



NNCA

NEWS

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

Preserving our legacy, sharing moments today, and promoting our future.

Volume 37 No. 3 March 2024

Congratulations to our new NNCA Board Of Director Selections!

Congratulations to our new Board of Director (BOD) members Brian Dawson, Sandra Hearn, and Michelle McKenzie! Many thanks to the talented slate of candidates who volunteered to serve on the NNCA Board of Directors. Please consider re-submitting your nomination if you were not selected this year as all the nominees had terrific qualifications.

Alice Bova, Arlene Southerland, and Linda Daehn from the Palmetto Chapter met on January 16, 2024, to tabulate the votes. Linda Daehn, Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee (Ballot), notified NNCA Board President Cindy Sweeney of the elected candidates that same day. These BOD members will serve from May 2024 through April 2027. Selectee biographies, page 4.



Brian Dawson



Sandra (Hearn) Pearson



Michelle McKenzie



RDML Robert Hawkins, Chief, Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy Addresses NNCA Members

RDML Robert Hawkins, NC, USN, Chief, Navy Nurse Corps addressed NNCA members via a virtual platform on January 26th with record attendance. Key talking points included questions submitted by NNCA members with six over-arching trends: specialty-specific items, strategic planning for the Nurse Corps, readiness and deployment, Nurse Corps and NNCA collaboration opportunities, Director-role specific questions, and Reserve concerns. Full story on page 4.

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President's Corner

Cindy Sweeney

With the advent of spring, we can feel a sense of renewal following the blustery winter that many of us experienced these past months. Even if you lived in one of the sunshine states, colder weather probably found its way to you! Like the blooms of spring, we have much to look forward to as we emerge from winter. While the bears hibernated, your Board of Directors were busy.

In December we had a productive budget development meeting followed by a strategic planning meeting in January. Our shiny, new website (www.nnca.org), launched in the fall, continues to be refined with your feedback. A new promotional video made its debut on our website, too! If you have not had a chance to view it, please go to our website to experience it....and share it with others! A big thank you to Cindy Coyle, her team and all who contributed to the making of this video. In January, a marketing firm was selected to create a strategy for promoting the NNCA. Many thanks to our finance committee, led by our treasurer, Margaret Beaubien, who focused on developing an investment strategy for the financial security of NNCA now and into the future. It is through your continued membership and generous donations that we can ensure the NNCA's legacy and its impact for future generations!

A BIG thank you to our nominating committee led by Christine Boltz and Kim Lyons! They vetted candidates for our Board of Directors, providing a very strong slate to our membership for our elections in December. I appreciate their diligence and understanding of the needs of the organization in formulating the slate of officers. To those on our slate, we are indebted to you for your willingness to volunteer your skills and leadership experience to further strengthen the work of the NNCA. Congratulations to our newly elected board members, Brian Dawson, Sandra Hearn, and Michelle McKenzie. With this welcome to our new board members, I want to thank those who will rotate off the board: Margaret Beaubien - Treasurer, Cindy Coyle, and Charlene McKee. We look to you as knowledge stewards of the NNCA based on your recent experience and thank you in advance for your role as mentors to our newly elected board members.

In late January NNCA co-hosted with WMANNCA a virtual meeting with RDML Robert Hawkins NC, USN, Chief, Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy. Admiral Hawkins provided insights on the Navy Nurse Corps of today. We look forward to partnering with other Chapters to have informative presentations that our members can participate in, no matter where you are located!

Please mark your calendars for two important events. First, our annual membership meeting on **May 6th at 7 pm ET**. Information on how to join this virtual meeting will be shared via our website and email closer to the date. Our membership meeting will kick off Nurses Week and recognize our 116th birthday!

September 26th – October 3rd plan to join the NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise! For more information, go to <https://nnca.org/meetings-reunions/>. I encourage each of you to reconnect with Navy Nurse Corps friends in the coming months and encourage those who are not members to join us. We share more than memories – together we share a history and a legacy for the future! ~ Cindy

NNCA NEWS
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Executive Director

Mary Mahony



Editor

Dot O'Very

Warmest welcome to spring! As we embrace the refreshing spirit of this season, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued commitment to our NNCA. It's that time of the year when we invite you to renew your membership and embark on another season of collaboration and growth. Several Chapters have already had their annual kick-off meetings—a hearty thanks to the many Chapter members and members-at-large who have already renewed online. As a reminder, our current membership year runs from May 1, 2024, to May 1, 2025. When completing your online or paper application, update your preferences for displaying your name, address, telephone and/or e-mail address. When completing the paper form, be sure to also check your preference for a paper directory and newsletters or the online versions. Online users can verify their Directory and Newsletter preferences by going to their profile page on the Members Only site.

