake, the camaraderie, the beer and the silkies!

On December 1st, GA-1 volunteered at the Toys for Tots warehouse. The president of the Atlanta-area Toys for Tots said she needs Marines every day as GA-1 knocked out the warehouse! To put it in perspective: there were 150 volunteers, 20 of them were Marines. GA-1 and officer cadets. One



Toys for Tots

side of the warehouse was GA-1, the other side the cadets, the middle 100+ civilians. The sides of the warehouse were unbelievably in order and cleaned up. The middle was...well, not quite in order and not near as much done. Be proud GA-1!! Oorah!!

On December 15, Dogwood Chapter GA-1 was in attendance at Marietta National Cemetery to remember and honor our veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. GA-1 also worked alongside sister organization Georgia Military Women to honor our fallen in Canton's Georgia National Cemetery as well as having members laying wreaths at the Georgia Confederate Cemetery.

For our first meeting of 2019, we had the privilege of taking our meeting to the King's Bridge retirement community in Atlanta, where our sister Marine, 99-year-old WWII veteran Kathleen Eidson resides. We saw incredible pictures of her time in service beginning in 1945 until she was discharged at the end



King's Bridge with Kathleen Eidson (third from left)

of WWII in 1946. While enlisted she was the paymaster for the officers' account. Needless to say, she was well liked and respected. Kathleen chose the Marine Corps because her older brother had enlisted. She is the last born of 10 children. It was such an honor to be privy to the stories of her life's journey. Kathleen has visited all seven continents and all 50 states. She was the keynote speaker at the 228th Marine Corps Ball in Rome, Georgia.

We came together and gave back to our community. We have several events scheduled, but this is the first for the year. Sweet-water Mission is one of our commitments, and we enjoy being of service. This is an excerpt from the article which was penned on their website "From the Halls of Montezuma...To the Shelves of our Pantry. Our retired Marines haven't given up on service yet! Today they battled hunger in our community, nearly 2500 pounds of food was served to 40 families!" - Thank you, GA-1 Dogwood!



We're Just Getting Started!!!! If you live in the greater Atlanta area, come join your sisters in arms.

Email: ga1@womenmarines.org; Instagram: @ga1dogwoodwma; Twitter: @ga1dogwoodwma; Facebook: WMA GA1 Dogwood Chapter; website: <https://wmaga1.wixsite.com/wmaga1>.

Johnetta Williams

HI-2 - Wahine Koa

Members of Wahine Koa (HI-2) are ever increasing as we make a name for ourselves on Oahu. Our chapter got off to a memorable start last September with a candle ceremony that commemorated the "passing of aloha" from the former Aloha Chapter HI-1 to the Wahine Koa Chapter HI-2 as our new officers were installed in a Lei Ceremony. Our guest of honor was Area 10 Director Soledad Kennedy.



In less than a year, we have participated in a joint Marine Corps Birthday celebration with Marine Corps League Aloha Detachment 363, hosted a Women Reserves Anniversary luncheon at MCB Hawaii where charter members received their Chapter Charter Certificate from Chapter President Kathy Kincaid, and most recently participated in the 2019 Honolulu Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Fundraising for a Wahine Koa Education Scholarship Fund has begun and we look forward to celebrating our chapter's first year anniversary this coming June.

Deb Straight

IN-1 - Indiana

In February, the IN-1 Chapter met to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the Women Reserves. In addition to the reading of messages from Commandant General Neller and WMA President Rhonda Amtower by Carol Mutter and cake to celebrate, the Marines also packaged boxes for troops overseas.



President Kay Ross attended the Area 4 Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Four chapter presidents, WMA members, and Members-at-Large attended the afternoon conference, put together by Area 4 Director Joanne Molina. Past National President Dr. Betty Mosley Brown was the guest speaker. Attendees discussed recruiting and fundraising for the chapters. It was a great afternoon meeting new friends and connecting with old ones, and gaining knowledge as well!

Kay Ross

KY-1 - Winning Colors



KY-1 is preparing to make the MCJROTC presentations to the four local schools here in Louisville and Shelbyville. A few members of the KY-1 chapter were able to attend the Area 4 Conference in Columbus, Ohio in February.

We had a great time connecting and sharing information with the other attendees. The museum was awesome, so glad we had the opportunity to check it out and be a part of this conference.

In January the chapter delivered food and snacks to the hospice family lounge at the Robley Rex VA Hospital. We are proud to donate an officer's jewelry box for the General Brewer Award at the upcoming OSO Mess Night.

We are working on reaching out to Marines in our area and trying to build on our membership.

Brenda Moore

LA-1 - Molly Marine



LA-1 Molly Marines and Area 6 Director

On January 19, the LA-1 Molly Marines held the first meeting of the year with the installation of our new officers. With the assistance of Area 6 Director Rosa Frank-Osborn, Janet Heriot was installed as the Molly Marines vice president and Sarah Park as the secretary.

