

Washington Metropolitan Area Navy Nurse Corps Association

The Capital Zone**PRESIDENT'S
CORNER***Maggie Balacki*

Another Memorial Day is upon us. This one is a little bit less restrictive than the one before. Society sometimes forgets what the real purpose of Memorial Day has always been. We should take the time to honor those who gave, in the words of Lincoln, "The last full measure of devotion". Enjoy the cook-outs but take a moment to remind those you are with of the real meaning of the holiday.

I hope you are starting to venture out into society as the CDC has eased up on restrictions. I was surprised to find some mild anxiety in myself as I started to "test the water". I plan to keep at it, as I hope you are as well. Better times are ahead.

Our NNCA reunion is just short of a year away. Cruise lines will soon start to sail again. I am fully confident that our reunion cruise will be a go. Mark your calendar...May 4-13th 2022. Let's make this the BEST NNCA reunion ever!! Reserve your cabin by January 15th to get the special rates. Rules are changing all the time but, for now, you **must** be immunized for COVID-19 in order to sail. This newsletter and the July NNCA newsletter has all the specific details but should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

(NNCA2022Reunion@nnca.org)

BOARD**PRESIDENT***Maggie Balacki***VICE PRESIDENT***Christine Boltz***SECRETARY***Ana Stoehr***TREASURER***Shelley Savage***MEMBERS AT
LARGE:***Rose Perdue**Ann Ross**Kathy Thorp*

COMMITTEES

AUDIT/FINANCE

Shelley Savage

COMMUNICATIONS

Boo Lahman

GOVERNANCE

Boo Lahman/ Cindy Sweeney

MEMBERSHIP

Sue Miller

NEWSLETTER

Ann Ross

NOMINATIONS/ RECRUITMENT

Ann Ross

ORAL HISTORY

Maria Harbeson

PROGRAMS

Kathy Thorp

SCHOLARSHIP

Sue Miller

TROOP SUPPORT

Kathy Thorp

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Ann Ross, Editor

Welcome to another issue of the WMANNCA Newsletter. You may notice a patriotic theme due to the holidays with articles on Memorial Day and the new ID cards. For those who missed our virtual chapter meeting on April 22nd we included all the

reports from our committee chairmen plus a comment on the guest speaker, **LCDR Kristin Leon**. And of course, we have an update on the 2022 Reunion Cruise to Bermuda.

We want your stories too. The deadline for the next issue is 31 August. Please send to WMANNCAnewsletter@gmail.com.



FINANCE REPORT

1-31 May 2021

Shelley Savage

Starting Balance:		\$23,262.71
Receipts (deposits)		
None		. 00
Interest		. 16
	Income	<u>\$.16</u>
Disbursements		
#850-52 Scholarships		4500.00
#953 MMCA dues/donations		95.00
	Expenses	<u>\$4595.00</u>
Ending Balance:		\$18,667.87
Liabilities:		
Pending Checks (Birthday Cards)		107.00
Scholarship Fund		110.21
History Fund		1,020.25
Troop/Vet Support		1,315.07
Rough Seas		<u>70.00</u>
		\$2,622.53
Working Balance:		\$16,045.34

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sue Miller

Three WMANNCA \$1500 Graduate Nursing Scholarship winners were announced: **LT Chad Hagedorn**, active duty at Walter Reed Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD pursuing a MSN at Grand Canyon University, and given a scholarship by Alice Moyer in memory of Admiral Frances Shea Buckley; **ENS Abigail Hene**, reservist pursuing a DNP at George Mason University, also given a scholarship by Alice Moyer in memory of Admiral Frances Shea Buckley; and **LTJG Jaeda Ewings**, active duty at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, VA,

pursuing a Masters In Health Care Administration with a minor in Nursing Education at University of Maryland Global Campus. Each will receive \$1500, a year free membership in NNCA/WMANNCA and a copy of In and Out of Harm's Way.



QUILTS OF VALOR *Sue Miller*

WMANNCA participates with the Quilts of Valor Foundation to present quilts to veteran members of our chapter. Due to the pandemic, presentations were delayed, and we were unable to have in-person ceremonies. Instead, quilts were mailed to the recipients and ceremonies were done by phone if possible.