I encourage you to take a moment to peruse this newsletter, where you'll find insightful articles, updates on our recent initiatives, and highlights of the incredible work NNCA members have been contributing to our cause. As we conclude the recent elections for the Board of Directors, we are grateful to all members who said “yes” to these crucial positions. Your dedication to serving our organization and commitment to contributing your time and skills are commendable. We welcome the newly elected board members and look forward to your valuable contributions and fresh perspectives. To those stepping down from the Board, we express our profound appreciation for your tireless efforts and unwavering commitment during your tenure. Your leadership has been instrumental to NNCA's growth and success.

We are excited about the launch of our new website, nnca.org, this past November, where you can explore a refreshed online experience designed to better serve your needs. Navigate through the user-friendly interface to discover valuable resources, updates, and opportunities.

Spring is a time of renewal and new beginnings. Your involvement is crucial to the success of our association, and we invite you to explore ways to actively participate and make a meaningful impact. Your unique skills and perspectives can play a pivotal role in advancing our shared goals and shaping the future success of our community.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting of the Membership in May and the NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise in September! Information is in this newsletter and will be shared by e-mail, paper mail, and the NNCA website.

~ Mary


Brrr! I anticipate that by the time this edition goes to print we will be enjoying warmer, spring-like weather, but today, most of us are shivering under an arctic freeze. It's a good time to stay indoors and work on newsletters! In this edition you'll see evidence of progress within our organization as well as more examples of how our NNCA members are achieving great things. I so appreciate the articles and news that both Chapters and members submit for the newsletter and for our social media campaigns. Keep them coming.

It is thrilling that so many of you were able to join the WMANNCA-sponsored discussion with the Chief, Navy Nurse Corps, RDML Hawkins. This response reflects the life-long relationship of our Navy nurses and their commitment to the future of both the Navy Nurse Corps and each other. “Once a Navy Nurse, always a Navy Nurse!” Another exciting update in this edition addresses more details about the upcoming NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise sponsored by NENNA. Such an amazing response from our members, I look forward to seeing everyone in September. A major accomplishment showcased in this edition is the new NNCA website and the selection of a marketing contractor. These two initiatives reflect many hours of hard work and dedication by our NNCA Board of Directors and Executive Director. And don't forget to view our new marketing video at: [Navy Nurse Corps Association - Preserving History & Sharing Stories \(nnca.org\)](https://www.nnca.org/Navynurse/NavynurseAssociation-PreservingHistory&SharingStories).

I'd love to hear how the Chapters and members are celebrating the 116th birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps this year. Send me your stories and photos, editor@nnca.org!

We are still seeking candidates for the future editor of the NNCA News. See the callout box below with more details and feel free to send me a note at editor@nnca.org if you have questions.

~ Dot



Seeking the next NNCA News Editor!

My time as editor has been both challenging and fulfilling, but it is time for me to pass the baton. My tenure ends in July 2024; the next editor will assume the role in July 2024 for a five-year term.

This is a compensated position and, of course, I will be happy to coach my replacement.

Please reach out to me at editor@nnca.org or to our Executive Director, Mary Mahony at ExecDir@nnca.org.

GET INVOLVED

NNCA Announces New Board of Director Selections

Brian S. Dawson (CO, Member At Large)

The first Afro-American male Nurse Corps Officer to command a Naval Hospital, Brian earned his Bachelor of Science in nursing from American University, then joined the Navy in 1983. Brian served in various positions, including SPD Manager, OR Department Head and Director of Surgical Services at multiple facilities. With a Master of Science in Nursing Administration/Leadership from Old Dominion University, he later served as XO of Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune and then CO of Naval Hospital Okinawa.