On January 26, the Molly Marines, in preparation for the Muses Parade during Mardi Gras, held a glitter party to create boots to be passed out



LA-1 and TX-2 members with the Area 6 Director

during the parade to fellow female Marines that we would come across. We used toddler and children size boots for this event and made sure we

added some WMA bling!

The Molly Marines, along with our sister Marines from TX-2 and the Area 6 Director, took part in the Krewe of Muses Parade during Mardi Gras in New Orleans on February 28.



Sarah Park at the end



Janet Heriot, April and Diane Austin, Nora Huete, Maria Estores, and Tashal Williams



Sarah Park doing the Silkie hike. She's the one in the hat.

On March 9, Sgt Sarah Park graduated from the residential Reserve Sergeants Course as the class leader at the Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Academy, Camp Lejeune. In attendance to support her were her fellow WMA members Gail Horn and Yolanda Mayo.

Meanwhile, in New Orleans on March 9, LA-1 members got together to clean the Molly Marine statue. We also picked up trash around the perimeter from the Mardi Gras parades.



Gail Horn, Sarah Park, and Yolanda Mayo

Sarah Park participated in the Irreverent Warriors Silkie Hike in Baton Rouge on March 23. The purpose was to bring veterans together for camaraderie. The hike was 22km (13.67 miles) while carrying 22kg (48.5lbs) for awareness of 22 military suicides a day.

Sarah Park

MI-2 Motor City



Donations from Lanzen, Inc, metal fabricators

Spring has arrived in Michigan. With that, our members who are snowbirds are looking to head back home. They know that we have been busy while they have been gone. We look forward to having them back.

Our Sally Rizzo turned 99 and was visited by member Mary Joe Morrison. They both had a great time visiting. Sally is no longer able to attend meet-

ings so we try to make sure we visit and let her know she is not forgotten.

The Motor City Marines celebrated the anniversary in Feb with 24 members in attendance. Each member received a nice bag with a rose that stated they were a proud veteran.

We had a great packing party in March. Over 200 boxes were packed up and shipped to our deployed troops. In those boxes were hand turned ink pens made of wood by the Blue Water Woodturners. They donated 50 beautiful pens. Area schools wrote out cards that were included. We were joined by MI-2 members from the Cleveland, Ohio area and across Michigan as well as 50 volunteers. Boxes were packed in record time and afterwards a great lunch was had that was provided by the local Italian restaurant. Our chapter is very lucky to be surrounded by such a great community.

We also participated in the local "Sip and Shop" at Westview Orchards where they collected items for our women veterans.

We volunteered at the VA Hospital several times including doing the Donut Hour where, after church services, we serve our veterans who are hospitalized.

When the notice came in regarding Mr Trexol, the WWII veteran who wanted mail, we teamed up with the Oxford VFW and community schools and were able to collect over 270 cards.

We have quite a bit on our agenda including a Michigan Meet and Greet in July, a gold outing in September, and countless other events. We are always open and work within our communities when the need arises.

We were pleased to see that our past president, Mary Merritt was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award this year by the Romeo, Washington, and Bruce Chamber of Commerce. Not only for her work with our chapter but also for her community involvement.



Distributing gifts at the VA Hospital

including Michelle Livingston, Frances Haubrich, Karen Shaw, Chris Magnusson, and Vicki Latiolais attended the Women Veterans of Minnesota Conference at the Black Bear Casino in Carlton. The event, "Learn to Love Yourself - Women Veterans' Gala," was hosted by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Black Bear Casino. The information booths, dinner and guest speakers, including a great comedian, made for an entertaining event. There was an opportunity to share experiences and enjoy a little camaraderie with sister veterans. Of course, part of the mission was to search for sister Marines, and we found them in the photo.

The chapter scheduled their celebration of the 76th Women Reserves Anniversary on February 23 at Davanni's Pizza, but Mother Nature changed our plans.



Marines attending the Women Veterans of Minnesota conference



Vicki Latiolais, Linda Munson, Michelle Livingston, Olivia Nord, Masha Cook at Metro Marines dinner

On February 28, the honored guest at the Metro Marines dinner was Olivia Nord. The Metro Marines, Marine Corps League, and chapter members have followed Olivia's journey since the motor vehicle accident she was in on December 2, 2016. Olivia's determination and perseverance, as she and her mother heal from their injuries, is an inspiration to anyone who meets her. Olivia as well as Masha Cook, Michelle Livingston, Linda Monson, and Vicki Latiolais were presented with a challenge coin in honor of the Women Marines 100th Anniversary by the Metro Marines.

The chapter made another attempt for the Chapter Anniversary celebration by resetting the event to March 9th. Once again, Mother Nature pulled rank on us. We cancelled the event due to the weather and travel conditions.

