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OCTOBER 2019

VOL. MMXIX NO. 5

Another Glass Ceiling Broken



by Jennifer Baun

Founded in 1944, the American Veterans organization or AMVETS now has its first female national commander with the election of retired Air Force Senior Master Sargent Janette Brown.

"I thank my AMVETS family for putting their confidence in me to lead this organization," the 27-year veteran said when she was named national commander at the organization's Louisville, Kentucky, conference on August 24th.

Jan is a member of AMVETS Post 44 in Struthers, Ohio, and is also a member of Northeast Ohio Women Veterans Unit 21 of Military Women Across the Nation.

Her election to lead one of the foremost U.S. veteran service organizations reflects the increasing number of women ascending to top leadership posts as their numbers increase in both the military and veterans' groups. Women now represent about 15% of the active-duty military and about 10% of the veteran's population, according to the

Disabled American Veterans. Women are also the fastest-growing segment of the veteran population.

As national commander, Jan succeeds Army veteran Rege Riley, whose goal was to bring more women into the AMVETS membership and place them in leadership roles. "It's certainly a step forward for women veterans in the veteran's service organizations," Jan said.

AMVETS national commanders have customarily selected a principle area of commitment. In keeping with that tradition, Jan plans to focus on the mental health problems that may be missed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in treating veterans. She noted the work of "Save A Warrior", a Newark, Ohio, organization which provides counseling in the areas of mental health and wellness, suicide prevention and post-traumatic stress to veterans, military personnel, police, firefighters and other first responders.

"There are parts of ourselves that the traditional medical model is not equipped to heal or nourish," Jan said in a statement to the press. "AMVETS works relentlessly to heal American veterans, and I believe, through this project, we will continue working to see that veterans are living well, not just 'un-sick,' and we'll begin to curb the national veteran suicide crisis."

Jan also anticipates reaching more people using AMVETS' name and resources, and hopes her selection as national commander will continue to shine a light on the active veteran's community in Mahoning Valley where she lives.





Presidential Ponderings

by Patty Parks, National President

Why is this month's bulletin only eight pages? Because we didn't get enough input from our members to fill 12 pages!

Having visited almost every unit and many, many members at large, I know most of you are very active in your communities.

However, if you don't let us know what you are doing, then we cannot share your accomplishments and ideas with sister servicewomen.

Lengthy articles are nice but not required. All it takes is a clear photo with those pictured identified and a caption to let us know what's going on!

1st Vice Update

by Gloria Wix, National 1st Vice President

Just this year I have recruited four women I found in meetings I attend with other veterans' groups: American Legion; Vietnam Veterans of America, and a local veterans club.

This is the easy way to recruit. These women are out there and already had the desire to become involved. If you belong to other veteran and/or civic organizations, scout out other woman veterans and let them know about MWAN and what we have to offer.

If you are a unit member, then invite them to attend a unit function. If you are a member-at-large, then suggest getting together for coffee or lunch to compare histories.

Detail our membership as being all women, all services, all ranks and all ages. Explain that we are non-political and focus on offering opportunities for military women to stay connected through networking, socialization and volunteer community service while preserving their common history. And, of course, we have fun!

Give them a card that provides our national web site as well as your personal and/or unit information. Each one of us can do this. It is that easy. Find a new friend, help someone become a member of MWAN. Help MWAN expand and grow.

Treasury Tidbits

by Terry Taylor, National Treasurer

As the cost of postage continues to rise, have you considered using online banking to pay your annual dues and other bills? Most, if not all, financial institutions offer this service (called "Bill Pay") at no cost to you. Some of the benefits of bill pay are:

- Your payments are more secure than mailing them.
- Recurring payments can be scheduled so you never miss a due date.
- Time savings: After the initial set-up, bill paying becomes quick and easy.
- You are in control this isn't like having a company automatically take payments from your checking account.
- Savings on postage and late fees.

If you do decide to use bill pay to pay your dues, be sure to put your MWAN ID # in the memo section. Also, be sure to keep your phone number, address, and email up-to-date by sending changes to me or the Executive Secretary.

