

MILITARY *Women's* BULLETIN



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Understanding the moments that matter for Women Veterans

Women make up about 10 percent of the veteran population in the United States and are one of the fastest growing groups of veterans. The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) has pledged to be more responsive as the population of women veterans, including those who are patients at many VA medical facilities across the country, doubles - and in some cases triples - over the next 10 years.

According to research conducted by the Veterans Experience Office at VA Women Outpatient Clinics, while some women veterans say they are well-cared for by their primary care providers, others say their experience needs improvement. During interviews, the group of women veterans, who view their primary care more negatively than positively, shared these comments about their experiences:

"I'm in such pain. Why aren't you, the doctor, treating me? Why aren't you listening to me?"

"When I am assigned a new doctor, they do not take the time to read up on who they are seeing!"

"I want to be treated as a whole person... See me as an individual"

Annual surveys also indicate women veterans have lower trust scores than men. To understand why, the VA is applying human-centered design to understand how women veterans experience outpatient care. By helping document where women veterans experience pain points along their outpatient care journey, the VA can then work to address those pain points. Doing so helps ensure a consistent experience that builds trust within and across VA facilities. Improving care for women veterans in the VA can elevate the standard of care for all veterans.

Key Themes for women Veterans:

- Women need empathy, compassion, respect and responsive customer service at every step of the journey.
- Women need to have a connection with their provider, healthcare team and other women Veterans.
- Women experience unequal care by facility, gender and VA employment status.
- Women sometimes have specialty care needs that are not easily addressed in the current VA structure.
- Women Veterans are eager to be involved in the design of patient experience improvements at VA.

Moments that Matter for women Veterans:

- Talking to a trusted helper
- Scheduling an appointment
- Feeling safe while waiting for an appointment
- Connecting with my care provider
- Connecting with my health care team
- Connecting with other women Veterans

Based on these findings and others, VA is working to improve experiences for women veterans. The Veterans Experience Office is currently engaged in a six-month (completion set for May 2019) "Designing with Care: Women Veterans Project", to bring together

Continued on Page 3, "Building Trust"



Posted March 8, 2019 in Vets Experience, Women Veterans
by Tim Hudak, Source: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/57372/>

→→ **Don't Forget!** ←←

2019 NATIONAL DUES ARE PAST DUE

June Bulletin Input DUE 1 May

Unit President Status Reports DUE 1 June
(Send status reports to respective regional representative)

Volunteer Hours DUE 1 July

Details on all reports are in the MWAN Procedures Manual available at www.milwomen.org

Presidential Ponderings

by Patty Parks, National President

Recently I received a call from Norma Simone of Iron Mountain, MI. She wanted to know why she wasn't getting any information from WAVES National anymore.

It didn't take much research to find Norma was one of hundreds of members who lost touch with her military sisters when her unit was disestablished five or six years ago. She had no one to remind her about paying dues, so she stopped getting her newsletter. Norma is not a computer user, so it wasn't until a kind caregiver offered to help that she found my phone number.

While regional representatives are tasked with keeping in touch with members-at-large, please consider helping out. Regions are so large right now it's nearly impossible for one representative to contact all of her non-unit members.

Give your representative a call (contact info is on page 3) and ask for phone numbers or addresses of a few of the members-at-large living in your state. Then send those gals a card or give them a call. We thrive knowing someone cares about us and what better way to help our sisters than sharing a smile via a note or phone call.

During our conversation, I asked Norma how she was doing and she replied, "Much better now that I've found you."

Make that call, ladies, and brighten someone's day. You will feel the warmth as much as she does.

1st Vice Advice

by Gloria Wix, National 1st Vice President

As first Vice President a large part of my job is to help with recruiting. One of the best ways is to attend anything that may put you in contact with other women veterans. Fund raisers, pancake breakfasts, military service organizations, etc. And always wear something to show you are a woman veteran. A hat, a pin, a shirt; anything to call attention to someone who's also a veteran. Then, START A CONVERSATION!

Always have something to give new acquaintances as a reminder to contact you or MWAN. Business cards are my favorite for this. They are small, relatively inexpensive and easy to have on hand. Whatever you use, make certain it has your personal contact information on it as well as the MWAN web site. Put something in that potential member's hand so she'll be reminded of the meeting.

Also, ask if you can get a phone number or email address to let them know about upcoming events. Then, a few days later, give her a call. Above all, follow up in some way. It's important to show we want them to become a member.

Some units have a computer savvy member who prints cards with unit information, when and where the unit meets, as well as the MWAN website. Unit members can then put their personal names and contact information on the card when giving it away.

Finally, keep your eye out for events veterans are likely to attend. Ask if you can set up a table to give out MWAN information. Many organizations give the space to veterans free. Just ask!

If something works for your unit, it might work for another unit. Let me know so I can pass it along to others.

Let's get the CONVERSATIONS STARTED!

Officers' Call

Volunteer Viewpoints

by Diane Culleton, National Representative for Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS)

Spring is right around the corner and I am sure we are all looking forward to warmer weather. I know I am!