After serving as Chief of Staff for the 36th Navy Surgeon General, Brian transitioned to the following positions: Vice President of Surgical Services for Salem Hospital in Salem, OR; as Director of Surgical Services at St Anthony's Hospital in Lakewood CO; as an Instructor/Educator for AORN's Nurse Executive Leadership Series; and CEO and President of BD Perioperative and Healthcare Consulting, LLC. Currently Brian is the System VP of Perioperative Services, Common Spirit Health.

Sandra (Hearn) Pearson (CA, NNCASC)

Sandra Hearn hails from Boston and resides in San Diego, CA. She served 30 years in the Navy Nurse Corps, retired in 2018 and completed her doctoral studies from Old Dominion University the same year. As a Fellow of the AANP, she is active on the Career Advancement Task Force since 2021. As the Chief Nursing Officer of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Dr. Hearn established the first electronic patient acuity/nursing workload management and staffing/competency tool for Navy Medicine. She spearheaded the ANCC Practice Transition Accreditation Program, the first in the Military Health System. She has served in numerous humanitarian missions in Afghanistan, the Caribbean and South American countries with the Navy and as a civilian. She served as the Chief Nursing Officer of Eastern Shore Rural Health System during COVID-19 and now has transitioned to The Joint Commission as a field nurse surveyor since 2022. Proud mother of five, she recently wed Dr. Frank Pearson in 2023

Michelle McKenzie (TN, Member At Large)

Michelle McKenzie started her nursing career as an RN in the civilian sector in 1987 until joining the Navy in 1989. She retired as a Navy Nurse Corps Officer after a 30-year career. Leadership roles included Director of Quality, Deputy Commander for the Joint Medical Group, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Officer-in-Charge of several clinics and Director of Nursing. She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality and since retirement has served as Chief of Quality and Patient Safety at the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) leading the facility to a full Joint Commission Accreditation and a complete governance restructure. She now serves as the Deputy Quality Management Officer for the Veterans Integrated Service Network. Michelle has served on the membership committee for The American Organization for Nursing Leadership and is a recognized subject matter expert and mentor for the Leadership Development Institute Committee at TVHS.

Chief, Navy Nurse Corps Addresses NNCA Members, cont. from page 1

On January 26, 2024, RDML Robert Hawkins, Chief, Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy addressed over 90 NNCA members! This event was co-sponsored by the National NNCA and WMANNCA and is the first time in several years that the Director has addressed NNCA membership. We are incredibly grateful to RDML Hawkins for making time to speak to the many questions raised by our members.

RDML Hawkins began his presentation lauding our Nurse Corps pioneers, both past and present. He shared current statistics of Nurse Corps leaders: Commanding Officers (CO), 11, prospective CO, 7; Executive Officers (XO), 8, prospective XO, 11. These numbers reflect the superb leadership skills of our Navy Nurses.

He stated that the Navy Nurse Corps (NNC) faced challenges similar to civilian nursing such as maintaining staffing and building a robust pipeline of future nurses. A few specific strategic actions are expanding the ROTC program, increasing available billets from the usual ten/year to over 100 per biennium. This is an example of how our NNCA Chapters can support the NNC by engaging with local universities that offer ROTC nursing scholarships and assisting recruiters with outreach and candidate interviews. Additional efforts include expansion of the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP) pipeline and revamping retention and certification bonuses for current and acquisition nurses. RDML Hawkins emphasized that his perspective is that every nurse is important, all 19XX codes play a crucial role in making our Navy strong and all nurses are potential recruiters. He emphasized the essential place of the Reserve community in these roles as well as mapping to expeditionary platforms that ensure NNC responsiveness to deployment requirements.

In response to NNCA member questions he discussed the relevance of the DNP and PhD nursing roles to support and advance new research and the application of this research to evidence-based practices, specifically identifying the recent COVID-19 pandemic as a key example. Historically, our medical community loses sight of the reality that non-trauma injury and death often exceed battle injury and death. The pandemic re-focused our attention onto capturing and codifying this data to help prepare for future pandemics. During the COVID-19 response, the NNC deployment rate increased from seven to twenty-two percent, a significant manpower lift.

Addressing the NNC Strategic Plan, RDML Hawkins discussed a paradigm shift for Navy leaders to identify the problem and connect the issue to a solution, rather than the reverse. They are focusing on helping leadership become more transparent, reaching out to the deck plate and identifying where leadership can intervene and engage early and at multiple levels of staff.