I personally started using bill pay shortly after my bank began offering it. In over 15 years, I've only had one issue

Officers' Call

early on, which the bank quickly resolved. (My mortgage company changed and I didn't update my bill pay information.) With stamps now costing 55 cents each, maybe it's time you considered online banking, too!

Second Call for Nominations 2020 – 2022 MWAN National Officers

by Barb Turner, Nominating Committee Chair

It's time to nominate the 2020 – 2022 MWAN national officers and it would be nice to have a full slate ahead of the 1 February 2020 deadline. As you know, our next national convention is less than a year away and your Nominating Committee has been hitting up our membership for likely candidates. If you "get the call" from a committee member, please give her ten minutes of your time to discuss the future leadership of MWAN.

This is YOUR organization and it is important that you take part in the decision-making process. Details of each office and respective duties are listed in the MWAN Bylaws and Procedures Manual available at www.milwomen.org.

As published in the August 2019 MWAN Bulletin, elected officers of MWAN shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Treasurer and a Recording Secretary. A candidate for elective office shall be a regular member in good standing of MWAN (unit or member-at-large); be familiar with the objectives and purposes of MWAN; have leadership experience, and time to devote to the duties of the office. Additionally, a candidate for the office of President shall have served at least one term on the MWAN Board of Directors.

Please call the current officers (listed on Page 6) and ask them to share their thoughts on what holding a national office is really like. Please get in touch with a Nomination Committee member if you are interested or know of a member who might be interested. We'll publish the candidates and biographies in the April 2020 MWAN Bulletin and ballots will be included in the June 2020 MWAN Bulletin. Winners will be announced and sworn in during our MWAN 2020 Convention. September 16-20, 2020.

Nomination Committee members are:

Renee Chisholm, Chattanooga TN

423-208-1611 or chisholm_renee@epbfi.com

Shirley Crawford, Phoenix AZ

602-750-8779 or proudvetusaf@cox.net

Ginger Daniels, Shattuck OK

580-938-2310 or shuwave@pldi.net

Cidney Enberg, Wheaton IL

630-690-8517 or eng110@aol.com

Elisabeth Lewandowski, Phoenix AZ

760-201-6465 or elewandowski@ymail.com

Rose Nowak, Petaluma CA

707-762-5151 or xcena@sonic.net

Barb Turner (Chair) Flower Mound, TX, 817-491-4555 or turners_5@sbcglobal.net

MWAN 2020 National Convention September 16-20, 2020, at Put-in-Bay, Ohio

by Jennifer Baun, 2020 National Convention Committee Chair

2020 is a great year to hold a convention and elicits a variety of themes. The one we have chosen for our next national convention is "A Clear Vision for Women Veterans." The Facebook page is up and running. So, follow 2020 MWAN National Convention for updates.

We are excited to announce the opening keynote speaker will be Army war veteran Jessica Lynch (*Pictured at right*).

In 2003, after a convoy from the U.S. Army's 507th Maintenance Company was ambushed near Nasiriyah, Iraq, Lynch was



one of seven soldiers, including two other women – Shoshanna Johnson and Lori Piestewa - taken prisoner by Iraqi forces. Piestewa died of her wounds soon after being taken, but Lynch and Johnson along with other POWs were liberated by U.S. forces in the first successful rescue of American prisoners of war since World War II and the first ever to include women.

This event promises to offer some information, education, a little business and plenty of fun and enjoyment.

A call went out to units and MALs to provide a quilt square measuring ten inches depicting or representing a unit theme or state region. They will be assembled, and the quilt will be available at the convention. The deadline to complete it has been extended to December 1st. Contact conference chair, Jennifer Baun at 314.803.8643 or NEOWV21@gmail.com for questions or to participate. There's much more to come...