On March 23, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs held their 2019 Women Veterans Conference at the YMCA/Maplewood Community Center with numerous information booths. The event was free to all ages, eras, branches, and transitioning military women. There were workshops on acupuncture, massages, yoga, henna tattoo session, and to celebrate Women's History month. The keynote speaker was a Military Sexual Trauma Survivor. Quilts of Valor, all beautiful, were presented to 20 women veterans honoring their military service. Members of the Women Veterans Initiative presented the Minnesota Woman Veteran

MN-1 - Minnesota Leathernecks

Greetings from Minnesota:

Yes, the Minnesota Marines are warming up and thawing out after the great polar vortex of 2019. Even the USPS suspended mail delivery due to temperatures rivaling that of the North Pole.

On February 9th, several chapter members

of the Year Award to Ruth Perry. Chapter member Chris Magnusson also serves on the Women Veterans Initiative Board of Directors handling Public Relations & Social Media.

The Como Park High School Award ceremony will be held at the school on May 16. A female cadet will be presented with the Women Marines Association certificate.

The third Annual Southeast Minnesota Women Veterans Gala is scheduled for May 23 at the VFW Post 1215 located at 2775 43rd Street NW in Rochester. This event has received high praise from past attendees. This year, the guest speaker will be BGen Johanna Clyborne, Minnesota Army National Guard.

If you are in the area or would like more information about the chapter, please email MN1@womenmarines.org. We would enjoy hearing from and meeting with other women Marines, whether Twin Cities or statewide.

Vicki Latiolais

NC-1 - Tarheel



Cake cutting



Cake cutting

The Tarheel Women Marines have been very busy these past few months! On February 8 we held our Anniversary Celebration at the Paradise Point Officers Club on Camp Lejeune to celebrate 76 years of continuous service for women Marines. SgtMaj Raquel Painter, USMC (Ret) did an amazing job as our guest of honor for this event. NC-1 President Dolores Luhm cut the cake and presented the first piece to SgtMaj Painter. The second piece went to our oldest woman Marine, June Mills, who shared it with the youngest woman Marine, PFC Jayzeonia Tidwell.

The very next day on February 9 we visited the residents of the North Carolina State Veterans Nursing Home in Kinston to celebrate our Anniversary and Valentine's Day. The residents loved having us there to help them play bingo, and truly enjoyed receiving the cards, stuffed animals, bookmarks, the handmade blankets, and the gift bags that were donated. Many do not have family that come to visit very



often so it meant a lot to them! It meant as much to us as to them to spend time and share stories with them. Thank you to all the chapter members and volunteers that made the journey or provided donations. It was a day of fellowship and blessings for us all. Pictured are WMA members Gail Horn, Frances Hayden, Dolores Luhm, Jalyssa Navaro and her children, and Loyal Escort Elizabeth Horn.



Front row: Diane Krueger, Becky Truitt, June Mills, Mary Worthington, Pam Cruz. Middle row: Vickie Kummarsfeldt, Frances Hayden, Julie Seadler-Burlingame, Dolores Luhm, Angela Maness. Top row: Gail Horn, Deanna Magee, Sarah Park

Our March meeting was held on March 9, and we could not have been happier to have a surprise visit from 1VP Angela Maness! She had the opportunity to visit the Memorial Gardens with some of our members following the meeting.

But NC-1 is not taking a break any time soon. On April 6, NC-1 will once again be staffing the "Citrus Stop" during the Run for the Warriors, and the following week is Marine South Expo, which will be a collaborative effort between NC-1, NC-2, and NC-5. In addition, we are so excited that our national president will be paying us a visit during that week too! So more great news to follow!

Gail Horn

NC-3 - Semper Fi



NC-3 "Semper Fi" Chapter met on February 9th to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the Women Reserves being established. First on the business agenda was to start prioritizing where our profits from 2018 Convention sales would go to do the most good for veterans and military members. We voted to present the Durham VA Voluntary Services Office with a check for \$1000, earmarked to send area veterans to the Creative Arts Festival, the Valor Games, and for other programs for both inpatient and outpatient populations. We also discussed once again co-sponsoring a Women Warriors Writing Workshop, like our very successful event at Queens University in Charlotte last year.

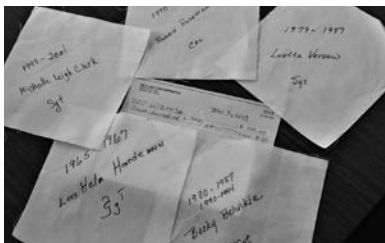
Tracy, wearing her Plans and Policy hat, briefed

us on the potential hiring of a paid director/grant writer to take WMA to the next level as a Veteran Service Organization.

Mitzi, wearing her Deputy VAVS hat, reported that the new hospice wing at the Durham VA is still not open, but the administration is hopeful there will be a ribbon cutting in March. Also, the volunteer banquet was held on April 8th and Mitzi received her 500 hours pin.