ATTENTION ALL VAVS REPS AND DEPUTY REPS: April is the month for all MWAN Representatives and Deputy Representatives to have their Annual Joint Reviews. This is a required appointment with your individual Volunteer Program Director to discuss the previous year's activities and to make plans for the upcoming year. Please contact your Program Director to schedule this meeting as soon as you can.

I am making plans to attend the Annual VAVS Conference in San Antonio on May 1st where I will present MWAN's \$200 donation to the James H. Parke Scholarship. It is always great to have the opportunity to discuss and learn from the other national representatives from around the country.

We are still in need of Volunteers to meet our required 25 volunteers for MWAN to remain a 'voting member'. Helping make a difference for our veterans is very rewarding. If you can see yourself being that person, becoming a VA volunteer and representing MWAN at your local quarterly committee meetings, please contact me at diane.turcotte30@gmail.com or call me at 207-474-2235.

From the Heart

by Jeanne Hooper, Heartspring Project Chair

Like our membership, Boxtop donations for the Heartspring project have dwindled the past few years, but particularly this past year. We received donations from Kathy Coppings (Unit 94), Anna Crider (MAL, formerly Unit 113), Patty Parks (Unit 157) and my own Sea Breezes (Unit 52). A total of 325 Boxtops were collected this year, plus 100 from a Boxtops App Patty found when she made a purchase of General Mills products at Sam's Club. Sharp eye, Patty!

For new members, or those who may have forgotten, Heartspring is a school in Wichita, Kansas, for children with special needs. Originally known as the Institute of Logopedics and serving children with hearing disabilities, it has blossomed into a school for children with many types of physical and learning disabilities, and is sometimes a last lifeline for parents who have exhausted all other options for finding an education for their children.

Boxtops for Education are the little pink rectangles you find on General Mills products as well as many others. All you need to do is clip them out, toss them in an envelope, and send them on to me. Every Boxtop is worth 10 cents, so every time you throw one away you are throwing away a dime that could be used to help these kids. Many, many thanks to all those who have clipped and collected Boxtops for our Heartspring project!

National Officer & Staff contact Info on Page 10.

2018-2020 Regional Representatives

Region I ~ Pacific: Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico.

Rep: Martha Alderman, 623-810-9328

mmkrokum@gmail.com, Glendale AZ

Alternate: Vacant

Region II ~ Central: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi

Rep: Michele Batliner, 816-315-9229

mbatliner@att.net, Blue Springs MO

Alternate: Ann Roberts, 816-469-0271

annroberts977@gmail.com, Liberty MO

Region III ~ Great Lakes: Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky

Rep: Jennifer Baun 314-803-8643

jennifer.baun@att.net, Youngstown OH

Alternate: Pam Pamperin, 920-954-8445

ppamperin@new.rr.com

Region IV ~ Northeast: Maine, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland

Rep: Paula Witcher, 302-365-5450

paula.witcher@vmcenter.org, Newark DE

Alternate: Vacant

Region V ~ Mid-Atlantic: District of Columbia, Alabama, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia

Rep: Jill Blakeney, 919-932-9365

jillpickle@bellsouth.net, Chapel Hill NC

Alternate: Beth Wingfield, 706-517-6111

shooterbw@yahoo.com, Crandall GA

Region VI ~ Sunshine: Florida

Rep: Christie Parker-Wheeler, 352-949-4675

christie@wadeandchristie.com, Archer FL

Alternate: Jouay Koppari, 813-684-1668

jouayk@verizon.net, Valrico FL

Building Trust (Continued from Page 1)

the people who are closest to the women veterans' primary care experience; VA providers and based on their human-centered design feedback, create resources that will improve the primary care visit experience and increase their trust in VA.

Available online is the 40-page VA Women Veterans Experience Journey Book (Link information below). The book addresses moments that matter to women veterans. While this guide is not representative of every aspect of all women's experiences with VA healthcare, it is a starting point of how VA can best build trust.

(https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Updated_Women-Vets-Storybook_small1.pdf)

DACOWITS Releases 2018 Annual Report

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS) released its 2018 annual report on March 11, 2019. DACOWITS provides the secretary of defense with recommendations on matters and policies relating to the recruitment, retention, employment, integration, well-being, and treatment of women in the U.S. armed forces via a comprehensive annual report. The report is available online (<https://dacowits.defense.gov/>) and includes detailed reasoning supporting each recommendation addressed by the committee.

During 2018, DACOWITS gathered information from multiple sources, to include briefings and written responses from DOD, service-level military representatives, and subject matter experts. The committee collected qualitative data from focus groups and interactions with service members representing the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard during installation visits. Additionally, the committee examined peer-reviewed literature.

Based upon the data collected and analyzed, the committee submitted nine recommendations and one continuing concern to the secretary of defense on the following topics: marketing strategies, gender integration, Marine Corps recruit training, personal protective equipment and gear, healthy unit climate, parental leave policies, performance evaluations, and transition assistance.