The CNO initiative, Get Real, Get Better, targets these efforts. Other strategic impacts include ensuring that Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSAs) align and are prioritized to operational requirements, recognizing that training and guidance begin at the military treatment facility (MTF) level and progress as staff members attain advanced practice, certification and advanced degree milestones, and the need to hardwire this natural progression into career mapping.

A few community-specific updates include the planned expansion of the Mental Health (MH) community; they have increased the number of MH Sprint teams and are now 50 percent manned for this requirement. An NNCA member questioned whether the increase and/or shift of active duty sailors to include more female billets might be impacting the baseline requirements for obstetric and pediatric billets. RDML Hawkins acknowledged that this was an important question and that he would take it into consideration for further review.

During the brief question and answer period at the end of the briefing, NNCA President Cynthia Sweeney and participant RADM McCormick-Boyle spoke about the recent lost connection between recruiters and local nursing schools. RDML Hawkins concurred about how critical it is to rebuild this relationship, another opportunity for our NNCA members to assist the NNC. The challenge to our membership is to reach out to our alma maters, make that connection and encourage our schools to connect us with young students committed to a Navy career to foster mentorship and camaraderie. Our NNCA members can become a significant force multiplier!

Thank you, RDML Hawkins, for making time to meet with our members and share the status of the Corps!
If you missed the presentation, you can listen to the recording at: [New Messages - NNCA](#) . You will need to log in to the Members only section to access the recording.

NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise, September 26 to October 3, 2024



Join us aboard the [Norwegian Jade!](#) The response to the [NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise](#) greatly exceeded our expectations! Over 130 cabins were booked and additional reservations continue to be made through Norwegian Cruise Line. To date, over 250 members and their guests will be sailing with us.

At this point, all cruisers should have created an account with NCL and applied for the military discount. Once logged in you can explore and plan your cruise. To date, six excursions have been posted and more will be posted soon.

We've experienced difficulty in locating pre-cruise hotel room blocks under a \$499.00 room rate. Also, we would be required to guarantee that 85% of the rooms were booked on the day of arrival. Therefore, we recommend that those arriving the evening before embarkation select a hotel near the airport

and make separate arrangements for transport to the cruise terminal on the day of departure. We intend to provide additional hotel and transportation recommendations soon.



Cruise Itinerary Overview

Thursday, 26 Sep - Boston, Massachusetts, 04:00 PM Embark
 Friday, 27 Sep - At Sea
 Saturday, 28 Sep - Sydney, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia 08:00 AM - 04:30PM
 Sunday, 29 Sep - Corner Brook, Newfoundland, 08:00 AM - 05:00 PM
 Monday, 30 Sep - Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, 10:30 AM - 06:00 PM
 Tuesday, 01 Oct - At Sea
 Wednesday, 02 Oct - Saint John, Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, 10:00 AM - 03:30PM
 Thursday, 03 Oct - Boston, Massachusetts, 07:00 AM Disembark
 During the Sea days, we will hold a reception, the biennial Memorial Service and offer Oral History interviews. All other annual events will be held in May 2024.

NNCA preplanning checklist:

1. Join or renew your NNCA membership to attend the cruise functions and receive email notifications. Non-members can go to NNCA.org or [Renew Membership/Donate - NNCA](#) for a complimentary membership. Delinquent memberships were reactivated for those who booked in the block.
2. Create a NCL account at NCL.com
3. Apply for your [military discount](#). The discount requires beneficiary information on one person in the cabin to qualify.
4. Complete the [Accessibility and Medical Questionnaire](#) for any special needs including distilled water for CPAP machines.
5. Install WhatsApp on your mobile phone. We will use this app as an additional forum for announcements. We will send a QR code to the NNCA 2024 Reunion Cruise email group to join the WhatsApp group.



NNCA Committee News

Awards Committee submitted by Maryalice Morrow, Chairperson

**NNCA Awards
Call for
Nominations!**

Do you know a member who routinely goes above and beyond in support of our profession and organization? Please consider nominating them for recognition at the virtual 2024 Annual Meeting of the Membership on May 6, 2024.

