



THE OAKLEAF

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2016

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VETERAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sandy Holmes

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Photographers- Barbara Anderson

Eleanor Masters

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are certainly having beautiful warm weather for February and March. Where has El Nino disappeared to?

Once again, everyone was so generous at the General Meeting/Luncheon in January held at Talega. We collected \$1165 in cash plus a large trunk load of canned/boxed foods and other needed items for Military Outreach Ministry at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Many, many thanks to you all.

Congratulations to Tina Hooker for being selected as the NNCASC Member of the Year for 2015. Tina has been a long time member and has chaired the General Meeting/Luncheon Committee for many years as well as pinch-hitting for the Caring and Sharing Committee. Tina manages all the reservations and money end of the luncheons as well as food selection for Miramar location. (We owe Mary Flanigan many thanks for the wonderful meals we enjoy at Talega).

Just to let you know since I just mentioned Talega—we will be increasing the cost of the Talega lunch to \$25 due to increased costs for the golf club and employee per hour pay increases mandated by the State. We have enjoyed a very good meal there for many years that has been worth more than the \$20 we have paid. And they have been so accommodating for us that the NNCASC Board approved the increase. I will not be surprised to see the same issue come up with Miramar.

Thank you all for the quick reply for the 2016 Membership Renewal process. We are well on our way to over 50% completion already. This

is thanks to Georgene who has a well-organized process going and to Kim at NNCA who gets our forms to us early so we can get such a head start at the January luncheon meeting. We are almost ready to tabulate the survey forms that were returned. The return rate has been excellent. They are currently in a shoebox and have not been opened to control the anonymous process. Thank you to all who completed the survey and the renewal.

The April 16 luncheon is at Miramar on a Saturday. We will celebrate the Nurse Corps Birthday as well as have opportunity drawings. Please plan to attend and bring someone new. It is a buffet lunch. We hope to have a new compilation video of some of the Viet Nam Veteran oral histories available for viewing during the luncheon social hour.

On that note, I want to share that I did complete my oral history recently with Barbara Beeby and DJ Lavoie being the interviewer and the camera operator. I researched my boxes in the garage and my memory bank for what I wanted to say. It brought back so many memories, experiences, and stories for me. Just looking through my “stuff” not only made me think but also made me wonder what to do with it all (that is another project for another day). I hope everyone will record their history. I know people are saying “I have nothing to say or I did not do anything noteworthy”. I do not believe one has to have done something “spectacular” (whatever that means) in the Nurse Corps to have an oral history to share. This is MY story and I am sticking to it!!! is my motto for this project.

Hope to see everyone at the Luncheon on the 16th of April at Miramar.

Becky Nulty

CARING & SHARING

Juanita Hutchens Gordon, NNCA member and generous donor to our chapter, passed away on January 4, 2016.



Betty Nimits, NNCA & NNCASC charter member, died February 19, 2016. She chaired the first NNCA reunion in San Diego in 1988. At the NNCA 1998 reunion in San Diego, she received the NNCA Award for

Clinical Excellence for her work in developing and conducting a preoperative orientation program for children at Balboa.

Non-member, **LCDR Betty Stokley**, a long time North County resident, passed away on February 29, 2016.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers: Rae Leff, and Eleanor Masters.

If you hear or learn of the passing of a Navy Nurse and/or NNCASC member, a local Navy Nurse Corps officer, or one of their family members, please notify NNCASC President Becky Nulty. Notify Elaine Dlouhy at 858-277-7471 or e-mail her at: maisyet39@gmail.com if you know of local Navy Nurses who are ill or hospitalized.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April 16 Saturday	NNCASC Luncheon Miramar
April 25-May 1	NNCA Homecoming Reunion Newport, RI
May 5	Veterans Home Golf Classic-Eastlake
May 10	Board Meeting
May 14	All Nurses' Ball Catamaran Resort

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Greetings Everyone,

By now each of you should have received by regular mail or email the 2016-2017 NNCA/NNCASC Membership Form. We were given the choice to join or renew online, or return the pre-filled in membership form that NNCA prepared for your convenience.

We want to thank all of you who have responded so promptly; so far we have received 111 membership forms and dues, which is approximately a 65% return in the first month!! This is very much appreciated. Please remember the due date is 31 March 2016.

We would also like to extend a special welcome to **three new NNCA & NNCASC** members:

Elizabeth Keltner
Ann Hanlon
Linda Shinn

Many NNCASC surveys are also coming in. Right now they are all in a box, unopened and waiting to be reviewed. Your comments and suggestions will be compiled and presented to the Board at the May business meeting. We will keep you posted on the 'overall' feedback from our members who responded.