Established in 1951, DACOWITS is one of the oldest Department of Defense (DOD) Federal Advisory Committees. The committee was created following the signing of the 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act to assist with recruiting. Over the years, the DACOWITS charter has expanded, enabling the committee to submit numerous recommendations to the secretary of defense. The majority of proposals have been either fully or partially implemented. DACOWITS has made significant contributions on topics including the opening of closed positions to women; improvements to the health of deployed servicewomen; increased marketing, accession, and recruitment of women; and increased parental leave authorizations.

Go Paperless!

Get your newsletter
Quicker & in **COLOR**
via email!

Send an email to
secretary@milwomen.org

Put "Go Paperless!" in the subject box
Include your name,
MWAN ID number & email address.

Instead of a paper copy,
Your next newsletter will arrive by email,
in **COLOR—!!!**

Thinking about hosting a national convention?

From the home of Hershey's Kisses in Pennsylvania to Waikiki Beach in Hawaii, and from sunny Orlando, Florida, to the sultry coves of Portland, Oregon, military women have traveled far and wide during the past 40 years to attend our biennial national conventions.

Do you know how convention sites are determined, or who selects and coordinates the meetings, meals and entertainment? The fact is, each convention is put together by MWAN members just like you.

The effort requires a team of 15 to 20 people. For this reason, only units are currently permitted to organize conventions. However, if you are part of a group of 15 to 20 members-at-large, you are only four meetings and a few months from becoming a unit! (Please contact our 2nd Vice President for details!)

As with any worthwhile endeavor, there is a lot of work involved, but many military sisters who have helped on past conventions are happy to offer tips and insight to the coordination effort. Also, the MWAN Procedures Manual contains a detailed timeline to help keep you on track. If that isn't enough guidance, there are "Lessons Learned" on file from at least the past 10 conventions offering many particulars on what to do, and – perhaps more importantly – what NOT to do!

And, as usually happens with any meaningful venture, the benefits far outweigh the effort. As you can see by the 2016 and 2018 National Convention Report Summaries* to the right, MWAN is financially strengthened by an efficient, well-attended convention. Furthermore, while the unit or units coordinating the event have always profited, thanks to a 2017 MWAN Board of Directors decision, the unit(s) now keep 50% of the proceeds for working a convention.

In addition to the financial gain, a national organization holding its biennial convention is newsworthy. The media coverage gained while showing off unique aspects of your community, city or state is like free advertising for your unit!

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits to hosting a national convention is the camaraderie the effort builds between unit members. With so many tasks to complete, there is some way for each member to offer her specialty when lending a hand. Whether making jewelry to sell in the convention store; collecting donations from businesses anxious to get their wares in front of women veterans; stuffing goody bags; taking photos, or making decorations, there is something for everyone to do when planning a huge gathering.

So, while you are saving and planning to attend our next MWAN National Convention - set for September 2020 at Put in Bay, Ohio – consider all the benefits to hosting a national convention in your own backyard.

For more information about hosting a future national convention please contact our National Time and Place Chair Patty Koppari at "pak53@att.net" or 321-723-1697

* Detailed financial reports for past conventions are on file with the National Treasurer and may be viewed upon request by any MWAN member in good standing.

2016 National Convention Financial Report Tunica MS, 85 Members & 21 Guests

Income:

Seed Money from National	3,016.99	
Registrations, Ads, Sales, Donations, etc.	22,856.80	
	Gross Profit	25,873.79

Expenses

Tours, Meals, Sound Systems, Meeting Rooms, etc.	-20,356.42	
Seed Money to National	-3,016.99	
	Net Profit	2,500.38
75% Profit to National	-1,875.21	
25% Profit to Host Units/Split 3 ways	-625.17	

Sister Assistance from National	1,659.78
Sister Assistance Donations	745.00
Sisters Assisted (3 at \$180 each)	-540.00
Sister Assistance to National	1,864.78

2018 National Convention San Diego CA, 62 Members & 20 Guests

Income:

Seed Money from National	3016.99	
Registrations, Ads, Sales, Raffles, Donations, etc.	24,550.17	
	Gross Profit	27,567.16

Expenses

Tours, Meals, Sound System, Meeting Rooms, Photo Booth, etc.	-20,834.02	
** Seed Money to National	-3,000.00	
	Net Profit	3,733.14
50% Profit to National	-1,866.57	
50% Profit to Host Units	-1,866.57	

Sister Assistance from National	1,864.78
Sister Assistance Donations	530.00
Sisters Assisted (No requests)	0.00
Sister Assistance to National	2,394.78

** Seed money was never removed from the Convention Checking Account but was thought to be an even \$3000. The full amount of seed money was replenished, but convention accounting reflects a \$16.99 discrepancy.

VA | #VETERANOFTHEDAY

Veteran of the Day has been a tradition on VA's social media pages for more than two years. Each post gets thousands of views, likes, comments and shares. Since this is a daily publication, we're always in need of nominations. If you know a veteran who deserves to be recognized, please refer to this guide to nominate him or her.