Nomination deadline: March 15, 2024

Submit nominations at: [Awards - NNCA](#)

Finance Committee submitted by Margaret Beaubien, NNCA Treasurer

Welcome to 2024! As this will be my last report before I turn over the duties of the treasurer, I would like to thank the three Presidents during my tenure: Donna Styles, Pat Kenney and Cindy Sweeney. And many thanks to the indomitable Executive Director, Mary Mahony, who knew the history of the finances and was a great sounding board for the issues we encountered during my tenure.

Due to large donations in 2021 and 2022 the Board of Directors passed an investment policy in late 2022 and updated it in January 2024 based on current financial best practices. This helped guide the organization’s approach to the financial risk we faced in our portfolio as well as how to distribute funds in the future. Again in 2023 we had some significant donations.

From a financial perspective our investments through Wells Fargo continued to have a roller coaster ride throughout 2023. However, we did finish strong at the end of the year with an upward trend after continuing to regain ground from losses in 2022. Our bank savings account was stable; although it did not earn much in the way of interest. The principle was preserved as we looked at other opportunities.

Due to bank failures, especially in the tech industry in 2023, it became apparent that we needed to diversify even more of our monies while protecting the principle. We began by moving monies out of the banking arena into mutual funds. This increased our monthly yield almost seven fold over what we were earning at the bank on 1/6th of the amount. The finance committee spent a large portion of 2023 talking to investment firms and industry leaders of 501c organizations about how they are investing and gaining insights for future strategies. A decision was reached to work with a fiduciary, Osborne Partners, to protect the principle while experiencing better financial growth from it.

The organization made the commitment to fund a marketing campaign in 2022 and started with an overhaul of the website and development of a membership-oriented video. This meant our yearly expenses over income from memberships left us with a negative balance, but that was offset by donations. The return on investment (ROI) for this commitment to a marketing initiative will be in future years. It is hoped that it will spur memberships, additional donations and sponsorships from affiliate groups who want to honor the legacy of the Nurse Corps.

Remember to let family and friends know that a donation to the NNCA is a great way to recognize the great work you accomplished and are accomplishing during your time in the NAVY!

I sign off thanking you for placing your trust in me as your treasurer for the past three years and with best wishes for the future treasurer.

Marketing Committee submitted by Cynthia Coyle, Chairperson

2023 has been a busy and productive year for the new Marketing Committee. Recognizing the need to expand our outreach beyond current membership and retention activities, the Board of Directors (BOD) concurred that it was a worthwhile initiative to embark on a more formal marketing strategy. Thankfully, because of recent donations, the funds are available to bring this vision to reality.

The first phase was to define our future marketing goals. In 2021, Cynthia Coyle and Charlene McKee drafted a Marketing Plan with a Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat (SWOT) analysis that was presented to the BOD and Chapter Leadership for review and comment. In early 2022, the comprehensive Marketing plan aimed at increasing awareness of NNCA and our ability to meet member expectations as outlined in our NNCA Mission and Vision, was presented to the BOD for review and approval. With the aid of the new Marketing Committee and BOD the Marketing Plan evolved into a comprehensive Request for Proposals that was approved in late 2022.

It was determined that the initial effort would be directed at upgrading and modernizing our NNCA website as this would be the foundation of future marketing and membership actions. In early 2023, Squeeze Marketing was contracted to accomplish this task. The new website went live in November 2023 (see article on page 14). Additionally, the first of two marketing videos was released in December 2023. This video focuses on the benefits of NNCA membership. The second video, in development now with anticipated release in late spring focuses on the tremendous work and value of our NNCA Oral Histories, Memorabilia Virtual Museum and is targeted to potential donors for these programs.

In the next phase, the core proposal team including Cynthia Coyle, Cynthia Sweeney, Margaret Beaubien, Mary Mahony and Dot O'Very continued to work on revision of the RFP to focus on development of a Marketing Strategy that would encompass specific activities to attract our target membership and donor audiences using a variety of marketing tools. We requested proposals from three different marketing companies, conducted question and answer sessions, and called references for each company.

We are happy to announce that the NNCA has selected the WAX Marketing agency to create and implement a marketing plan that is tailored to our needs. WAX Marketing currently serves as the marketing agency with The DAISY Foundation and other healthcare organizations. The NNCA Marketing selection committee felt this was a compelling reason to engage their services. WAX Marketing is serving a similar audience with the work they are doing with The DAISY Foundation and other healthcare organizations, and we can benefit from established contact lists. The WAX Marketing team will guide the BOD and Marketing committee in strategy development and implementation to reach target audiences. The deliverables under this contract will be re-evaluated frequently to assess that we are on target to reach our goals.