In the next couple of months you should all be getting your updated NNCA Directory; either online or a hard copy depending on what you requested. Please let us know if there are any problems receiving this.

Each and every one of our chapter members brings much experience, talent, valuable Navy Nurse Corps history, and amazing stories to share. Sustaining our membership numbers is a vital and ongoing effort, so we hope we all continue to encourage more new memberships in the future. We will be happy to get a

membership form and introduction letter to anyone by mail or electronically. We can be reached at:

Georgene B. Waecker Membership Chair
2829 Ocean Village Way
Oceanside, CA 92054
760-722-0724
George19@cox.net

Terri Snow Membership Co-Chair
6991 Goldstone Road
Carlsbad, CA 92009
619-855-1632
Snowwoman1972@yahoo.com

Thanks again to everyone for reaching out and networking whenever possible. The combined efforts made by all will make our organization stronger, and remember we are always in need of volunteers to serve on our many committees. Wishing everyone a wonderful spring season!!

Georgene Waecker & Terri Snow

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fourth Quarter 2015
Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU)

NFCU Checking	\$ 2565.09
Share Savings	\$ 5229.31
NFCU Savings-Scholarship	\$32835.54
<u>General/Memorial Fund</u>	<u>\$19425.71</u>
TOTAL ON HAND	\$60055.65

For tax purposes, a NNCA donation letter is enclosed to use for any donations you have made to the chapter in 2014 for under \$250. If our donation exceeded \$250, the treasurer will send you a formal letter/receipt.

Special thanks to **Janet Helleckson** and **Easty Law** who conducted an audit on February 2, 2016 of the treasurer's books and receipts.

VETERAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Contributed by Sandy Holmes

We were delighted to welcome Megan Correa, the Director of the Military Outreach Ministry or MOM at our January luncheon. It is no wonder that the junior enlisted personnel and their families at Camp Pendleton are in need of our assistance!! Megan related how things have changed on base. For instance, to use the gym now, you must pay a fee. If your electric bill for your quarters is "over the designated limit" you must pay the difference! Consequently, the bags and bags and bags of food you donated, which was enough to completely fill up the backseat and the trunk of her car, was totally appreciated. Likewise, the \$200.00 from our Treasury along with the \$965.00 when we "passed the hat" will allow Megan to purchase Commissary gift cards and provide other essentials for the young families MOM assists.

In her note to the Chapter, Megan wrote,

“Thank you so much for the opportunity to be your guest speaker, at last month's luncheon. It was an honor to meet all of the members of the Nurse Corps who have given so much to, our military. Military Outreach Ministry could not continue to do our work without your support. The generous donations of food will be used at our monthly Farmers Market. We service approximately 500 military families stationed aboard Camp Pendleton monthly. The monetary donations will be used to purchase food items we are in need of, for our Farmers Market.

We also, are in need of household items, decorative items, furniture and baby and children items. They can be new or gently used. No stains, holes etc...”

Sincerely,

Megan Correa

Associate Director

Military Outreach Ministry (MOM4USA)

MOM4USA



Megan Correa and Becky Nulty loading donations for the Military Outreach Ministry

Homes for Our Troops



Homes for Our Troops (HFOT) is a privately funded 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization building specially adapted, mortgage-free homes nationwide for the most severely injured Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. Most of these Veterans have sustained injuries including multiple limb amputations, partial or full paralysis, and/or severe traumatic brain injury (TBI).

These homes restore some of the freedom and independence our Veterans sacrificed while defending our country, and enable them to focus on their family, recovery, and rebuilding their lives. Since its inception in 2004, nearly 90 cents of every dollar donated to Homes for Our Troops has gone directly to our program services for Veterans. HFOT builds these homes where the Veteran chooses to live, and continues its relationship with the Veterans after home delivery to assist them with rebuilding their lives.

Building Homes and Rebuilding Lives

HFOT builds homes as a departure point for these Veterans to rebuild their lives, and once again become highly productive members of society. Despite their life-altering injuries, many of our Veterans have embarked on new careers, completed their college degrees, or started families. Empowered by the freedom a mortgage-free and specially adapted home brings, these Veterans can now focus on their recovery and returning to their life's work of serving others.