*Semper Fidelis,
Mitzi Manning*

NE-1 Lady Leathernecks



Marines! If you stopped by the Nebraska table in the PX at the DC Convention, you may have donated to the WIMSA jar or signed a quilt block. We collected \$200

and sent it to the WIMSA Memorial and are still collecting quilt block signatures. The finished quilt will be displayed at the 2020 convention here in Omaha, and its final disposition is still being discussed.

The idea of the quilt is to commemorate 100 years of women in the Marine Corps. We were asked to provide our name, years of service, and highest rank attained.



If you did not have a chance to fill one out and would like to do so, please send your info to NE1@womenmarines.org, "Attn:Tami" in the subject line. Please do so by September 15, 2019.

Kathy Montira

OH-2 - Emma Holmes



December meeting, (l-r) Marilyn Jones, Victoria Ebner, Elva Pounders, Lora Leway, Joanne Molina and Ellen Leidy

OH-2 has members all over the country, but when you put us all together, we are really busy. Some of the members were busy with two different counties working for the Stand Downs for Homeless Veterans.

The first one was in Summit County and is chaired by OH-2 President Ellen Leidy. We also helped out at the Stark County Stand Down with our treasurer, Lora Leway.

We held a meeting in December and we invit-

ed all the Loyal Escorts and among them were Emma Holmes' niece and nephew who have been helping us collect pictures and information about Emma. In order to get the members more involved, all the members were asked to pick one project for the year to take the lead on from start to completion.



Sandusky Veterans Home, (l-r) Ellen Leidy, Elva Pounders, Vicki Ebner, and Dorothea Lofquist

In December some of the members took a trip to the Sandusky Veterans Home with a van loaded with presents for the female veterans living there. The women are asked to submit a Santa list and we try to get them what they ask for. One of our members, Dorothea Lofquist, lives there and was presented with a quilt of hands collected from all over the country and overseas made by the members of OH-2.



Ohio Joint meeting

In February, all three Ohio chapters hosted a joint meeting of all the Area 4 chapters at the new National Veterans Memorial in Columbus to share information and celebrate the Women Reserves Anniversary, chaired by our Area 4 Director and OH-2 member, Joanne Molina.

Our summer meeting will be held at Lock 15 Brewery in Akron with a date to be determined in June.

Ellen Leidy

OR-1 - Lady Marine Rose

She's here! Because She Served is in bloom! And she is beautiful! This is our second spring with Because She Served. The Lady Marine Rose Chapter would like to thank Heirloom Roses for supporting our chapter and our service women. Together we have planted a few hundred reasons to thank a woman that has served her nation in the past year.

This year OR-1 would like to recognize three exceptional women that have served our country and continue to serve their community. Three sisters related by God, Country, and Corps. Three

Marine female sergeants that currently live at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C. Sgt Norma Rambow 1943-1945, Sgt Phyllis Bradford 1943 -1945, and Sgt Muriel Kupersmith 1944-1946. If you had the opportunity to attend our biennial convention, you might recall the poem that Sgt Norma Rambow read during our 100-year anniversary celebration at WIMSA.



In celebration of our second spring, a Because She Served rose will be presented to Sgt Rambow, Sgt Bradford, and Sgt Kupersmith on behalf of The Lady Marine Rose Chapter. These three roses are in appreciation for their courage to serve when the nation called on them to serve, and their commitment to continue serving in their community. When you are lost for words, let her know she is your hero Because She Served.

The roses will be planted on the chapel grounds which hosts one of the many beautiful gardens at this property. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Armed Forces Retirement Home, you are missing out on a wonderful experience.

A tribute to our financial history! History of Auto Litter Bags

Each year, our chapter struggled to come up with the money to pay the Meg Dawes Scholarship of \$1500.00. Our members came up with ideas such as garage sales, donations, and a once-a-year Chicken Potluck. We still struggled to meet the scholarship fund. The Marine Corps Coordinating Council would give us \$500.00 a year. Proceeds were from the Semper Fi Golf Classic.

Around 2006, Golda Fabian brought to our chapter meeting an auto litter type bag that someone had made. Sally Van Wie took it home and redesigned the bag to make it easier to be used in any vehicle and easily be cleaned. Besides Sally, Golda and Heidi Tanada started making the bags.

We took the assorted bags made from designs such as military, floral, and animals and went to our first bazaar. After two bazaars, we were practically sold out! It was a success!! Heidi Tanada took the bags to the Texas convention and sold out! With this project, the chapter had enough money to pay scholarships without donations.

This chapter held the 2016 Biennial Convention in Portland. With the proceeds of selling the auto litter bags, we paid the registration for our chapter members. The selling of the auto litter bags has

profited our chapter that we now have funds to donate to those in need.

Mentoring is continuous and contagious!

OR-1 member Susanna Hans gives PME on how to properly wear hair in uniform to a group of Tualatin Valley Young Marines (TVYM). The Young Marines in attendance ranged in ages from 8 to 17.



Susanna Hans lending a hand to Young Marines

Their response to Susanna's mentorship was very appreciative. The Young Marines looked on in awe, as they carefully took mental notes. This is a topic that is not usually discussed, unless it is to correct a Marine that is not in regulations.