Memorabilia Committee submitted by Sherry Dotson, Chairperson

Review of items for possible accession to the collection is currently on hold. With migration to the new website, access to the Virtual Museum is still under construction. This should be completed soon. If you have a memorabilia donation, please contact your Chapter Memorabilia Representative, a National Memorabilia Committee Member/Chair, or the Memorabilia Board Goal-tender.

We are also looking for members who would be interested in serving on the committee. If interested, contact the National representatives at memorabilia@nnca.org.

Oral History Committee submitted by Maria Harbeson, Chairperson

The Oral History Committee continues to perform both in-person and video conference oral histories. Currently we are gearing up for the NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise and are seeking volunteers to join our interview team for two-hour blocks of time. This assignment will include assisting in the facilitation or recording of in-person oral histories. If interested, please contact Maria at history@nnca.org. Thank you!



Recruitment and Retention Committee submitted by Linda Grant, Chairperson

Several Chapter committee chairs met virtually on November 3, 2023 to discuss the current state of recruitment and retention efforts and thoughts on what's working and not working for members in our efforts to move forward.

Many members have had challenges working with MTFs; the value of membership is not often recognized. Invitations to meetings and contact with Senior Nurse Executives have not been successful and limits our ability to recruit active duty members.

Some members are making efforts to reach out to new retirees. Other ideas included reaching out to the VA medical centers and places with veterans groups, as well as providing NNCA newsletters. On a positive note, The DAISY Award ceremonies have recruited a few members.

The Marketing Committee now has the new NNCA.org website up and running. Content will continue to be added. All committee members had been on the website and found it to be very good, informative, and easy to navigate. On the website homepage under the topic 'About Us' is a brief overview of the benefits of joining NNCA, and a short video. Both were felt to be valuable aids in recruitment, and I encourage everyone to share these wonderful resources.

The Committee will have a meeting this spring to review our progress. If you have any ideas or questions, please contact your Chapter membership chair or Linda Grant at membership@nnca.org.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter (MUSNAVC) Legislative Update submitted by Joe Gollasch, MUSNAVC President

A critical deadline is approaching for the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and early action will set MOAA up for success with key legislative priorities. This important early deadline is often the only chance for lawmakers who are not on the Armed Services committees to officially request NDAA provisions that support their constituents. The more these lawmakers hear from their constituents, in addition to MOAA's advocacy team, the greater the chance they will push for inclusion of our key priorities in their official NDAA request.

National MOAA members from across the country will be on Capital Hill meeting with representatives the third week of April as part of the Advocacy in Action 2024 campaign. The topics and issues were selected by the MOAA board of directors in February and announced later in the month. Your support and participation are imperative for success. Contact your representatives via the Legislative Action Center, <https://moaa.quorum.us>. You do not have to be a MOAA member to use this site, anyone may participate.

MUSNAVC has initiated a new program to advocate for healthcare legislation, which could use an Early Push. We are focused on current healthcare legislation that could have an impact on all beneficiaries. The program is an adjunct to the Legislative Action Center. Visit and support the initiative, <https://www.musnavc.org/gallery>.

Finally, stay informed and get involved. Never Stop Serving.

NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise Update cont. from page 5

- 6. Make final payment in May**. Because there are so many registrants, our Cruise Planner, Dick Bowman, will begin making contacts to collect your credit card info at the end of April and continue through May. If you do not hear from him by early May, please contact him directly.
- 7. Online Check-In starts 21 days before departure and must be completed prior to 3 days before sailing.

**The Balcony or Oceanview obtained for the group comes with the following add-ons.

- 1 x Shore Excursion Discount of \$50
- 2 x [Ultimate Beverage Package](#) (gratuities \$152.60 x2)
- 1 x \$100 per cabin onboard credit
- 2 x Internet 150 minutes
- 2 x [2 Night Dining Package](#) (gratuities \$17.80 x2)

These amenities are part of your overall package price and are listed in your confirmation.