#VeteranOfTheDay works best with three to five good photos — at least one should be in uniform. Bigger is better and good resolution is important. Consider scanning a physical photo if a digital copy is not readily available. Send the photos with the following information (if known):

◆Name, branch, occupation, and years of service (Susan "Sue" Lawson, Navy, USS Kennedy, 2006 to 2011)

◆Tours, deployments, campaigns (OIF, OEF, Vietnam, Gulf War, etc.)

◆Notable awards (Purple Heart, Bronze star, NAM, Army Achievement, etc.)

◆Current geographic location (so we can localize the story and promote to the community)

◆Bonus info includes what they're doing now, significant moment(s) during service and other unique information.

Send all material to "newmedia@va.gov". In the subject line, put "[Veteran's name] for Veteran of the Day." Include as much of the requested material as possible. It is needed to properly complete and publish a Veteran of the Day.

Every Veteran is worthy of recognition. They do not need to meet any other criteria other than having honorably served their country. Some recent selections are below:



(Above) Army veteran and Iraqi War Purple Heart recipient Connie Spinks. (Below) Air Force veteran aircraft mechanic Alexandria Sawin.



(Above) WWII Coast Guard veteran Olivia Hooker who recently passed away. More Veterans of the Day may be viewed at <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/category/veteran/>



Appeals Modernization Act now in effect

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented the 2017 Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, which represents one of the most significant statutory changes to benefit veterans in decades.

According to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, the act is a direct result of collaboration among VA, Congress and veteran service organizations to deliver on veterans' longstanding desire for reform of the legacy appeals system.

Veterans who appeal a VA claims decision now have three review options: **Higher-Level Review**, **Supplemental Claim** and **Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals**.

In the Higher-Level Review option, a more experienced adjudicator will conduct a new review of the previous decision. Veterans who select the Supplemental Claim option may submit new and relevant evidence, and the VA will assist in developing new evidence under its duty to assist. If Veterans appeal a decision to the Board, they can choose one of three dockets: direct review, evidence or hearing.

VA's goal is to complete Supplemental Claims and Higher-Level Reviews in an average of 125 days, and decisions appealed to the Board for direct review in an average of 365 days. Under the previously-used legacy process, decisions averaged three to seven years.

VA remains committed to reducing significantly the inventory of legacy appeals. VA's fiscal year 2019 budget included funding for 605 additional appeals employees, which VA used to establish two new Decision Review Operations Centers at the St. Petersburg, Florida, and Seattle, Washington, regional offices. The former Appeals Resource Center in Washington, D.C., was converted to a third Decision Review Operations Center.

The collaboration Wilkie spoke of was a March 2016 VA sponsored an "Appeals Summit" in which VA, veterans service organizations, veterans advocates and Congress worked together to design a new appeals system. The summit resulted in the Appeals Modernization Act.

More information on the Appeals Modernization Act may be obtained by visiting <http://www.va.gov/decision-reviews> or by contacting your nearest Veteran Service Officer.



Sound Off!

KEYSTONE WOMEN VETERANS

Unit #6 (PA) - We've been busy with usual military events. We attended the annual luncheon at Coatesville VA Medical Center, honoring all military women. We rode in vintage vehicles in the Veterans Day Parade and had our free lunch Sunday November 11th at Texas Roadhouse.

Our Christmas meeting was hosted at Coast Guard Station with all members renewing for another year. We also attended Veterans Night at Media Theater with a reception for all veterans and recognition of a combat veteran prior to a performance of the Wizard of Oz.

Several members visited Gladys Felice, our former Keynotes editor, at her new home at Southeastern Veterans Center in Spring City where we made plans to celebrate her birthday. On Saturday, February 23rd a party was hosted there by her daughters, Mary and Jeannie.

For meeting information contact Ruthie at 610-356-8956.



Party attendees were (L-R) Louise Manz, Billie Taddei, Gladys Martin, Gladys Felice, Ruthie Severino & Tina Crowding.

HEART OF AMERICA

Unit #9 (KS) - Region II will be host a Regional Conference in late July or early August (if we can thaw out by then, LOL). For more information, contact Michele (contact info below).

Unit members celebrated their annual Christmas Party at Stroud's Restaurant December 1st. An anonymous donor picked up our tab! Our first meeting of the new year is set for Saturday, April 27th. **Call Michele Batliner at 816-315-9229 or mbatliner@att.net** for more info.



(L-R) Members Nellie Crokek, Darlene Miella, Phyllis Rosales, guests Teresa Johnson, Zoe Pickens, and Kathy Miller, member Elaine Kirk & guest Sylvia Tanner.

SAN DIEGO STARS AND STRIPES

Unit #36 (CA) - The unit hosted a Valentine Tea at the Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH) on February 2nd. The event was well attended. Everyone shared tales of military time, enjoyed the delicious food and all then participated in drawings for holiday themed prizes. Before leaving, the ladies at CVVH were given Valentines.



