

Military Women Across the Nation
2024 National Convention
General Membership Meeting Minutes
23-24 September 2024
Crowne Plaza Warwick, Rhode Island

Presentation of Colors by RI Militia
Invocation by Chaplain Patty Koppari
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem by Danette Briggs

Enclosure (1): Convention Finance Summary by Convention Treasurer Monica O'Hara

1. Convention convened at 0900 By President GinaMarie Doherty Unit # 158.
2. Introduction of Head Table by Lynne Pine Unit # 36. Acting Secretary Barb Sebring MAL, Vice President for Finance Maura Mooney Unit # 77, Vice President for Unit Liaison Patty Parks Unit # 157, President GinaMarie Doherty Unit # 158.
3. Introduction of Convention Chairman Lynne Pine. Introduction of Diane Culleton MAL, member of Minutes Committee.
4. General Announcements by President GinaMarie Doherty.
5. Introduction of Patty Park for approval of Convention Program. A Motion was made by Monica O'Hara Unit # 36 to approve the Agenda as written. Seconded by Sherri Leslie Unit # 010. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Martha Alderman was introduced to read the Convention Standing Rules.
7. Introduction of the Security Team. Beth Wingfield, Unit # 157, Jennifer Baun, Unit # 21 and Alicia Rodriguez, Unit # 158. The rules of the Committee were explained.
8. Roll Call: President GinaMarie Doherty, VP for Unit Liaison Patty Parks, VP for Finance Maura Mooney, Supply Locker Officer Linda Coffield, Bulletin Editor/HERstorian Patty Parks, WebMaster Lynne Pine, VACDCE/VAVS National Rep LeSans Alexander, Chaplain/Time & Place Chair Patty Koppari. Excused: VP for Membership and Interim Secretary Debbie Crutchfield & Scholarship Chair Barb Turner. Absent: Volunteer Hours Chair Karen Warren and Public Relations Chair Audrey Macleod-Pfeiffer. All Regional Representatives were in attendance with the exception of Regions 4 and 12. Every member in the room introduced themselves.

9. Roll Call of Units and Members Present:

Unit 006 - 2
Unit 010 - 3
Unit 021- 2
Unit 026 – 0
Unit 036 – 4
Unit 077 -3
Unit 080 – 0
Unit 118 – 1
Unit 144 – 0
Unit 151 -1
Unit 152 – 2
Unit 155 – 6
Unit 157 – 3
Unit 158 – 3
Unit 159 - 1

10. Introduction of Nomination Committee Chair Monica O’Hara to read the results of the Election.

Regional Representatives:

Region 1- Lynne Pine
Region 2- Patricia Hutchinson
Region 3- Martha Alderman
Region 4- Annette Dunseth
Region 5 -Monica O’Hara
Region 6 -Kathleen VanMiddlesworth
Region 7 -Erika Westbrook
Region 8 -Denise Duke (appointed for the full term)
Region 9 – Michele Batliner
Region 10 –Patty Parks
Region 11 -Jennifer Baun
Region 12 -LeSans Alexander
Region 13- Alicia Rodriguez

Officers Elected: VP for Finance Maura Mooney, VP for Unit Liaison Beth Wingfield, VP for Membership Debbie Crutchfield, President GinaMarie Doherty. 2024 Committee members were recognized: Martha Alderman, Beth Wingfield, Denise Duke and Ginger Daniels. President requested nominations for 2026 Nominating Committee members.

11. National Officers Reports:

a. President – GinaMarie Doherty reported that we are still in decline. We need to step up our recruitment. Wear shirts, hats and any other clothing that shows our organization. Patty

Parks offered a reward for recruitment of Space Force members. Members that do not live in your region can be members of your Unit and their regional Rep will be from that region. She answers all emails either personally or sends to the regional reps. She spoke at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and told them about MWAN. We need help in Volunteering in VA Hospitals. New cards and welcome letters were sent. We need a Secretary for the next term. Submitted Articles for the Bulletin. This year the Convention was not hosted by a unit. Lynne Pine volunteered to serve as Convention Chair, assisted by GinaMarie Doherty and Patty Parks. She is also Secretary/Treasurer of her Unit. Using social media such as Facebook (Meta) X and Instagram was discussed. The oldest member Kitty Bickel was recognized. Kitty served in the Civil Air Patrol during WW11. The youngest member Emily Turner was recognized. Those who are ill were remembered. Her goal this year is to meet more members and travel to more states.

Mid Morning Break from 10:05 to 10:20.