You will see service charges added to the bill which are the gratuities for the beverage and dining packages selected for the group. **You are free to delete those packages if you do not want to pay the gratuity.** There is also a \$20/day gratuity (\$140 pp) that can be paid in advance by the group or individually at the end of the cruise. We will seek a group vote of paying in advance once the bookings are made.





Articles of Interest

**Gwyn Lang, former MWNNCA President Navy Nurse Corps Story
submitted by Carole O’Byrne, MWNNCA**

In June 1971 Gwyn Faber was sworn into the Navy. She served both active and reserve tours, retiring in July 1993. As a student at the University of Iowa, Gwyn wanted to join the military. The Air Force, her first choice, didn’t offer a scholarship program, so she was directed to the Army and then went on to hear what the Navy offered. She and her friend and classmate met recruiter Bob Gray who presented a thorough and candid description of indoctrination at Newport and opportunities available to them as Officer Candidate Hospital Corpsman (OCHN, a special “rate” created for students in the Navy on scholarship at that time).

Upon entering the Navy during the summer of 1972, Gwyn and her friend received their OCHN orders and promptly boarded a “hop” to Japan. After two weeks of a great time, they returned to the U.S. and finished their senior year, graduating in 1973.

Her first duty station was Naval Hospital (NH) Oak Knoll in Oakland, CA. Initially, Gwyn’s assignment was a surgical ward where evenings meant one nurse on the ward and night shift was one nurse for three wards. She soon learned that calls to the supervisor for more staff and/or supplies during very busy shifts received the same answer; there was nothing available. A memorable problem Gwyn faced one night was no medication for a patient with a fungal lung infection. Again, the supervisor could not find any medication, but it was crucial that the patient not miss a dose. So, the next step was to inform the patient who amazingly, Gwyn discovered, had his own supply to use!

After some months of work on the surgical ward, Gwyn was moved to postpartum. There, the deliveries peaked as the ships had been in harbor nine months earlier. One memorable mom told Gwyn she and her husband wanted an African name for their son to reflect their African ancestry. The couple was trying to decide on a name from the TV special series “Roots.” The dilemma for the new parents was the African name didn’t have an American connection. Finally, Gwyn was pleased to learn her conversations with the patient helped them choose an African first name and a conventional middle name.



By 1975 Gwyn was ready for an overseas assignment. A LT at NH Oakland had orders to Naval Hospital Subic Bay in the Philippines but didn’t want to go. Gwyn volunteered to take the orders.

It was May and already hot in the tropical Philippines as the Vietnam War came to an end. As the refugees sought rescue, they traveled using boats of all sizes and capabilities as well as fixed wing and rotary aircraft. The U.S. Navy overwhelmingly stepped up to receive unplanned and dangerous flights as well as pulling refugees from unseaworthy, overloaded vessels. On land, Subic Bay was instructed to ready the recreational Grande Island for receipt and processing of refugees, chosen as a refugee receiving and processing center before Guam assumed this role, and ultimately, the U.S. The Seabees put up tents, ran above ground water pipes, electric lines and whatever else was needed as Grande Island was repurposed.

As one of the nurses assigned to NH Subic Bay Gwyn arrived just in time to begin three months of nonstop nursing care for the refugees on Grande Island. Nurses at the NH shared duty in the hospital and on the island. In order to staff sick call for the refugees, the NH staff nurses then worked 12 hour shifts daily June through the end of July 1975.



The work schedule was continuous. If any refugee needed hospitalization, they were transported to NH Subic Bay. It had enough space to allow families to stay with the patients, which was customary.



When a measles outbreak occurred among the refugees, the second floor of a brick-and-mortar building on the island was used as an isolation ward. At the conclusion of the refugee exodus, 43,000 individuals had been processed for resettlement.

To get to the island, Gwyn boarded a small Navy boat. Wearing a duty white nursing uniform made getting on and off these boats difficult. When the duty white pant suit uniform was introduced, Gwyn happily borrowed one from a friend and contracted with a seamstress for more.

Communication on the island was provided via loudspeaker. Regular announcements were made, always preceded by "Attention, Attention, Attention" in Vietnamese. A dependent wife volunteered as an interpreter, primarily for sick call. The volunteerism of many other dependent family members was essential for getting the job done. As the refugee exodus resolved and typhoon season rolled in, the work on Grande Island ended and Gwyn was then assigned to a surgical ward until the end of her tour.