(L-R) Carol Weiss, Jan Gustavel, Shirley Ferrill, Patricia Coates (our newest member!), Pandora Menegus, Holly Schaffer, a CVVH resident & Roxanne Jones.

Several ladies of the unit participated in a BUNCO luncheon at the San Diego Women's Club (SDWC). This club raises funds to donate to various community projects and chose our pillow project for the month of February. A check for \$500 was presented to Shirley Ferrill and Pandora Menegus at the February 19th club meeting. We are most appreciative of the generous donation. The latest figure for completed neck pillows is nearing 8,000!



(L-R) SDWC Treasurer Katrina Farrand, Unit 36 members Shirley Ferrill, Pandora Menegus, & SDWC President Sandy Leubben.

We welcomed two new members – Patricia Coates and Kathleen D'Avanzo - since December and hope to have another member (a Coastie) shortly who just happened to be at the CVVH promoting the Honor Flight Program.

Our next meeting is April 6th. For unit information contact Roxanne at roxanne.i.jones@navy.mil or 619-545-6546.



SEA BREEZES

Unit #52 (FL) - This is a somewhat late report about the Sea Breezes last meeting, which was our annual Christmas party, held at the Oar House on December 15th. Delicious food, good company and a wild Dirty Santa game made for a relaxing holiday celebration.

Unit members also collected paper products for Favor House, a local Women's shelter, for which we received a lovely thank you note. This "reporter" did not attend, as she had just returned from a month plus long trip Down Under and overslept. Our unit currently meets quarterly at the Oar House.

GULF COAST UNIT

Unit #56 (FL) - Our Unit has been active supporting many veteran activities in our local area. Laura Thompson continues to spearhead our monthly teas to delight sister veterans at the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home. Of course, the February theme was Valentine's Day with bright red hearts and flowers. The cupcakes and decorations were donated by Mary Lou Sabin. Unit members signed little cards and Laura Thompson (Right) played "cupid" so each guest received many Happy Valentine wishes.



(L-R) Marie Annen/Army, who shared the beautiful flowers from her family; Denise Costa; 100-year-old Jennie Karey/Navy, & Blanche Deschenes/Navy



(L-R) Janice Marion/Army, Virginia Mros/Army, Kim Werla & Janice Caldwell/Army

Additionally, unit members Laura Thompson, Darlene Mosser-Kerner and Kim Werla support the weekly Bingo game sponsored by the Patriot Riders. The men and women residents have a great time laughing at the Patriot Riders' fun attitude and winning prizes.

Sound Off!



(L-R) Janice Caldwell/Army; new unit member Donna Rae Hitchcock, Esther Brunsdale/Navy & Glory Specht/Army.



Unit 56 Vice President Dotty Savasky provided MWAN information and other veteran services information at the City of North Port New Comers' Day, a quarterly event.

REDWOOD EMPIRE

Unit #77 (CA) - Unit members participated in a military women recognition event at the local called: "Women Veterans Then and Now: Stories of service and sacrifice".

Several ladies formed a panel of veterans who recounted their experiences during World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf wars. They revealed the changing perspectives on women in military service through the personal reflections of women from different generations.



Panel participants (pictured L-R in their respective period uniforms) were Mary Lou Loustalot/WWII; Emily Sousa/ Korean War; Kate O'Hare Palmer/Vietnam War & Lisa Lim/ Gulf War.

For National Women's History Month we joined our Coast Guard sisters and brothers for a luncheon on March 14th at the USCG base at Two Rock in Petaluma.

We continue to bring more women veterans and active duty women into our unit through community involvement and community service. Kate O'Hare Palmer and Rose Nowak contributed stories of their military service to an upcoming book on the Vietnam War.

Sound Off!

VOLUNTEER

UNIT #94 (TN) – Several unit members recently attended a ceramics-making class in Nashville.



(Above L-R) Stephanie Ward, Chris Huber, 1st civilian guest, 2nd civilian guest, veteran guest & Deanna Allman.
(Below L-R) Linda Cantrell & Lisa Suchenicz.



TRIANGLE WOMEN VETERANS

Unit #144 (NC) - Unit past-president (and our favorite party girl) Norma Schrader celebrated her 99th birthday in January with 20 friends and sister veterans at Squids Restaurant in Chapel Hill. Norma, pictured below with current unit President Pat Childers, retired from the Naval Reserve as a Yeoman Senior Chief (emblem below, right) after serving from 1945 to 1965. That makes her a World War II Veteran and an authentic member of the W.A.V.E.S. (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). Happy Birthday, Norma! May you see many more!



On February 23rd Norma was honored at the Marathon Jam hosted by the Chapel Hill American Legion. She was presented with a quilt of honor (photo below), and was serenaded by both professional and local talent. Norma shared her Navy experience. The Marathon Jam is a 12-hour fund raiser with proceeds benefiting the Fisher Houses at both Ft. Bragg and Camp LeJeune.



