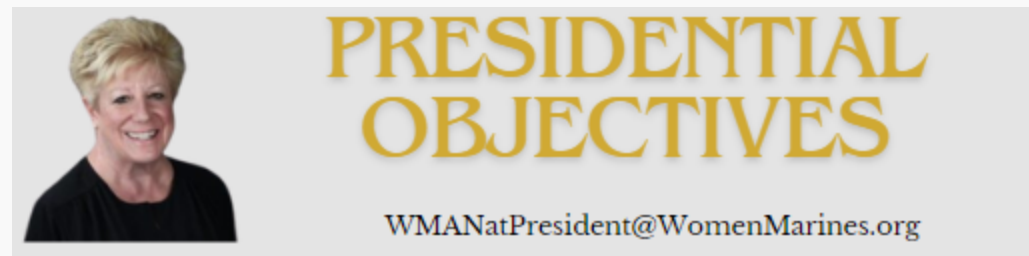




Celebrating Our Lives as Marines

Semper Fidelis Marine *|FNAME|* *|LNAME|*



"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

– Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress in 1968.

Additionally, Chisholm was the first woman to campaign for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Known as "Fighting Shirley," her campaign slogan still feels relevant today: "Unbought and Unbossed."

February 2024 is Black History Month – an opportunity to celebrate our Black History which is rich in traditions, lore, tremendous books and opportunities to listen to past great black leaders as they continue to march to freedom and equality. We, at WMA, are a vastly diverse group that also has many known figures who were firsts – Annie Graham. Her daughter was interviewed by the 1st MARDIV Strat-com and stated:

"My mother was a patriot. She was proud to have served in the Marines," Stephanie Gilliard-Sheard says in an interview, describing Sgt. Annie

Why NOT be a member of WMA – the following is what you get when you become a member:

Be part of a proud tradition

Support your Community – Join a chapter and support your local community

Empowerment and Advocacy- take part in advocacy efforts that shape policies and initiatives to benefit female veterans

Networking Opportunities – Want to start your own business – look into being an entrepreneur! Start a LinkedIn or Facebook page looking for like minded veterans like yourself. Open up the aperture and see what is out there – many services are free

Educational support – look into access to scholarships and grants to further your professional development.

Preserving History – Be part of the History Committee, help grow our legacy

Personal Growth – go to events, workshops, seminars that enhance your skills and knowledge

Legacy building

Graham, the first African American woman in the Marine Corps. "She was courageous to decide to go and do what she did."

Annie served from 1949 to 1952. Her legacy continues today.

So take the time to read up on Black History – participate in local chapter events, be part of this rich and vast history.

Also, I would like to take the time to address new membership: February begins our membership drive. When speaking with potential members, remember that there is a lot of positive to being a member of WMA. Focus on the perspective that being a woman veteran brings something most American women DO NOT HAVE and will NOT HAVE: service to our country. There are 2.2 million women veterans in the United States from all branches of the service. We, as Marines, identify as Marines and are the only ones who can say that. So when developing your 30 second elevator speech to potential members consider the following:



Marines,
Not a birthday but an anniversary!
the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve (USMCWR) was established on February 13, 1943, during World War II. If the 81st anniversary of the USMCWR is being celebrated on February 13, 2024, it marks a significant milestone in the history of women's service in the United States Marine Corps.

The importance of commemorating the 81st anniversary lies in recognizing and honoring the contributions and achievements of women who served in the USMCWR. This anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in integrating women into the military and to acknowledge their vital roles in supporting the Marine Corps and national defense.

Lucille McClarren (pictured below) holds a historic place in the annals of the United States Marine Corps as the trailblazer who became the first woman to enlist in the newly established United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve (USMCWR) on February 13, 1943. At the height of World War II, her enlistment marked a groundbreaking moment, as women were officially integrated into the Marine Corps for

Diverse Membership

Pride and honor

Leadership Opportunities – sign up to be on a Board or committee

Inspire future generations – talk to the young recruits – reach out to the RS's and see if you can assist - talk about the POSITIVE experiences you have as a veteran

And finally A **SENSE OF BELONGING** – this is what being a veteran means (you already have a team, you need to find them) and becoming part of something bigger. Join a non-profit, make a difference, start TODAY.