There are so many ways to get involved with your local chapter. Call your local chapter and see if there is something that might interest you where you can mentor a Marine. Susanna is one of many OR-1 chapter members that continuously supports our chapter by serving in their individual community. Thank you, OR-1 chapter members!

Jacqueline Caputo

TN-1 - Rocky Top



Seated (l-r): Eileen, Joy, Elya, Pearl, Margarita. Standing (l-r): Gail, David, Barbara, Teresa, Doris, Leah, and Deb

On 23 February, Rocky Top members and guests travelled through the pouring rain to attend the 76th Women's Reserve Anniversary Luncheon at Jake's Place in Maryville. This is a fairly new restaurant that caters to veterans and gives a large military discount on the meal. Attending were: Deb Henderson, WWII veteran Eileen Neiler, Leah Odom, Pearl Rich, Gail Williamson, Teresa Greene, Doris Keane, Barbara Chagnon, Loyal Escort Joy Goodwin, and guests David Greene; Elya Philbrook, and Margarita Perez (potential member).



One beautiful cake



Deb presents certificate to Jake's Place

Jake's Place provided the ice cream to go along with the cake at no charge. Following the luncheon, Deb presented Jake's with a certificate of appreciation for their recognition, generosity, and support of the veterans of our community.

Barbara Chagnon

TX-2 - Texas Gulf Coast

Happy Spring! Well, it IS spring according to the calendar. In some areas it is still cold and snowy. It is definitely spring here in the Houston area.



Left to Right: Audrea Killalea, TX-7 President, Beverly Franklin, TX-7, TX-2 members Elizabeth Enderli, Marti Raney, Karen Beatty, Barbara Barnhart, Tracey Harrison, and Lynn Sparks

In the last newsletter we mentioned having a bench made for an installation and dedication at the VA Cemetery in Houston. We did dedicate the bench in February. The day of the dedication was very cold and windy. Photos from the event are included.

Following the bench dedication, TX-2 members proceeded to Post Oak Grill for a delicious



The bench



The bench

lunch and Anniversary celebration. This included a cake cutting ceremony and singing of the "Marines' Hymn."

March found us in need of cards for the VA hospital. A call went out for card and gift donations for the patients. Our ladies responded very nicely with many cards, and Word Find and Crossword Puzzle books as well as pencils for distribution to the patients at the hospital. A card decorating and signing day was held to prepare the cards.

March also found our officers working on a rewrite of our chapter by-laws and standing rules to bring them more in line with National By-Laws and Standing Rules. This will be voted on at our next meeting on April 6th.

Barbara Barnhart



Anniversary cake

TX-7 - Opha May Johnson



January meeting

TX-7 Opha May Johnson Chapter started 2019 with a meeting in January. We recruited two new members and planned a year full of events. We decided we would start a social committee to schedule some fun events for members to partake when not conducting official WMA business. Members present included Elizabeth Enderli, Lily Vega, Heather Brodersen, Haley Carter, Cindy Meyer, Julie Allen, LaShondra Jones, Camilla Thomas, Jennifer Rooth, and Audrea Killalea.

In February, TX-7 witnessed the TX-2 bench dedication at the Houston National Cemetery. Well done, TX-2! The bench is gorgeous and a very beautiful memorial for our fallen women Marines.



Anniversary luncheon

TX-7 and its family members gathered to celebrate the 76th Anniversary of the USMC Women's Reserve at the Tin Roof Barbecue. TX-7 member



Iwo Jima commemoration



Heather Brodersen hosted the event and read off moments of USMC women Marines' historical moments. The Commandant's message and the WMA President's message were also read aloud. Jennifer Rooth, Cindy Meyers, Bev Franklin, Elizabeth Enderli, Julie Allen, Diamantina Rodriguez, and Audrea Killalea attended.

Also in February, TX-7 attended the 74th Anniversary Battle of Iwo Jima Commemoration aboard the Battleship Texas in LaPorte. WMA members Tracy Harrison, Diamantina Rodriguez,



Audrea and Sarah Grace

Heather Brodersen, Camilla Thomas, Sheri Hummer, Elizabeth Enderli, LaShan Bland, and Audrea Killalea were present. After the ceremony, we had the honor of meeting and dining with two Jima veterans Bill Sherrill, Ivan

Hammond, Raymond Warren, and Chuck Elias.

March started off with TX-7 President, Audrea Killalea being honored at the BBVA Stadium as the "Hero of the Game". Audrea was afforded the opportunity to stand next to The Voice, Season 15 Semi Finalist, Sarah Grace as she performed the National Anthem.



LaShondra giving her testimony

Finally, TX-7 member LaShondra Jones, PhD, gave her testimony in favor of HB 620 before the Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee. This is a bill to establish a women veteran's suicide prevention public awareness campaign. We are so very grateful and proud of your continued efforts, LaShondra! Semper Fi!