Many have embraced their roles as motivational speakers, sharing their messages of persevering through tragedy with groups and classrooms around the country; others take to a national platform to promote awareness of veteran suicide, homelessness and PTSD. Their incredible stories – far too numerous to include on one page – are the driving force for the work we do here at HFOT. We encourage you to read more about their amazing stories on their website: <http://www.hfotusa.org/rebuilding>

Building on Success

Since 2004, HFOT has built over 200 specially adapted homes nationwide. Their goal is to build a home for every Veteran who qualifies for specially adapted homes. View their active project list: <https://www.hfotusa.org/map>

Top Rated Charity

Charity Navigator has awarded HFOT its highest evaluation of 4 Stars for five consecutive years, indicating that Homes for Our Troops outperforms most other charities in America. Charity Watch has awarded HFOT an A rating and was included its list of Top-Rated Military & Veterans Charities. Learn more: <http://www.hfotusa.org/charity-ratings>

Since its inception in 2004, nearly 90 cents of every dollar donated to HFOT has gone directly

to their program services for veterans. The average cost to construct each specially adapted home nationwide runs \$430,000. As soon as HFOT has the designated funds, the search for a lot begins. Then comes the ground breaking ceremony. Last month our local NBC evening news featured Marine Corps Sergeant Toran Gaal's ground-breaking ceremony for his home in Valley Center. Six to nine months from now, his home will be ready for Volunteer Day when the landscaping is done by volunteers from our area. Shortly thereafter, Sgt Gaal and his family will be given the keys to their new home during a special Key Ceremony.

How can NNCASC Help?

Besides Sgt Gaal, LCPL Jorge Ortiz will receive his home in Valley Center in May and there are three more USMC veterans in our area (Fallbrook, Temecula and San Diego) who have all been approved for homes and are just waiting for their lots. Our "Pass the Hat" donations can be sent to HFOT headquarters and designated to go towards the purchase of the lots for these vets right here in the San Diego area or we can use these funds towards the purchase of landscaping plants and sod for one of the homes.

We can all volunteer and participate during Volunteer Day. We can also work with the local HFOT representative who is the liaison with the vet and provide food to fill the pantry along with a Welcome Basket of towels, sheets and other items the family may need in their new home. This should prove to be both a challenging and rewarding endeavor for each of us as well as our chapter.

To read more about HFOT and the veterans from this area, go to hfotusa.org. If you wish to make a donation and won't be able to attend our April luncheon, *make your check payable to Homes For Our Troops* and send it to Sandy Holmes or our Treasurer, Cindy Perry.

Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station

Important: Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station is issuing a statement of clarification in the wake of a CBS News investigative report that appeared January 26, 2016 on Wounded Warrior Project – a completely separate and distinct veterans’ organization that has absolutely no relation whatsoever to Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station.

We have been flooded with inquiries from the public and donors who have confused our two organizations simply because of the word “warrior” in the name. Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station has no affiliation to Wounded Warrior Project and is not the subject of the CBS News report. This confusion has unfortunately already negatively impacted Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station and it is urgent that the distinction between our organizations is acknowledged and understood.

Since our inception in 2004, Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station has proudly been an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. We are very proud of the army of volunteers who work tirelessly to provide quality-of-life items, support services, and transitional housing to our injured warriors right here in San Diego. Please share this message and help support our mission to honor and support the military men and women who bravely served and sacrificed for our country. It is a privilege to do the work we do, and our door is always open to those wanting to learn more about our foundation.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact:

Sandy Moul
Board Member and Communications Chair
Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station
E-mail: sandym@warriorfoundation.com

NNCASC LOCAL AWARDS



Becky Nulty & Tina Hooker

At our January luncheon held at the Talega Golf Club, we honored **Tina Hooker** as the chapter member of the year.

Having been a member of our chapter for several years, this award should not come as a surprise. Tina has been extremely helpful in arranging all of our recent quarterly meetings, and successfully filling up the seats to the last minute. This appears to have been done effortlessly but obviously that is not the case!

Tina Hooker is an inspiration to all of us. Not only does she manage to get us scrumptious meals each quarter at the best price, but also manages to have the equipment needed to present programs that interest the group and help with our altruistic efforts.

She has picked up the slack from many of us on the board as needed in comfort and caring, sending out cards, and helping sort through Navy Nurse Corps Memorabilia as we all have collected much of it.

Now that is just her day job. We personally know Tina is there for many of our members in their time of need. And while that is happening more and more often, she never grumbles or complains but cheerfully assists others in their homes, care facilities and in the hospital as an outstanding advocate. Tina is truly one of our treasures.

Tina's dedication to this chapter is rarely surpassed. Tina's enthusiastic commitment to and support of our local Chapter, NNCA, and the community at large makes her most deserving of our NNCASC Member of the Year Award for 2015.