MILITARY WOMEN OF TIDEWATER

Unit #152 (VA) - A New Year and a new venue for the unit holiday party and ornament exchange. Kathy Montgomery welcomed the unit to her community center and a great number turned out for fun, good food, and sisterly fellowship and support. We enjoyed each other's company, celebrated the work of 2018 and began work for the New Year. As always, the festivities made for a lively and hilarious afternoon, but the highlight this year was the outpouring of support by members to provide for those affected by the government shut down. Over \$2000 was donated to the Portsmouth Baby Pantry, where young Coast Guard families were wonderfully assisted.



(L-R; Back Row to Front) Vee Charles, Louise Jones, Martha Kastler, Charity Haney, Bobbi Waldren, Davina Tillman, Cathy Schweitzer, Molly Bergeron-Conway, Kelly Armon, Subrina Strauss, Kathy Montgomery, Dassa Carvey, Sheri Ferki, Gaby Morrison, Phyllis Lightfoot, Helen Jakubik, April Maletz, Elaine Musick, Geraldine Rivera, Betty Hand, Brenda Kerr, April Reid & Maggie Cobb

Two special guests joined us at our February meeting. Tracy Uriegas and Jennifer Hafner presented information on the upcoming Virginia International TATTOO, the signature event of the Virginia Arts Festival. Presented annually in Norfolk, the Virginia International Tattoo is an exhibition of military bands, massed pipes and drums, military drill teams, Celtic dancers, and choirs from around the world. This year's event will celebrate women in the military. We are very excited about being part of this event.

March will be active with unit members visiting various commands and presenting oral history on how roles have changed for women in the military over the years.

We meet monthly at VFW 4809, Norfolk, VA. **For meeting information contact Dassa Carvey at (757) 363-3059 or dassahsg@gmail.com.**

TRISTATE WOMEN VETERANS

Unit #157 (TN) – Family & friends joined 13 unit members for a Red Shirt Lunch recently at City Café Diner in Chattanooga. Two or three times each year, a lunch is planned to remind the community of the women veteran population. Each attending member wears a red shirt and something to identify her as a military woman!

Community members rally when we show up and too often we are still hearing, “I didn’t know there were so many women veterans!” On this particular occasion an anonymous benefactor bought an entire cheesecake for our group! We shared it with other veterans in the diner.



(L-R) Guest Travis Holder, newest unit member Anne Munns, unit Volunteer Hours Coordinator Laura Holder & Arline Caligar.



(L-R) Sylvia James, guest Kariana James-Traylor, unit Chaplain Sheila Billings & unit Assistant Treasurer Penny Manna.

Sound Off!



(L-R) Unit Vice President Shelly Galloway, guest Lori Costa, guest Tamaira Madison & Danette Skyles.



(L-R Front) Unit Past President Rita Waller, Renee Chisholm & Deborah James (Back) Unit Treasurer Patty Parks & Michele Lorino

Military Women Across the Nation Units

Unit numbers preceded by a star (★) have **NOT OFFICIALLY** changed names to become units of MWAN. Please contact MWAN National 2nd Vice President as soon as possible to complete the name change process or to provide official documentation showing an official name change dated **AFTER 10 August 2014**.

Arizona 155 Salt River Military Women
California ★036 San Diego Stars & Stripes
 077 Redwood Empire Military Women
 ★086 San Fernando Valley WAVES
Delaware 010 First State Military Women Warriors
Florida 052 Sea Breezes
 055 Military Women of Tampa Bay
 056 Gulf Coast
 074 Lake Country
 104 Pasco Military Women Veterans
Kansas 009 Heart of America
Nebraska 098 Flatwater Women Veterans

New York 026 Leatherstocking
 ★080 Salt City Blues
North Carolina 144 Triangle Women Veterans
Ohio 021 Northeast Ohio Women Veterans
Pennsylvania 006 Keystone Women Veterans
 ★028 Three Rivers
Rhode Island 118 Ocean State
 158 New England Military Women
Tennessee 094 Volunteer Unit
 151 Memphis Belles
 157 TriState Women Veterans
Virginia 152 Military Women of Tidewater
Wisconsin 153 Fox Cities

Military Women Across the Nation National Officers & Staff 2018 – 2020

President

Patty PARKS
6920 Sawtooth Drive
Ooltewah TN 37363-6894
423-326-0839
president@milwomen.org

1st Vice President

Gloria WIX
123 March Place
Mount Juliet TN 37122-2573
615-443-4138
gloriawix@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President

GinaMarie DOHERTY
10 Osage Drive
Middletown RI 02842-4522
401-500-1721
yncsgrd@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Debbie CRUTCHFIELD
220 Crestridge Drive
Lexington SC 29073-7210
803-348-2789
twonavychiefs@gmail.com

Treasurer

Terry TAYLOR
10105 E Via Linda, Ste 103-253
Scottsdale AZ 85258-5362
480-577-5163
terryinaz@hotmail.com

Parliamentarian

Shirley CRAWFORD
2244 N. Edgemere Street
Phoenix AZ 85006-1706
602-750-8779
proudvetusaf@cox.net