*Semper Fidelis,
Audrea Killalea*

WA-3 – North Sound

WA-3 North Sound Chapter has been active with a number of community projects. First, in January, members and Loyal Escorts packed and shipped seven care packages with a Valentine theme to a Marine unit stationed in Kuwait consisting of items members of the unit had requested: uniform socks, coffee, and deodorant. One of our members made some magnificent trail mix to include along with Valentine candy, small heart shaped toys and Valentine cards.

In February one of our members donated handmade lap blankets and port pil-



Loyal Escort Sue Duncan, Vice President Karen Wheeler, and President Bettie Glassey

lows for patients at the Evergreen Cancer Center in Monroe. At our WMA Anniversary meeting, held in March due to snow delays, members brought quilts and knitted baby blankets to donate to the NICU at Naval Hospital, Whidbey Island.



Coffee mess

The chapter's ongoing project is maintaining a coffee mess at the VA Clinic in Mt Vernon. Since taking on the project of decorating the area for the seasons, i.e.: Valentine's Day, Easter, etc., and providing coffee supplies including two Keurig machines, Keurig pods, and cream and sugar, the chief nurse advises there have been no hostile confrontations with the clinics clientele, which is a welcome relief to the employees and volunteers who work there.

Karen Wheeler

VMAQ Monument Foundation Donation Presentation

The Women Marines Association is proud to support the VMAQ Monument Foundation with a donation presented by Rhonda Amtower, WMA National President, to Foundation Representative Melissa (Pratt) Kelley. Melissa is a WMA life member and one of the first women to serve as an aviator in the Marine Corps. She served in the Marine Prowler community for 20 years flying both at home and in combat. Women have served in Marine Prowler squadrons for decades, and since 1997 have served in the cockpit flying EA-6Bs. The VMAQ Monument Foundation is a volunteer organization of veterans and supporters who are dedicated to preserving and honoring the history, legacy, and memory of those who served in the Marine VMAQ squadrons for over 40 years.

If you are interested in making a personal donation to the project, checks made out to the VMAQ Monument Foundation can be mailed to Harry H. Horning Financial Services, c/o VMAQ Monument Foundation, 8721 Plantation Lane, Suite 201, Manassas, VA 20110. Donations can also be made online via PayPal to donations@vmaqmonument.org. Check out the progress of the monument and find more information on their website at www.vmaqmonument.org.



The initial maquette for the VMAQ Monument depicting a pilot, aircraft mechanic, and electronic counter measures officer (ECMO). The ECMO figure is a woman and will be the first sculpture of a female Marine aviator in the nation.

Women Marines Association

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2018

	Dec 31, 18
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100-05 · Merrill Lynch General Fund	41,806.45
Total Checking/Savings	41,806.45
Other Current Assets	
Investments	
101-01 · Capital Fund Investments	1,187,182.84
103-00 · Memorial Scholarship Fund	1,628,563.38
Total Investments	2,815,746.22
12000 · Undeposited Funds	690.00
195 · Convention Deposits Receivable	2,500.00
Total Other Current Assets	2,818,936.22
Total Current Assets	2,860,742.67
Other Assets	
1950 · Web Site Costs	6,786.00
Total Other Assets	6,786.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,867,528.67
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
26000 · General Fund Net Assets	87,052.13
26010 · Capital Fund Net Assets	1,112,078.01
26011 · Col. Hamblet Fund Net Assets	30,497.04
26031 · Memorial Scholarship Net Assets	1,411,576.09
26032 · Fallen Warrior Sch. Net Assets	30,831.91
26033 · McClung Scholarship Net Assets	15,956.70
26037 · Ditmore Scholarship Net Assets	108,858.05
26039 · Gridley Scholarship Net Assets	70,678.74
Total Equity	2,867,528.67
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,867,528.67

WMA National Merchandise Sales – Your Purchases Support Our Association!

WMA Patch, Large. \$ 10.00
 WMA Life Member Pin. \$ 10.00
 WMA Hat Pin. \$ 10.00
 Gold EGA for WMA Cover. \$ 10.00



Hat Pin



WMA Afghan



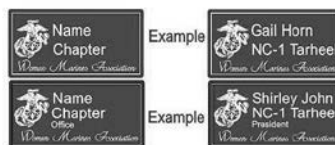
WMA Ceremonial Flag 3' x 5'

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



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



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

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

XSmall. (20 ½" - 20 7/8")

Small. (21 ¼" - 21 5/8")

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

Large. (22 ¾" - 23 1/8")

XLarge. (23 ½" - 23 7/8")

XXLarge. (24 ¼" - 24 5/8")



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, 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
 P. O. Box 12518
 Jacksonville, NC 28546

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

WMA Chapter Merchandise Sales

Send chapter ads to [Sondra Metzger, Editor@womenmarines.org](mailto:Sondra.Metzger@womenmarines.org). **IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE:** When WMA sales items are no longer available, please notify Sondra so they can be removed.