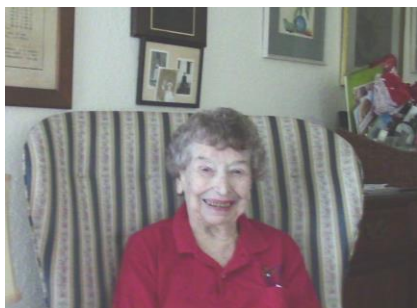
(Special thanks to our Awards Chair, **Ellen Citrano**, for her continuing recognition of our chapter members)

APRIL LUNCHEON

Our next luncheon is a buffet at Miramar on Saturday, April 16 with cake cutting to celebrate the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday. Due to rising prices at our luncheon venues, we have increased the cost to **\$25**. Please see the flyer and **RSVP by April 9th**.
Tina Hooker



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT Contributed by DJ Lavoie



LCDR (ret) Elizabeth Ann Nimits, known to her friends as Betty, passed away February 19, 2016. She started her 25 year Navy career in April 1944 right after she graduated from Oak Park Hospital School of Nursing, Waukegan, IL. She planned on joining the Navy while still in school, so she went to the recruiter, signed some papers and was on her way! Betty served as a Navy Nurse during WW II, Korean and Vietnam Conflicts.

In 1948, Betty was on the *Repose* (AH-16), serving as base hospital *Tsingtao*, China. She also had duty aboard the *USS General Randall* while it was doing post WW II Humanitarian transport. Betty was particularly affected by the fact that the passengers were uprooted from their homes on short notice with what they could carry. She enjoyed being one of two nurses, but dreaded the thought of any one of the women going into labor! Betty's career took her to sixteen duty stations east to west coast from Great Lakes to Barstow, Corona, Quantico, San Diego and Iwakuni, Japan.

When she was at Corona she had the opportunity to sign up for psychiatric nursing duty and promptly was sent to St. Elizabeth Women's Psychiatric Hospital in Washington, DC. She worked as a psychiatric nurse in at least two locations as well as administration. When asked her favorite duty stations she unequivocally said "Quantico and Iwakuni, with the Marines!"

During our visit with Betty she showed us many of her prize items collected during her travels. She was especially proud of the pictures and memories of her retirement ceremony with the Marines. Betty was the first Navy Nurse interviewed by us for our Oral History Project and will always be remembered as very special. Betty declared at the conclusion of her interview that she would do it all again and said "anyone who was lucky enough to get the chance to be a Navy Nurse, should do it!"

Other Oral History Project News Vietnam Era

The year 2015 was a busy one for us. We were committed to interviewing as many Navy Nurses as possible who served during the Vietnam conflict. Over 30 interviews were done! This year we have started focusing on the Gulf War group. We have had moderate response, but are hoping more will return their Biographical Data Forms and schedule interviews.

We are making progress with getting our DVDs ready to send to the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress and hope to have most of them submitted by summer.

Barb Beeby and DJ Lavoie will be at the NNCA Reunion in April to interview any registrant who wants to be included in the NNCA's Oral History Project. We encourage you to join over 60 former, retired and active duty Navy Nurses who have told their stories and helped to preserve the history of the Navy Nurse Corps for the next generation.

VETERANS NEWS



Fort Rosecrans/Miramar National Cemetery

The "One VA" Community Advisory Board meets once a month alternating sites between the VA Medical Center and the VA Regional Office in Mission Valley. At the meeting held January 20, it was reported that Fort Rosecrans is now a final resting place for 113,762 military veterans and family members. Miramar National Cemetery had 8009 burials and inurnments. Fort Rosecrans continues to have second internments averaging four to eleven a day.

Memorial Day Service information:

Memorial Day services will be held at Miramar on Sunday, May 29, 2016 at 1 p.m. Services will also be held at Fort Rosecrans on Monday, May 30, 2016 at 10 a.m.

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center

Military Women's History Month



Saturday, March 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. the **Veterans Museum at Balboa Park** (former Navy Hospital Chapel) is sponsoring a reception and mixer. They will celebrate Military Women's History Month by rededicating the updated Women's History Exhibit. Guests will be able to mingle with some of San Diego's finest military women and hear short stories by active duty and veterans.