- b. VP for Membership – President GinaMarie Doherty read this report in the absence of Debbie Crutchfield. Debbie has attended meetings of both Units 157 & 144. She and other members received a Quilt of Honor from Unit 144 in recognition of their service during the VietNam War. She actively seeks new members and submits articles for the bulletin. She plans to create a certificate to award units who recruit the most new members. President GinaMarie reminds us that a new unit needs seven members to start a unit and five to maintain a unit.
- c. VP for Unit Liaison- Patty Parks reported that we have 15 active Units. Unit # 55, Military Women of Tampa Bay voted to disband as of June 2024. She continues to assist members and units and writes articles for the Bulletin. Two units have still not submitted the new bylaws. She encourages members to consider new ideas to promote membership including zoom and rotating meetings.
- d. VP for Finance- Maura Mooney reported the organization is solvent and we have a balance of over \$30,000. Printing costs continue to be our biggest expense. We currently have 708 members. She continues to submit all required forms. A discussion was held on whether to use electronic signatures on Letters of Authorization and Member Applications or use an actual signature. We also discussed using Zelle, PayPal etc. for dues. The Board of Directors will address this at the Post Convention BOD and report back to the membership.
- e. Bulletin Editor- Patty Parks reported that we are trying to get members to take the Bulletin by email to keep cost down and encourages all members to read all the information that is provided every other month.
- f. Supply Locker Officer- Linda Coffield reported that sales of the Supply Locker have continued to increase. She donated \$2000 to the National Treasury. New items are

constantly being added. After 12 Years Linda Coffield is stepping down as the Supply Locker Officer and Kathleen VanMiddlesworth is taking over the position.

g. Chaplain- Patty Koppari announced that there will be 651 names read at the Memorial Service.

h. Convention Chair-Lynne Pine reported that the National Convention will make money. Our convention was advertised in four other military magazines.

Recess for lunch at 1200 and reconvened at 1400 to continue General Business.

i. Nominating Committee-Monica O'Hara submitted the names of the members of her Nominating Committee that will serve with her for 2026. They are Elizabeth Lewandowski, Rose Nowak, LeSans Alexander and Michele Batliner.

j. Time and Place Chair- Patty Koppari Presented 3 Bids for our National Convention in 2026. They are Lakeland, Fl Hosted by Unit # 159. Put In Bay, Ohio Hosted by Unit # 021, and Pensacola, Fl Hosted by MAL, Barb Turner. After discussion a motion was made by Monica O'Hara and seconded by LeSans Alexander that we vote on the location when we reconvene tomorrow. Motion carried.

Recess at 1500 and will reconvene at 0900 on Tuesday.

12. The Scholarship title will be decided at the post BOD.

13. All Staff positions have been filled with the exception of Secretary, which is an appointed position.

14. Patty Parks installed the National Officers: President GinaMarie Doherty, VP for Units Beth Wingfield, VP for Finance Maura Mooney, VP for Membership Debbie Crutchfield was excused.

15. GinaMarie Doherty installed the following Regional Representatives: RR 1 Lynne Pine, RR 3 Martha Alderman, RR5 Monica O'Hara, RR 6 Kathleen VanMiddlesworth, RR 9 Michele Batliner, RR 10 Patty Parks, RR 11 Jennifer Baun, RR 12 LeSans Alexander, RR 13 Alicia Rodriguez.

16. Patty Parks announced that we will vote on the 3 bids for the 2026 Convention. They are Lakeland, FL, Put In Bay, OH and Pensacola, FL. A vote was taken and Put In Bay, OH was the winner.

17. Lynne Pine announced that Region 1 will have a cruise for their Regional Conference. Monday 20 Oct 2025 will be the business meeting and the next day they will leave on a three day cruise. Patty Parks Region 10, asked for votes for their Regional Conference 2025. Please see the Convention Program for more information.

18. Convention Chair Lynne Pine reported: Total registered: 41 members, 12 guests. 40 members attended.

19. At 10:15 the Business session was completed. Patty Parks made a motion to adjourn and Monica O'Hara seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted: Barb Sebring
Acting Secretary

Approved: GinaMarie Doherty
President



MWAN 2024 CONVENTION REPORT
25-Oct-24

INCOME:

Registration Fees	10,250.00	
Newport Tour Fees	3,180.00	
Seed Money	3,000.00	
Ad Fees	1,925.00	
Silent Auction (designated for MWAN GF)	1,180.00	
Donations from Amer Legion/VFW	900.00	
Sister to Sister Donations	607.00	
MWAN Donations	587.00	
Tshirt Fundraiser	466.83	
Total Income		\$22,095.83

EXPENSES:

Crowne Plaza (Food,Beverage,A/V)	7,403.19	
Seed Money to MWAN	3,000.00	
Newport Tour	2,904.00	
Silent Auction to MWAN	1,180.00	
Sister to Sister Fund	607.00	
MWAN General Fund	587.00	
Registration Refund to Crutchfield	576.00	
Convention Supplies	448.37	
Convention Program	242.04	
Postage	196.20	
Convention Ceremonial Cake	33.99	
Banner	27.30	
Total Expenditures		\$17,205.09

NET PROFIT

\$4,890.74

MWAN General Fund	\$2,445.00
MWAN UNIT 36	\$2,445.74

Total Registered Attendees: 53 (41 members + 12 guests)

Enclosure (1)