Books



Not "Just Another Cookbook" More than 100 recipes by food grouping. Size: 6"x9"
Cost: \$5.75 (includes shipping) Chapter: NC-1
Contact: Naomi Malone, 218 Sunset Rd., Jacksonville, NC 28546-7045 (910) 545-7154 nmalone@ec.rr.com



Molly Marine picture, 8" x 10"

Cost: \$12 each (includes shipping) Chapter: AR-1
Contact: Vickie Davis, Treasurer, AR-1, 415 Maryland St., Benton, AR 72015

Clear Vinyl Bag with Long Zipper, WMA Logo

Women Marines Association. Green/White Size: 9" x 12"

Cost: \$6.25 (includes shipping)

Chapter: NC-1

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

Flags

Car Flag - WMA Logo

(Clips to car window)

Cost: \$10.00 plus \$6.00 shipping cost

Table Flag - WMA Logo 4"x6" with stand

Cost: \$5.00 plus \$6.00 shipping cost

Chapter: CA-11 Central Coast

Contact: Soledad Kennedy, 4062 Capella Street, Lompoc, CA 93436

Fax/Office (805) 733-2175, Cell (805) 588-0650

Email: usmcrfemale@yahoo.com

website: www.centralcoastwomenmarines.com

Apron, short, three pockets, white with WMA Logo

Cost: \$10.00 plus \$6.00 shipping

Chapter: CA-11 Central Coast

Contact: Soledad Kennedy, 4062 Capella Street, Lompoc, CA 93436

Fax/Office (805) 733-2175, Cell (805) 588-0650

Travel Mug, 15 oz., white aluminum, green WMA logo (two sides) and gold "Oohrah Sisterhood Women Marines Association" centered

Cost: \$15.00 (includes shipping), (Checks Payable to EMVSC CA-7 WMA)

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

(visit www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color)

NEW ITEM!



WWII Poster Mug

Mug with Vintage Women Marines Recruitment Poster Art,

"BE A MARINE • FREE A MARINE TO FIGHT"

Cost: \$12 each, plus \$5 shipping & handling

Checks should be made out to IN-1

Chapter: IN-1 Contact: Kay Ross • Email kayross@comcast.net

(317) 698.6637

Women Marines Padfolio

Cost: \$28.50 to include shipping and handling.

They really are great. It zips all the way around, has a pocket on the outside and several on the inside zippered one on the inside. Writing pad is included. Logo is large and it looks great.

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

Jewelry

WMA Logo Earrings

Cost: \$10.00/pair (includes shipping)

Chapter: Make checks payable to: TX-3, WMA

Available in Clip-on only.

Contact: Trish Martin, 7026 Seidel Rd., San Antonio, TX 78202 (210) 824-8441



Charm "Semper Parvum"

Cost: \$15.00

Chapter: Lady Marine Rose (OR-1)

Contact: Heidi Tanada, 17103 SW Eldorado Tigard OR 97224-2075.



Convention Leftovers

The below items were sold by TX-7 in the PX and are still for sale.

Women Marine Veteran hats for sale, while supplies last!

The prices are as follows:

Blue with red bill, Pink woman Marine - \$15.00 + \$5.00 shipping

Black patch with red bill, Red patch with black bill - \$20.00 + \$5.00 shipping

Polo shirts available for order. You may also choose to have your name embroidered on the shirt. Each shirt is \$30 and includes the name embroidered and shipping.

Artic tumblers, 100 years or Proud Female Veteran Marine Corps \$20.00 per + \$5.00 shipping.

WMA stickers

\$5.00 per + \$.50 shipping.

All shirt, hat, stickers and tumbler orders can be ordered by emailing TX7@womenmarines.org. PayPal payments can be sent to TX7@womenmarines.org.

All sales are final.



Shirts and Sweats

White Golf Shirt with embroidered green WMA logo circled by the phrase, "More Than A Woman A Woman Marine"

Cost: All sizes (S) to (XXXL) \$28.00 (price includes shipping)

Make Checks payable to: WMA, OR-1

Contact: Heidi Tanada, 17103 S.W. Eldorado Dr. Tigard, OR 97224-2075

Light Gray T-Shirt with small green WMA logo on front and large logo on back; both circled by the phrase,

"More Than A Woman A Woman Marine"

Cost: Sizes (M) to (XXXL) \$16.00 (price includes shipping)

Make Checks payable to: WMA, OR-1

Contact: Heidi Tanada, 17103 S.W. Eldorado Dr. Tigard, OR 97224-2075

Adult, Youth & Infant/Toddler Shirts,

3 embroidery options, prices include shipping:

Ladies Polos	Short Sleeved T-Shirt	Youth Polos
Adult	(S-XL) ... \$18.00	(S-XL) ... \$22.00
(S-XL) \$30.00	(2XL) ... \$20.00	
(2XL) \$32.00	(3XL) ... \$22.00	
(3XL) \$34.00	(4XL) ... \$24.00	
(4XL) \$36.00	(5XL) ... \$26.00	
(5XL) \$38.00		

For Infant/Toddler: Please contact for availability and prices.