In April quilts were mailed to **Alice Bornemeier, Theresa Proto, Joan Steyn, and Lee Speckmann**. (A Quilt of Valor was presented to **Bobbi Hovis** a few years earlier.) Pictures attached are Theresa Proto, Lee Speckmann and Bobbie Hovis wrapped in their Quilts of Valor.

If you would like to have WMANNCA nominate a chapter member for a Quilt of Valor, contact Sue Miller at millerses@gmail.com or 443-520-1573.



Theresa Proto



Lee Speckmann



Bobbi Hovis



REUNION 2022 UPDATE!! *Christine Boltz and Maggie Balacki*

Greetings from the planning committee! We are encouraged by the number already signed up for the cruise in these changing times.

To summarize, the NNCA 2022 Reunion cruise will depart on May 4, 2022, from the port of Liberty, NJ, (near Newark airport) and sail to Newport, RI for a day stop and then sail down to Charleston, SC for an overnight stop. The next day we will leave for Bermuda for another overnight stop and then return to New Jersey on May 13th. During our sea days we will hold the NNCA Annual Meeting of the membership, the Awards Ceremony, the Memorial Service and birthday cake cutting event. Registration details for these events will be published in the NNCA November newsletter. To reserve a stateroom, details can be found on the NNCA website <https://www.nnca.org/2022-nnca-reunion> or contact our cruise planner Jeannie Lipphard. Her preferred contact method is e-mail jeannie@cruiseplanneronline.com. For those who would like to call, contact her at 443-274-8178. To get the group rates, you must reserve by January 15th, also the date the final payment is due. To get the best rooms reserve soon. If reservations are slow for our group and the ship needs the rooms, we may lose our room block as early as November.

From the COVID-19 perspective we expect to be ready to travel by May. All reservations are fully refundable, except for a \$50 service charge up until January 15th. Expect that you WILL be required to show evidence of a COVID-19 vaccination. The CDC has indicated for cruise travel 98% of crew and 95% of passengers must be fully immunized. That's the most current information.

Questions for the NNCA 2022 Reunion Planning Committee feel free to contact us.

NNCA2022Reunion@nnca.org



MEMBERSHIP *Sue Miller*

Membership in WMANNCA remains about 122 members. About **80% of our members have renewed** their NNCA/WMANNCA membership for the 2021-2022 year. If you have **not** renewed, please renew on-line at NNCA.org. If you prefer a paper renewal, contact Sue Miller at millerses@gmail.com or 443-520-1573 to get your pre-printed renewal form, which you can then mail to WMANNCA.

Get your membership Renewed now!

TROOP SUPPORT *Kathy Thorp*

Our effort never stops in taking care of our troops. From volunteering for laying wreaths at our National cemeteries, to sending boxes overseas, or to mailing Valentines cards to our World War II Veterans, each of you continue to serve our fellow brother and sisters in arms.

Our annual effort for **Wreaths across America** web site is up and ready to collect sponsorships of wreaths for the annual event across our Nation. The two cemeteries for which WMANNCA is supporting will be the US Naval Academy Cemetery, and Arlington National Cemetery. Now is a great time to pass this information on to businesses you might know for possible sponsorships in order to increase our goal this year. If your preference is to mail a check, in lieu of on line ordering, be sure to specify our ID, MD0021P, and the location you desire. Send to Wreath Across America, P.O. Box 249 Columbia Falls, ME 04623. **SAVE THE DATE** for wreath laying at the Academy Cemetery, Friday, **10 December** and at Arlington on Saturday, **18 December**.

St. Mary's Elementary School (Annapolis, MD) has already contacted me to **support troops** on Veterans Day, with their annual "Treats for the

Troops". Since volunteers are still unable to greet troops at BWI airport, we will do a joint project of sending packages to our troops AND using the donations from



the school for the mailings. What we can use at this time is financial donations specifically marked "Troop Support". Any donation large or small will be a great help in the cost of mailing each package. With the inpouring of thank you notes from our last mailing, it is evident that our deployed troops enjoyed each box.