2018-2020 Regional Representatives

Region I Rep: Martha Alderman, 623-810-9328

Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico

Region II Rep: Michele Batliner, 816-315-9229

North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi

Region III Rep: Jennifer Baun, 314-803-8643

Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky

Region IV Rep: Vacant (Contact National President)

Maine, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania,

Delaware, Maryland

Region V Rep: Jill Blakeney, 919-932-9365

District of Columbia, Alabama, Virginia, North Carolina, South

Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia

Region VI Rep: Christie Parker-Wheeler, 352-949-4675 Florida

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BOD Midterm Update

St. Louis was the setting for our 2019 MWAN Board of Directors midterm meeting and 12 officers made the journey to represent our national membership.



The "Dirty Dozen" left to right (standing) 1st Vice President Gloria Wix, Region I Rep Martha Alderman, Executive Secretary Ginger Daniels, MWB Editor Denise Duke, 2nd Vice President GinaMarie Doherty, Bylaws Chair Vicki Orem, Region II Rep Michele Batliner & Recording Secretary Debbie Crutchfield, (seated) Treasurer Terry Taylor, Alternate Region VI Rep Jouay Koppari, Alternate Region V Rep Beth Wingfield & National President Patty Parks

The agenda included many routine items – including approving our FY2019-2020 budget printed below - but the primary focus was rewriting our 40-year-old MWAN bylaws.

Each article was carefully reviewed and discussed to determine whether it needed to be changed, deleted or left as it was. To give each topic due consideration, discussion continued until at least three-fourths of those in attendance agreed on the final action taken.

The proposed newly revised MWAN Bylaws will be published in their entirety in the June 2020 issue of Military Women's Bulletin and will be accepted or declined at the 2020 National Convention (see article at top left of this page).

The current MWAN Bylaws are available on our website www.milwomen.org under the "Governing Docs" tab. If you do not have access to the internet, you may obtain a copy by contacting National Bylaws Chair Vicki Orem at 910-363-5019 or vborem2@gmail.com.

MWAN Approved FY2019-2020 Budget

Projected Income:	
Transfer from Life Membership Fund	\$ 3,000
Dues Renewal for 2020	14,000
Donations	1,500
Fundraising	500
Total Projected Income:	\$ 19,000

Projected Expenses:	
National Elected Officer Expenses	1,350
Executive Secretary Expenses	400
Regional Reps Travel Expenses	1,500
Other BOD Member Expenses	1,000
MILWOMEN Bulletin	11,200
Call to Convention	1,800
VAVS Representative Travel	1,150
James H. Parke Scholarship	200
Mid-term Meeting Expenses	300
CA Tax	20
Total Projected Expenses:	\$ 18,920

Sound Off!

KEYSTONE WOMEN VETERANS

Unit #6 (PA) – At our June meeting, we discussed the first all-female Honor Flight set to leave the Philadelphia area in September. Several of our unit, expressed interest in going and were given applications.

We celebrated the WAVES birthday in July with a luncheon at Da Shins. While conversing about our 1942 beginning and discussing the book <u>Code Girls</u> (featuring the role women played in breaking enemy codes during WWII) two women from the next table introduced themselves. They were of Native American descent and connected to the Navaho Code Talkers WWII. After thanking us for our service, a very interesting conversation ensued.

Lastly, several of us attended a veteran's summer celebration of "Forever Plaid" hosted by the Media Theater Veterans Alliance. For meeting information, contact Ruthie Severino/610-356-8956.

NORTHEAST OHIO WOMEN VETERANS

Unit #21 (OH) – Unit 21 members attended and helped plan the August 10th Ohio Women Veterans Conference in Columbus. Events were expanded to include social activities the day before where Member-at-Large Jo Wildman *(at right)* got to throw out the first pitch at a Columbus Clippers game.





Above (left to right): Ohio Department of Veteran Services Director Deborah Ashenhurst, Major General/U.S. Army (Ret), with unit member Diana Murar & Sandra Puskarcik.

Once again, the unit was front and center in the veteran arena during the Canfield County Fair, the largest in Ohio and the third nationwide. largest Susan Sansenbaugher and Jennifer Figueroa and other unit members encouraged other women veterans to get involved: promoted MWAN and the upcoming convention, and did



Susan Sansenbaugher (left) & Jennifer Figueroa

some fundraising by offering cold drinks for donations.