The event is FREE and open to the public!
For more information check their website at:
www.veteranmuseum.org

War Dogs to Recovery



Also, the Veterans Museum's most recent partnership is with Aztec Doberman Pinscher Club of San Diego's program called, "War Dogs to Recovery." The exhibit at the museum describes the history of how dogs have helped our soldiers, from WWII to how we use dogs in war today. This program also explains how dogs are helping in the recovery effort after war.. Come meet some of these dogs in person, every second Tuesday of the month! Find more information on Aztec Doberman Pinscher Club of San Diego at:
www.aztecdpc.org

Veterans Home Annual Golf Classic



The Veterans Home in Chula Vista is now in its 16th year of operation and home to over 300 residents. The Veterans Home Support Foundation continues to work diligently to obtain funds to provide quality of life equipment, services, and activities not covered by appropriated funds. One of the major fundraisers for the foundation is the annual golf classic. The Veterans Home Golf Classic 2016 will be held on Thursday, **May 5th** at the Eastlake Country Club.

Registration table and practice tee will open at 11 a.m. A box lunch will be served prior to a 12:00 shotgun start. Following the round of play, a barbeque dinner will be served and raffle prizes awarded. For registration form or more information go to Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation website:

<http://cvvhsf.wix.com/cvvhsf>



Live the Adventure, Honor the Legend™

Be a valued member of the USS Midway Museum volunteer Safety Team. From hangar bays to brig, flight deck to laundry, chapel to CPO Mess, safety volunteers ensure a safe experience for thousands of guests who come to explore what life was like aboard the carrier during her 47 years of service.

Learn more about this opportunity at a Midway Volunteer Open House, every second Thursday

of the month, 10 to 11am aboard Midway, 910 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101. Please RSVP: Volunteer office - 619 398 8289 or www.volunteering@midway.org

ALL NURSES BALL Save the Date!

This year's All Nurses' Ball will be held May 14th at the Catamaran Resort. The theme this year is Casino Royale/007-James Bond!

More details will follow at the April luncheon and via email.

All chapter members and guests are invited to join our active duty Navy nurses for an evening of celebration!

2016 HOMECOMING REUNION NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND



Hotel Viking

Deadline for registration for the 2016 NNCA Homecoming Reunion is **March 15, 2016**. The Board of Directors will meet on Monday & Tuesday, April 25 & 26. Reunion activities begin with a welcome reception on Wednesday, April 27 from 6-9 p.m. culminating Saturday, April 30th with a reception/dinner.

More information on www.nnca.org



NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Name _____

Address _____

Dear _____,

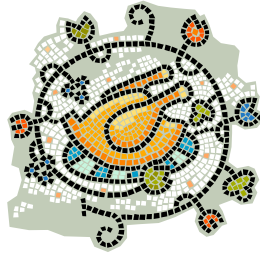
The officers and members of the Navy Nurse Corps Association of Southern California want to extend to you our sincere thanks for your donation of \$_____ to our local organization.

In addition to monetarily supporting various other veterans' organizations and events, annually we select at least two nursing students who are completing their baccalaureate education to receive up to \$2000.00 to help defray their expenses.

Because we are a non-profit 501(c) 19 veterans' organization, the money donated is solely used to support veterans and the above mentioned educational endeavor. Therefore, your entire donation can be claimed as a tax deduction. Our organization's tax ID # is: 33-0112310. In addition, we are exempt from California franchise or income tax as a Veterans Organization under California Revenue and Taxation Code section 23701w.

Thank you again for your generous gift.

Cindy Perry, Treasurer
Navy Nurse Corps Association of
Southern California



**NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LUNCHEON MEETING**

LOCATION: MCAS MIRAMAR OFFICER'S CLUB
DATE: **SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016**
TIME: SOCIAL HOUR: 1100
LUNCH 1200 (Buffet)
COST: **\$25.00** per person
Make check to NNCA of So Ca

Make reservations by Saturday, April 9, 2016

Call Tina Hooker at (858) 571-2874
for any questions or if you need to cancel

Send reservations & checks to:

Tina Hooker
6237 Caminito Juanico
San Diego, CA 92111-7231

RESERVATION LUNCHEON MEETING

Please make reservations for _____ persons.
Check enclosed for \$_____ at **\$25.00** per person.

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING

_____	AD	RET	GUEST
_____	AD	RET	GUEST
_____	GUEST	POTENTIAL MEMBER*	

*BRING A POTENTIAL MEMBER & THEIR LUNCH IS FREE! (first time only)



Navy Nurse Corps Association of Southern California
Nancy Owen, Newsletter Co-editor
1611 Miguel Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118

**HAPPY 108TH NAVY NURSE CORPS BIRTHDAY
MAY 13, 2016**



NNCA Reunion 1998 San Diego, CA