You all may remember sending cards last fall to **Earl Daff, a WWII and Korean Veteran** for his 94th birthday, and some of you sent Valentines cards this past February. I am happy to report that Earl received over 425 cards for Valentines day! It truly helped him through the isolation that he was feeling during this pandemic. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness! Plans are underway for another "birthday drive by" slated for October, and another birthday card effort, so keep tuned to our upcoming newsletter for more details.

WMANNCA BOARD *Ann Ross*

The board met at Cindy Sweeney's home on 8 June. President, Maggie Balacki presented Award certificates and flowers to outgoing Board members: **Maria Harbeson, Boo Lahman and Cindy Sweeney**. We ALL appreciate their hard work and what they have done for our board.

Also welcomed to the Board were new members: **Christine Boltz, Rose Perdue and Ann Ross**.



L to R, Front Row: Cindy Sweeney, Boo Lahman, Maggie Balacki, Maria Harbeson. Back Row: Sue Miller, Ana Stoehr, Kathy Thorp, Christine Boltz, Ann Ross.



2021 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT *Ann Ross*

If you watched the PBS National Memorial Day Concert on Sunday, May 30th you might have seen **Chris McKown and Ann Ross** in the audience. I was sitting on the end of the front row and Chris was in the second row behind Diane Carlson Evans. We represented the Navy Nurse Corps in the segment honoring Vietnam Nurses. Also present were two Air Force nurses and two Army nurses as well as Diane Carlson Evans, the Army nurse who was responsible for getting the Vietnam Women's Memorial built in D.C.

PBS has always done the concert live on the Mall in front of the Capital but last year it was cancelled due to the Pandemic. This year they wanted to do a new concert but it had to be virtual and so was taped early and in segments. We were taped on Saturday evening, May 1st, in front of the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington Cemetery. Everyone on the set had to be COVID-19 free. (They tested us all two days before). As part of the audience, we got instructions on how and when to clap, when to be quiet, etc. We got to meet Colin Powell and Kathy Baker, the actress narrating Diane's story. The next two segments involved a Korean War Ranger Battalion and a Gold Star Family. In between filming the segments, they would re-arrange the audience, moving the nurses to the back row and the Korean veterans to the front and later making room for the Gold Star Family. They were very organized; We all had assigned seating. The taping ran late as every time they had airplane noise, they had to repeat that section.

The next morning we gathered at the Vietnam Women's Memorial for more taping and placing

of roses on the memorial. They spent a lot of time asking us about our experiences. Chris gave a nice little talk about when the **USS REPOSE (AH-16)** went up to the Tonkin Gulf in 1967 to assist the **USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59)** after the flight deck crash and ensuing catastrophic fire. We attracted another audience of visitors who also wanted to talk to us, somewhat to the amusement of the production company.

I watched the program when it aired, and was amazed at how well the segments flowed together. Although it was a tiring weekend, it was a great honor to be asked to participate and a wonderful experience.



L to R: Edie Meeks (Army), Peg Keach (AF), Ann Ross, Joyce Williams (AF), Carroll "Chris" McKown, Diane Carlson Evans (Army) and Donna Barbisch (Army).



NEW ID CARDS *Christine Boltz*

The Department of Defense (DoD) is transitioning from its current paper-based Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card to a more secure, next generation card. The updated design of the new card will incorporate security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud and will be printed on a plastic cardstock similar to the current active duty cards except in a landscape print format. Issuance of this new card has already started. New USID cards are issued to retired and reserve members, dependent family members of Uniformed Services members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges, and DoD bases.

Currently issued USID cards remain valid through their expiration date. In an effort to limit the impact on ID card issuance facilities, cards will not be reissued solely for the purpose of obtaining the new USID card. Some DoD ID card facilities are currently operating under constrained conditions as a result of COVID-19 to keep both cardholders and operators safe. Individuals with an indefinite (INDEF) expiration date on their current USID

card should wait until this summer to make an appointment for a new ID card.