National Exec Committee Board Members

Michelle Batliner **NEC RRII**
5305 NW Pennington Lane
Blue Springs MO 64015-2379
816-315-9229
mbatliner@att.net

Jennifer BAUN, **NEC RRIII**
4068 Lockwood Boulevard
Youngstown OH 44511-3564
314-803-8643
jennifer.baun@att.net

Executive Secretary

Ginger DANIELS
PO Box 314
Shattuck OK 73858-0314
580-938-2310
shuwave@pdi.net

Bylaws Chair

Vicki OREM
3702 Fairfield Way
Southport NC 28461-8119
910-363-5019
vborem2@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Denise DUKE
41121 Highway 69
Gallion AL 36742-2716
334-289-3142
deniseduke@wildblue.net

Public Relations Chair

Susan LINDSEY
2600 Brown Ridge Lane
Hixson TN 37343-1879
423-802-5426
svlindsey8108@comcast.net

Chaplain

Patty KOPPARI
708 Fairhaven St. N.E.
Palm Bay FL 32907-3175
321-723-1697
Pak53@att.net

Supply Locker Officer

Linda COFFIELD
95 Vernon Street
Atoka TN 38004-7771
901-488-4153
LindyC1951@gmail.com

Volunteer Hours Chair

Kathy DESJARLAIS
313 Andy Drive
Drummonds TN 38023-8923
901-837-4736
gkd9@aol.com

Scholarship Chair

Barb Turner
9105 Shoshone Trail
Flower Mound TX 75022-7040
817-491-4555
MWANscholarship@milwomen.org

VAWS National Rep

Diane CULLETON
40 Brittany Drive
Skowhegan ME 04976
207-474-2235
diane.turcotte30@gmail.com

VA Medical/Health Chair

Ruth STORCK
19079 Roadside Avenue
Bridgeville DE 19933
302-519-0701
Storck19079@outlook.com

HerStorian:

Patty PARKS
6920 Sawtooth Drive
Ooltewah TN 37363-6894
423-326-0839
pattyjoparks@yahoo.com

Heartspring Project Chair

Jeanne HOOPER
6398 Lake Charlene Dr.
Pensacola FL 32506-5762
850-458-0440
JCHooper@cox.net

Time & Place Chair

Patty KOPPARI
708 Fairhaven St. N.E.
Palm Bay FL 32907-3175
321-723-1697
Pak53@att.net

Webmaster

Lynne PINE
989 Cordova Dr.
Chula Vista CA 91910
507-400-9111
lynne@milwomen.org



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!
<hr/>		
OLD Address:	<hr/>	
NEW Address:	<hr/>	
City:	State:	Zip:
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Email:	<hr/>	
Phone:	Effective Date:	
<hr/>	<hr/>	
<p>Mail to: Ginger Daniels, Executive Secretary P.O. Box 314, Shattuck OK 73858-0314 OR Email to: Secretary@MilWomen.org</p>		

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

To have your newsletter mailed **FIRST CLASS** which includes forwarding service, please send your request along with \$7.50 to our National Treasurer (listed above).

**PLEASE CONSIDER RECEIVING
YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL.**

Contact Secretary@MilWomen.org for details

MWAN Supply Locker

APRIL 2019

Name: _____ (Why not use a return address label here!)

Address: _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Did you circle the type/size and/or color on items?? **Double Check please!** **Phone Number: () _____

Price per piece...X Number you want = total cost for item(s)

PATCHES

MWAN 2½" (caps) \$ 3 X _____ = _____
 MWAN 3" (shirts) \$ 4 X _____ = _____
 MWAN 8½" (vest) \$10 X _____ = _____
 US Navy WAVES Veteran (circle) \$4 X _____ = _____
 Patches: Navy Flag or Services \$4 X _____ = _____
 (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY)
 American Flag Patch (3½"x2") \$4 X _____ = _____
 Proud to Serve (square) \$5 X _____ = _____
 Women are Veterans, Too \$5 X _____ = _____
 WAVES Anchor (old style) \$4 X _____ = _____
 Vietnam Era Eagle \$6 X _____ = _____