Spring is on its way – WMA has a lot going on. Be a part of a successful team!

Semper Fidelis,

Ann

[Ann's Anniversary Message](#)

February Objective: Recruit a new member!



Each of us has been gifted with various abilities and life experiences. We represent different eras within the Marine Corps, different leadership opportunities, and different MOS's. Our uniqueness contributes/contributed to the Marine Corps and contributes to the WMA in meaningful ways.

For there is something mysterious that happens when people join their individual abilities and experiences together and work on a common goal.

As Marines we know this experience firsthand. When united around a common purpose, the power of the group is exponentially stronger than the sum total effort of each individual member.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if [one] falls, one will lift up the other...And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand the one.

A threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Eccl 4:9-10a, 12 NRSV)

the first time. Lucille's decision to join the USMCWR exemplifies the patriotism and determination of countless women during that era who stepped forward to serve their country in various capacities.

Melinda Townsend
Chaplain@womenmarines.org
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Updating your Information

As you know WMA has moved to an electronic database system.

[Member Platform](#)

Please download the [Member Platform User Guide](#) to learn the basics about the member site, including how to log in, update your profile and extended fields, and update/access membership invoices.

Every member was sent an email a year ago. If you have forgotten your password please send an email to WMA@WomenMarines.org

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - Get IN Where you fit IN!
1 -29 Feb there will be a membership drive before dues go up,
Each member who our joins will get a WMA bumper sticker to show your WMA pride. How do you get the gift?

Searching for our Centurians

Did you know that WMA has over 100 members that we know of that are 99 and up in age! Many members we do not have dates for, The list below are the ones we know of that are over 100, If you have a member that falls into the category of 99 and above we would love to assure that they are recognized

We have many members with no birthdates. So if you know someone we have missed please send to WMADirMembers@womenMarines.org

[WMA Survey](#) was sent to you last week. Please be sure to fill it out!!

Adrianne McLarahmore
WMA National Director of Member Services

1. Join/Renew
2. Sponsor a Member
3. Recruit a Member

We will also have a raffle among all who do one of the items above for a \$50 gift card. It will be a live raffle!



Pvt. Golda F. Hammell



A momentous day in history, December 7, 1941, changed the lives of many people including myself. On March 2, 1944, in Seattle, Washington, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and left for boot camp on April 28th, 1944. Boot camp was at Camp Lejeune, N.C where I was in Co. E, Plat 4, 32nd Bn, USMCWR. Prior to enlistment I was a lead girl in the payroll department at Boeing Aircraft Co. I felt I wasn't doing enough to help the war effort in my job and since I had a brother in the Army, I wanted to help get the war over before he got killed or wounded. Realistically, I think I was also bored with my job. I have always loved uniforms (my first real crush was on a Boy Scout!), and since I have always been competitive, if I was going in the service I wanted to go into the one that had the highest requirements and was the most difficult to get into. The Marine Corps seemed to fit that bill. My mother, being an adventurous soul like myself, thought it was a great idea, but my father refused to give his consent, which I needed because I was only 20 at the time. I blackmailed him by threatening to never speak to him again if he didn't sign, so he reluctantly gave his permission. My brother also was

against my going in the service but said, “I don’t like the idea of your going in the service, but as long as you are determined, I am glad it is the Marine Corps you are joining.” Incidentally, he was a 1st Lt. in the Field Artillery, was in the Battle of the Bulge and came home unscathed. Thank God. (read the rest of her story in our WMA blog next week)

HILTON ATLANTA
255 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
[Get Directions](#)
[Hotel Reservations](#) Book NOW!