A few interesting details about ID cards over the years. Social Security numbers were removed sometime in 2009 and replaced with a DoD ID number. For retirees under 65 that have indefinite on the front, their card will list a date for the expiration of military medical care (the last day of the month before you turn 65) on the back.

Frequently asked questions include:

Where can I get the Next Gen USID card?

Contact your nearest ID card issuance facility or use the Site Locator and Appointment Scheduler on ID Card Office Online at, <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> to find a location near you.

What do I need to bring with me?

Two forms of ID from the “List of Acceptable Identity Documents for DoD ID Card Issuance” available at, https://www.cac.mil/Portals/53/Documents/List_of_Acceptable_Documents.pdf.

<https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/>

Please see the article below about acceptable ID.

AN PERSONAL ID CARD STORY *Ann Ross*

I have been trying to get my Social Security Number off my ID card for several years now (not easy to do in rural Montana), so I decided now was the time. I easily made my appointment on line selecting Ft Meyer/Henderson Hall. Because the ID office is in the middle of the Marine Corp Exchange and there is no waiting room, it is by appointment only, no walk-ins as a couple of Active Duty members discovered while I was there. For ID, I had my Driver's License and Military ID. My **Driver's License** was fine but unfortunately for me, my **Military ID** card was so old it wouldn't scan into their computer. They needed an additional form of ID they could scan. It didn't have to be a photo ID but did have to have my birth date. A voter registration card would do but I don't carry mine with me. So I had to go home and get my passport. However, they very kindly saved my appointment slot so I was back and got my new card within the hour. Like my old card, it is marked INDEF but now has a bar code and is titled “**Identification and Privilege Card**”. On the front under “Authorized Patronage” is listed “MWR, Commissary, Unlimited Exchange”. And on the back under “Medical” it states “Verify Eligibility”. In my case, since I use Medicare, that would be TRICARE For Life which requires enrollment in Medicare, Part B.



BIRTHDAY CORNER

JULY

- 1 Ana Stoehr
- 3 Cynthia Sweeney
- 4 David Mangler
- 10 Kristin McHarg
- 16 Ben Bocuzzi
- 19 Patricia A. (Watts) Kelley
- 21 Renee Stevens
- 22 Susan Searle Jackson
- 22 Whitney Thomas
- 23 Amy Garman
- 24 Karen Seitz
- 26 Carolyn Andreno
- 27 Alice Lech Laning
- 30 Barbara Connolly
- 31 Jean (Spangler) Cohn

AUGUST

- 2 Theresa Proto
- 11 Ann Ross
- 12 Patricia Gilbert
- 20 Kristi Brennan
- 31 Bobbie Hovis



SEPTEMBER

- 12 Christine Boltz
- 12 Virginia (Ginny) Smith
- 12 Amy Rosacker
- 15 Alice Bornemeier
- 15 Joan Huber
- 15 Roberta J. Bobbie Grace
- 20 Dorothy (Dot) Michael
- 21 Krista Roberts
- 25 Carol Patterson
- 25 M. Jane Markley

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING PROGRAM *Kathy Thorp*

Those who joined attended our Chapter Virtual Spring Meeting on April 22nd were treated to a great talk by our speaker **LCDR Kristin Leone**. She is a Navy Reservist who hails from New Jersey and was a past recipient of one of our scholarships, while achieving her masters at Drexel University.

Kristin's energy, along with her story was captivating as she shared with us her emotional challenges and struggles post-deployment. Because of her personal experience, she felt a passion to advocate for female Veterans. Ultimately, she landed a post as President of HAVEN Women (Helping Achieve Veteran Empowerment Now), a 501(c)(3) organization, which provides safe, respectful, shelter for female veterans who are homeless or in transition. The organization also provides case management and enrichment programs necessary to rehabilitate mind, body and spirit. Listening to her speak, with her enthusiasm for the Navy Nurse Corps, was very empowering.

For more information to volunteer or donate to HAVEN Women, feel free to check the web: havenwomen.org

SAVE THE DATE for our next WMANNCA luncheon, **Saturday 23 October 2021 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.**