MILITARY WOMEN OF TAMPA BAY

Unit #55 (FL) – Unit members participated in Brandon's 60th Independence Day Parade which is touted as the largest of its kind in Florida. The annual event is sponsored by Brandon's Community Roundtable on which unit members Jouay Koppari and Dawn Marshall serve. Parade fees are waived for first responders and veteran groups, resulting in a large turnout of military and veteran groups including the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Patrol Boat, Vietnam Veterans of America, military vehicles, AMVETS 44's PT boat, Rough Riders, Navy SeaBees and the Police Equine Unit. This year, Dawn Marshall provided her pickup truck, a trailer and her son as driver which allowed unit members to ride for the two-mile parade route.



Above (left to right): Cathy Gerolimatos, Connie White, Shirley Dawley, Soldier Girl, Pattie Duvall & Jouay Koppari

REDWOOD EMPIRE

Unit #77 (CA) - Our July 13th meeting featured guest speaker Sharon-Bricker Ferris who spoke on financial planning. The following day unit members volunteered at the local Art & Garden Show to raise funds for our outreach program for local women veterans. Our unit partners with the local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter at this event as well as the twice annual antique fairs.

Unit member Kimberly "Q" Quintiliani, currently on active duty in the Coast Guard, was transferred in May to sea duty in Florida, but plans to remain a member of our unit.



Rose Nowak (front) poses with her personal history display and members of the LDAC including USCG TRACEN Commanding Officer, Captain Steven Ramassini. Photo courtesy, Rebecca Latimer, USCG

Unit President Rose Nowak was invited by the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center (USCG TRACEN) to address the Petaluma's Leadership Diversity Advisory Council (LDAC) on August 22nd regarding women's equality.

REDWOOD EMPIRE (Continued)

Rose also spoke September 7th to the Santa Rosa Daughters of the American Revolution about MWAN and the history of women veterans.

Our newest member is Navy veteran Trisha Almond who serves as a Sonoma County Commissioner and chairs the county's Commission on the Status on Women. Trisha spoke at our September 14th meeting.

We have connected with Yountville Veterans Home to support sister veterans who reside there. Also, unit member Leslie Fuller sets up a booth on weekends in Sonoma to provide information about MWAN and our unit. These are great ways to reach out to area women veterans and donations are accepted to support our outreach program.

Our final meeting of the year is set for October 12th followed by a very busy November. On November 3rd, six unit members will participate in a panel discussion at the Sonoma County Public Library in Santa Rosa, entitled *Honoring Their Service - Women Veterans Sharing Stories*. Five of the panelists took part in a similar event this past March. They will be joined by another new unit member Paula Molnar, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army/Retired. Other unit members will host an information table for MWAN during the gathering. Of course we will participate in the Petaluma Veterans Day Parade on November 11th.

FLATWATER WOMEN VETERANS

Unit # 98 (NE) – Pat Hunsche hosted our first 2019 meeting at the Blair Public Library on July 27th. Along with Pat and her guest Maggie Sutherland, attendees included Linda Cady, Jeannie Bixby, Deb Wehrli and Suzanne Gilsdorf. We enjoyed hearing about Maggie's experience while serving in the Navy on board the USS Nimitz. We hope she will join our group in the future.

Two of our WWII members-at-large have passed away this year: Sheila Seamands and Marjorie Neill. Marjorie had previously been very active with the unit for many years, her daughters always making certain she had a ride to attend meetings.

TRIANGLE WOMEN VETERANS

Unit #144 (NC) – Unit member Annette Stevenson was planner and presenter at NC Veterans Business Association's Procurement Summit in Raleigh on August 21st. Pat Childers and Jill Blakeney also attended where the trio was delighted to meet Susan Lindsey a Tennessee MWAN member.



Left to right: Pat Childers, Jill Blakeney, Annette Stevenson & Susan Lindsey.



TRISTATE WOMEN VETERANS Unit #157 (TN) – Charter unit member Beth Wingfield was selected by unit members for the 2018 Lady Bug Spirit Award. The award is given annually to the non-officer unit member who has displayed the most support for her sister military women.