Registration is now OPEN



Scholarship Time

It is getting close to opening the season for the WMA Scholarship Program. Application Period is 1 February – 31 March Applications that are postmarked after 31 March will not be considered Eligibility: All scholarship applicants must be sponsored by a WMA member in good standing (apart from Marine Corps JROTC cadets who have a special eligibility requirement as stated Proof of Military Service) and satisfy one of the identified criteria outlined in WMA Scholarship Procedures Applications must be submitted each year; they are not reoccurring. Forms are found below. <https://buff.ly/3tLXwgR>

2024 WMA National Convention

- [Online Convention Registration Instructions](#)
- [Convention Registration](#)
- [Hotel Reservation](#)
- [Convention Sponsorship Prospectus](#)
- [Mail In Registration](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Business Ad](#)



RED VELVET WHOOPIE PIES

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking

FOR TWO

INGREDIENTS:

- **Cookies:**
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/8 teaspoon baking soda
3 tablespoons packed light brown sugar
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 tablespoons buttermilk
1 large egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/8 teaspoon red gel food coloring
Cream Cheese Filling:
3 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, at room temperature
3 tablespoons confectioners’ sugar, plus more for optional dusting
1/4 teaspoon vanilla bean paste
Get Ingredients

sheet with parchment paper.

For the cookies: Whisk the flour, cocoa powder, salt and baking soda together in a medium bowl. Combine the brown sugar and butter in a separate medium bowl with a rubber spatula until no streaks of butter remain and it resembles wet sand. Add the buttermilk, egg, vanilla and red food coloring and whisk until smooth. Fold the flour mixture into the wet mixture with a rubber spatula until smooth.

Use a tablespoon to drop 2 heaping tablespoons of batter onto the prepared baking sheet. Repeat three more times so that you have 4 cookies. Use a wet finger to smooth out any uneven parts on the tops. Bake until the cookies spring back when touched and look dry, 11 to 13 minutes. Let cool completely on the baking sheet, about 30 minutes.

For the cream cheese filling: Combine the cream cheese, butter, confectioners’ sugar and vanilla bean paste in a medium bowl with a rubber spatula until smooth.

Once the cookies are cooled, divide the filling between two of the cookies spreading it on the flat sides all the way to the edges. Top each with the two remaining cookies. Serve immediately or wrap in plastic and refrigerate for up to 1 day. Dust the tops with confectioners’ sugar just before serving if desired.

Nominations

As we get closer to convention it is also time to think about national and chapter elections. Elections take place in the same year of our conventions. As always all positions are open. Those are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Fundraising and development, Director of Marketing and Communications, Director of Programs, Director of Member Services.

Please check your Nouncements for all the details.

Committee Positions

We are always looking for those who would like to serve on committee. Great way to service on the National level and gain valuable experience!

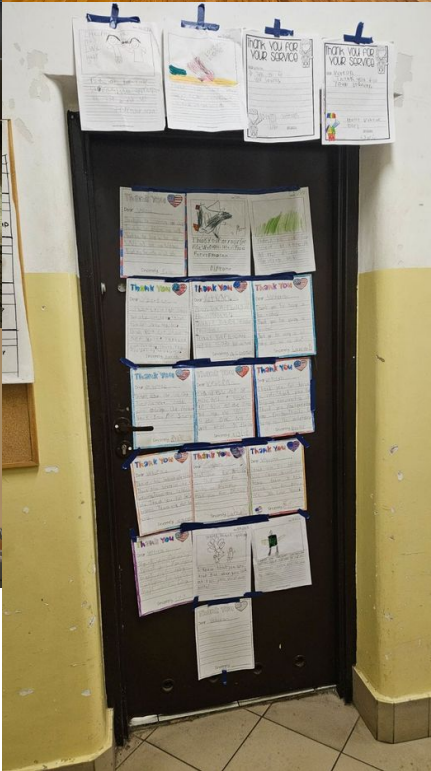
Chaplain Corps, Blog Writer, Member Services, Treasury, WMA National Sales, Bylaws
Use your experience to make a difference.

Let us know where you want to fit in! Send an email to listening@womenmarines.org

Chapter Highlight MI2 Motor City

MI2 Motor City (metro Detroit Area) has been busy/ They packed and shipped out packages to our troops and then helped decorate the building for the Santa Breakfast in the community. The also co-

hosted the Women Veteran Tea honoring those at the Chesterfield Veterans Home.
MI2@womenMarines.org
Highlight your chapter!



WMA would love to hear from you. Be sure to follow us on our links below.



Become a Volunteer | **DONATE TODAY**

If you have any questions please contact us listening@womenmarines.org.
[Unsubscribe](#) from our mailing lists.

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