JEWELRY & PINS

MWAN Coin \$10 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Lapel pin \$ 4 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Charm \$ 7 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Earrings \$12 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Coin Keychain \$12 X _____ = _____
 Watch, USN WAVES \$30 X _____ = _____
 Original Hat Pin \$10 X _____ = _____
 Anchor & Prop Earrings \$14 X _____ = _____
 Anchor & Prop Charm \$ 7 X _____ = _____
 Anchor & Prop Lapel Pin \$ 4 X _____ = _____
 Veteran Lapel Pins \$ 4 X _____ = _____
 (USN, USAF, USMC, ARMY)
 Little Lady WAVE w/Flag Pin \$4 X _____ = _____
 Dogtag Pin (Women Proudly Served) \$5 X _____ = _____
 Freedom Forever Eagle Pin \$5 X _____ = _____
 US Flag & Service Flag Pin \$4 X _____ = _____
 (USN, USAF, USMC, ARMY)
 USN Hat Pin (Spread Eagle w/USN) \$8 X _____ = _____
 USN Crest Lapel Pin \$4 X _____ = _____
 Sister Warrior Pin \$5 X _____ = _____
 US Navy Lapel Pin \$4 X _____ = _____
 USN Patriotic Ribbon Pin \$4 X _____ = _____
 POW/MIA Lapel Pin \$5 X _____ = _____
 Department of Navy Lapel Pin \$4 X _____ = _____
 Service Crest Lapel \$4 X _____ = _____
 (USN, USAF, USMC, USCG, ARMY)
 Service Dogtag Pins \$5 X _____ = _____
 (USN, USAF, USMC, ARMY)

Shipping Cost

Up to \$40 = \$8; \$41-\$100 = \$15; \$101 & above = \$20
 Check/MO #: _____

No Phone Orders.

Make checks/Money Orders payable to **MWAN SUPPLY LOCKER**

Mail check with Order Form to: Linda Coffield, 95 Vernon Street, Atoka, TN 38004-7771

Questions? Call: (901) 488-4153 or Email: LindyC1951@gmail.com

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Hope you all have a blessed Easter and get to enjoy it with your families.

NOTE: MWAN Ladies White Dress Shirts **RUN SMALL** (Ladies cut)

POLO Shirts are unisex & SIZES RUN LARGER; I suggest you order a size smaller

MWAN CLOTHING ITEMS

Neck Tabs, Black w/Velcro \$12 X _____ = _____
 Garrison Caps (includes patch) \$23 X _____ = _____
 Sizes: 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26
 MWAN Visor \$12 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Ball Cap \$12 X _____ = _____
 MWAN T-Shirt \$15 X _____ = _____
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
 MWAN Polo Shirt \$30 X _____ = _____
Gray or White Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
 MWAN Jacket \$32 X _____ = _____
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
 MWAN Sweatshirt \$22 X _____ = _____
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
 MWAN White Dress Shirt \$34 X _____ = _____
 Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL

ITEMS OF INTEREST

MWAN Mouse Pad \$6 X _____ = _____
 American Veteran Bracelet \$5 X _____ = _____
 2016 National Convention Patch \$1 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Playing Cards \$10 X _____ = _____
 Canvas Key Chain/Stars & Stripes \$6 X _____ = _____
 2016 National Convention Coin \$6 X _____ = _____
 US Navy WAVES Veteran Magnet \$3 X _____ = _____
 Mini-Flags Set (MWAN & American) \$10 X _____ = _____
 (flags are 6"x4" with weighted gold base)
 MWAN Window Decal \$2 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Magnets \$2 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Car Magnet (8" Oval) \$5 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Pencils (2 each) \$1 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Pens \$2 X _____ = _____
 WAVES Key Chain, Rubber \$5 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Flags (3'x5') \$80 X _____ = _____
 MWAN Table Coverings \$120 X _____ = _____
 MWAN PopSockets \$10 X _____ = _____
 3 for \$25. X _____ = _____

NAME BADGE W/MWAN PUCK \$15 X _____ = _____

Double clutch back **OR** Magnet back (circle one)

Name on Badge: _____

Nickname/Maiden: _____

Unit or Other Info: _____

Branch: _____ Years / From _____ To _____

(**Use back of form if you need more space**)

Subtotal: \$ _____

ADD Shipping: \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____



Silver Taps

U.S. Navy

Marian (Morasco) Glorig	056/FL
Claire L. (Smith) Grubbs *	077/Philippines
Eleanor B. (Smith) Brewer	155/AZ
Ruby (Randall) Birss	MAL/CA
Anne (Quaglia) Boyd *	MAL/CA
Cleona R. (Willcoxon) McGuire	MAL/CA
Esther E. Ellspermann	MAL/MO
Cathryn R. (Hoyt) Schaefer *	MAL/MO
Ruth (Tonry) Veverka	MAL/NY
Mary (Allen) Cox	MAL/VA
Lucille G. Formanek	MAL/WA

U.S. Coast Guard

Anna (Pulito) Skory	MAL/CT
Alice H. (Cox) Wagner	MAL/WI



Gone but not forgotten

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

MEMBER-AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

(Dues period 1 January to 31 December)

Name: _____ Member ID #: _____ *Please type, print or use address label*

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

NOTE: Future newsletters will be sent via email. If you Prefer A Printed Copy, please check here ☐

Phone: _____ *Life Membership for those 90 years & older is a one-time payment of \$30.*

National Dues for 1 year are **\$25.00** + Tax Deductible Donation \$ _____ = Total Amount: \$ _____

Please enclose a check or money order made payable to "MWAN", and submit with this form to:

Terry Taylor, National Treasurer, 10105 E Via Linda, Ste 103-253, Scottsdale AZ 85258-5362

First-time applicants must use the MWAN membership application available online at www.milwomen.org