Beth Wingfield (left) with award sponsor Patty Parks.

Our July Red Shirt Lunch was enjoyed by 10 unit members. Held

a few times each year, attending members wear red shirts to draw attention. We have a great time while reminding our



Left to right: Front Row, Mary Lambert, Shelly Galloway, Penny Manna, Nancy Pollard Middle, Cathy Brown, Sheila Billings Back Row, Pam Miller, Danette Skyles, Patty Parks & Deborah James

NEW ENGLAND MWAN

Unit #158 (RI) - For the second year running, women warriors from Unit #158 proudly assembled for the nationally known 4th of July parade in Bristol. The first Independence Day celebration was held in Bristol in 1785, when Revolutionary War Veteran the Reverend Henry Wight of the First Congregational Church held the town's first-ever patriotic event. Each year this parade is viewed by more than 200,000 spectators. It is especially humbling to hear hundreds of voices echo, "Thank you for your service!" along the parade route.



Left to right: Unit President Dottie Dilullo, Michele Diamond-McDonnell, Sandy Hovanec, Unit Treasurer GinaMarie Doherty, Unit Historian Connie Rix, Unit Vice President Gretchen Vierlig-Cutlip & Unit Secretary Dora Vasquez-Hellner.

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Miscellaneous Information ❖ 1. Military Women's Bulletin is the official newsletter for Military Women Across the Nation, Inc., a nonprofit, veteran-service organization originally chartered in California in 1979 by co-founders Jeanne Palermo, Loda Mae Dobbins and Esther Govorchin. ❖ 2. This newsletter is published six times per year in February, April, June, August, October and December by Coastal Printing Inc., 3 Graf Road, Newburyport MA 01950. Items for publication may be submitted via postal or electronic mail to the newsletter editor (address above) and must be received by the 1st of the month PRIOR to publication. ❖ 3. National Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year (1 Jan-31 Dec). Unit members submit dues to Unit Treasurers; Members-at-Large submit dues directly to National Treasurer. ❖ 4. Membership cards are issued directly to NEW members upon payment of dues & \$10 Application Fee. Regular members will not be issued membership cards annually. Life members will be issued a permanent Life Membership card. ❖ 5. National conventions are biennial. ❖ 6. Submit all changes of address to the Executive Secretary (address above) as soon as possible. Returned newsletters will NOT be re-mailed.

MWAN Member ID#:	ADDRESS CHANGE FORM	PLEASE PRINT!
OLD Address:		
NEW Address:		
City:	State: Zip: _	
Email:		
Phone:	Effective Date:	
P	I to: Ginger Daniels, Executive Secretary O. Box 314, Shattuck OK 73858-0314 OR Email to: Secretary@milwomen.org	

Newsletters are sent via **BULK MAIL** and will <u>NOT</u> be forwarded by the Post Office. Please include MWAN on <u>ALL Address Changes</u> in order to keep receiving your Military Women's Bulletin. If possible, please send the address change 60 days before moving.

PLEASE CONSIDER RECEIVING YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL.

Contact
<u>Secretary @MilWomen.org</u>
for details.