Website: <http://wmaor3.wix.com/shirts>

Embroidery Options:

Option 1: Option 2: Option 3:



For more information email Stephanie Wilcox at swilcox818@yahoo.com.

Make checks payable to:

WMA OR-3 and mail to:

Stephanie Wilcox, 336 S.71st St, Springfield, OR 97478; call (541) 554-6015 or email or3@comcast.net

4th BN Shirts Crew neck unisex. Comes in Black and Burgundy. Large logo on back and small crest on front.

Cost: \$23.50 each Sizes: M, L, XL, 2X

Send your check or money order to WMA Motor City PO Box 590, Romeo, MI 48065. Please state size and color.

Ladies cut T-Shirt with V neck. Comes in Vintage Khaki and Gray with logo in hunter green.

Cost: \$23.50 (with shipping and handling.)

Sizes: S, M, L, XL,

2X, 3X Make checks or money orders made out to: WMA Motor City, PO Box 590, Romeo, MI 48065. Please state size and color.

Luggage Tag, 3.5" x 2.5", aluminum, "Proud Member Women Marines Association" WMA logo on one side and "Oohrah Sisterhood" and WMA logo on the other side.

Cost: \$10.00 (includes shipping)

Checks Payable to EMVSC CA-7 WMA

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056-4011,

(760) 724-9861. Visit: www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color.

USMC Sun Catchers (also have other military branches)

Cost: \$5.00 each Size: 4" round w/suction hanger

Chapter: CA-15

Contact: Pat Murray, 40701 Rancho Vista #92, Palmdale, CA 93551 (661) 718-8324

Travel Neck Pouch, black w/two zippered sections on one side with clear section on reverse with WMA logo, adjustable strap.

Cost: \$5.00 each (includes shipping) Size: 6-1/2"x4-1/2"

Chapter: NM-1 (checks payable to payable to WMA-Chapter NM1)

Contact: Laurel Hull, 28 Tejon Canyon Rd, Placitas, NM 87043

Phone: 505-867-9172; Email: prism@lobo.net

WMA Logo Magnet. Ideal for gift.

Cost: \$2.00 includes postage Size: 2" long, 1 1/2" wide

Chapter: NJ-2. Contact: Lorraine Nankivell, P.O. Box 208, 38 Point Pleasant Rd, Hopatcong, NJ 07843-0208

"Proud To Be A Marine" Ribbon Magnet, 8" x 3"

Cost: \$6 each (includes shipping)

Checks: Payable to EMVSC CA-7 WMA

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Dr.,

Oceanside, CA 92056-4011, (760) 724-9861,

Visit: www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color



WMA logo Rubber Stamps

Costs include shipping: Large stamp: \$11.00, Small stamp: \$8.00. Chapter: CA-7 Checks to: EMVSC CA7 WMA

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056-

4011,

(760) 724-9861, Visit: www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color.

"Woman Marine" Ribbon Magnet, 8" x 4"

Cost: \$7.00 (includes shipping & handling)

Chapter: OH-2 Chesty Puller

Contact: Ellen Leidy, 1107 Columbus Ave., Barberton, OH 44203,

(330) 825-8935, email: leidyrun@aol.com

License Plate Frame, aluminum, "Oohrah Sisterhood" on the top, and "Women Marines Association" on the bottom.

Cost: \$12.00 (includes shipping)

Checks Payable to EMVSC CA-7 WMA

Contact: Lillian Cross, 3122 Morningside Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056-4011,

(760) 724-9861. Visit: www.womenmarines.net to see the items in color.

"The Few, The Proud, The Women Marines" Bumper sticker

Cost: \$1.50 each (Price includes shipping)

Chapter: NM-1, checks payable to WMA-Chapter NM1

Contact: Laurel Hull, 28 Tejon Canyon Rd, Placitas, NM 87043

Phone: 505-867-9172; Email: 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/WOCC:	

RM&D AND 'NOUNCEMENTS PREFERENCES

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Copy**	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard Paper Copy	**Must provide email for electronic copy
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WMA 'Nouncements is the organizational quarterly magazine

<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Copy**	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard Paper Copy	**Must provide email for electronic copy
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐ REINSTATEMENT

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

SIGNATURE AND VERIFICATION

Fill in application, print and mail with payment to:
Women Marines Association
P.O. Box 377
Oaks, PA 19456-0377
www.womenmarines.org

WMA'Nouncements

P.O. Box 377
Oaks, PA 19456-0377

WMA'NOUNCEMENTS



Bring your 'Oohrah'
to Omaha

Women Marines Association
Convention and Professional Development
Conference--2020

Omaha, Nebraska
Friday Sept 4th to Monday Sept 7th, 2020