MWAN Supply Locker

OCTOBER 2019

Name:	(Why not use a return address label here!)		
Address:	ST Zip		
Did you circle the type/size and/or color on items?? Double Check please! **Phone Number: ()			
Price per pieceX <u>Number you want</u> =			
<u>PATCHES</u>	MWAN CLOTHING ITEMS		
MWAN 2½" (caps) \$ 3 X =	Neck Tabs, Black w/Velcro \$12 X =		
MWAN 3" (shirts) \$ 4 X =	Garrison Caps (includes patch) \$23 X =		
MWAN 8½" (vest) \$10 X =	Sizes: 21, 22, 23, 24, 25		
US Navy WAVES Veteran (circle) \$4 X =	MWAN Visor \$12 X =		
Patches: Navy Flag or Services \$4 X =	MWAN Visor \$12 X = MWAN Ball Cap \$12 X = MWAN T-Shirt \$15 X =		
(USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY)	MWAN T-Shirt \$15 X =		
American Flag Patch (3½"x2") \$4 X =	Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL		
Proud to Serve (square) \$5 X =	MWAN Polo Shirt \$30 X =		
Women are Veterans, Too \$5 X =	Gray or White Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL		
WAVES Anchor (old style) \$4 X =	MWAN Jacket \$32 X =		
Vietnam Era Eagle \$6 X =	Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL		
JEWELRY & PINS	MWAN Sweatshirt \$22 X =		
MWAN Coin \$10 X =	Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL		
MWAN Lapel pin \$ 4 X =	MWAN White Dress Shirt \$34 X =		
MWAN Charm \$ 7 X =	Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL		
MWAN Earrings \$12 X =	Patriotic Scarf (100% Polyester) \$4 X =		
MWAN Coin Keychain \$12 X =	ITEMS OF INTEREST		
MWAN Mouse Pad \$6 X = Original Hat Pin \$10 X =	Watch, USN WAVES \$30 X = American Veteran Bracelet \$5 X =		
Original Hat Pin \$10 X =	American Veteran Bracelet \$5 X =		
Anchor & Prop Earrings \$14 X =	2016 National Convention Patch \$1 X =		
Anchor & Prop Charm \$ 7 X =	MWAN Playing Cards \$10 X =		
Anchor & Prop Lapel Pin \$ 4 X =	Canvas Key Chain/Stars & Stripes \$6 X =		
Veteran Lapel Pins \$ 4 X =	2016 National Convention Coin \$6 X =		
(USN, USAF, USMC, ARMY)	US Navy WAVES Veteran Magnet \$3 X =		
Little Lady WAVE w/Flag Pin \$4 X =	Mini-Flags Set (MWAN & American)\$10 X =		
Vietnam Era Pins \$6 X =	(flags are 6"x4" with weighted gold base)		
Dogtag Pin (Women Proudly Served) \$5 X =	MWAN Window Decal \$2 X =		
Freedom Forever Eagle Pin \$5 X =	MWAN Magnets \$2 X =		
US Flag & Service Flag Pin \$4 X = (USN, USAF, USMC, ARMY)	MWAN Car Magnet (8" Oval) \$5 X = MWAN Pencils (2 each) \$1 X = MWAN Pens \$2 X =		
USN Hat Pin (Spread Eagle w/USN) \$8 X =	MWAN Pencils (2 each) \$1 X = MWAN Pens \$2 X =		
USN Crest Lapel Pin \$4 X =	WAVES Key Chain, Rubber \$5 X =		
Sister Warrior Pin	MWAN Flags (3'x5') \$80 X =		
US Navy Lapel Pin \$4 X =	MWAN Table Coverings \$120 X =		
USN Patriotic Ribbon Pin \$4 X =	MWAN PopSockets \$10 X =		
POW/MIA Lapel Pin \$5 X =	3 for \$20. X =		
Department of Navy Lapel Pin \$4 X =	NAME BADGE W/MWAN PUCK \$15 X =		
Service Crest Lapel \$4 X =	Double clutch back OR Magnet back (circle one)		
(USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY)			
Service Dogtag Pins \$5 X =	Name on Badge: Nickname/Maiden:		
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PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR MWAN SUPPLY LOCKER

NOTE: MWAN Ladies White Dress Shirt **RUN SMALL** (Ladies cut). POLO Shirts are unisex, sizes run larger; I suggest you order a size smaller.

Military Women Across the Nation PO Box 314 Shattuck OK 73858-0314

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Barbara A. (McCue) Gillis MAL/MA
Sylvia E. (Bergstrom) Brugger MAL/NJ

U.S. Marine Corps

Dolores A. (Petrie) Krech MAL/GA



* Denotes Charter Member of WAVES National Please submit all MWAN member Silver Taps information to Executive Secretary (address on page 10)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE ME (Dues period 1 January to 31 De	MBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM cember)	Please type, print or use address label		
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