While she was at Subic Bay, Gwyn invited her thirteen-year-old sister to visit. Traveling from Wisconsin, Gwyn's sister made her first plane trip alone. And she arrived without incident! Gwyn took leave to enjoy travel with two Navy nurse friends and her sister. They traveled to many different places in South East Asia.

When Gwyn detached from NH Subic Bay, enroute to Naval Hospital Long Beach, she knew she wanted additional education to become a midwife. At Long Beach, she was assigned to labor and delivery until she left active duty.

Following the advice of her Chief Nurse in Long Beach, Gwyn joined the Naval Reserves. When she started her Maternal/Childcare graduate program in the Twin Cities, Gwyn became part of the Twin Cities Navy Reserve surgical team nursing department where she worked with Kay Bauer, John Eschenbaum, Kathie Adam and Carole O'Byrne, all fellow current MWNCA members. In 1993 after years of Naval Reserve affiliation, Gwyn retired with 20 years of service, memorable experiences and great friends.

Photo Credits for B&W images: PO2 Rex C. Kramer, USN, Naval Station Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, ca July 1975; Color images courtesy of Gwyn Lang.

Go NAVY, Beat ARMY!

One of the most watched football games for our military community, the annual ARMY-NAVY game entices many service members and veterans to make the trek to the stadium of choice each December. Below are just a couple of photos of fellow Navy nurses and NNCA members at the 2023 game at Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, MA. Hopefully, next year, Navy wins! Mark your calendar for December 14, 2024 at FedEx Field, Washington DC.

*Photo top right: back row: Lisa Raimondo, Mary Jackson, front row: Karin Lundgre
Photo bottom left: Kim Shaughnessy-Granger, Mary Mahony, Jamie Wise, Deb Roy, Patrice Bibeau
Photo bottom right: Kathy Thorp, Mary Sullivan, Lisa Raimondo, Pam Roark Parlier, Deb McCain, Kim Lyons, Anne Mitchell*



30TH Anniversary of the Women’s Memorial submitted by Sue Miller, WMANNCA



On Veterans Day 2023 weekend WMANNCA members and other military women from all over the country celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial in Washington, D.C. The weather cooperated, providing a beautiful, crisp weekend on the mall. The weekend was hosted by the Vietnam Women’s Memorial Advisory Group, Eastern National and the National Park Service. Activities began with a special program at the Military Women’s Memorial Friday afternoon. This was followed by the candlelight service, where many veterans gathered for a moment of reflection and remembrance of those present and absent on this evening.

Saturday morning began as volunteers handed out roses to the public at the Vietnam Women’s Memorial. These roses were then gently placed on the memorial.

By the end of the morning, the memorial was covered in red roses. A special part of the activities was storytelling, as women veterans, family members, and friends who were touched by the Vietnam War gathered to heal, connect, and share their powerful experiences in their own words.

The main ceremony included moving speeches by Dr. Sharon Bannister, Major General, United States Air Force, Retired, Lt Col Janis Nark, US Army Nurse Corps, Retired, and Colonel Courtney M. Sugai, US Army. The keynote speaker was Diane Carlson Evans, Founder and President Emeritus of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial. Diane gave a heartwarming recollection of her ten-year battle to establish the Vietnam Women’s Memorial. Attendees were treated to the beautiful voice of Kera O’Byron as she sang “Till the White Dove Flies Alone” and “I will Always Remember You.” This was followed by wreath laying by patriotic organization representatives, Amazing Grace by a wonderful bagpiper, and TAPS by a bugler from the Military District of Washington.

After the ceremony Navy Nurses and their families gathered at the historic Old Ebbitts Grill to enjoy a luncheon hosted by WMANNCA’s Sue Miller for rose volunteers. There was great food, fond memories, and great camaraderie as we finished the day with this special gathering of Navy friends and family from near and far.

The weekend was fantastic with lots of tears, hugs, laughs, and memories shared. Women who served during the Vietnam War are a unique group with a certain deep camaraderie and grace. Thank you to all who came to share this special weekend.

A note from Sue Miller to our readers: There is a great book recommendation coming out of the 30th Anniversary weekend. Kristin Hannah has a new novel due in February 2024, called *The Women*. It is about the military women (nurses) who served during the Vietnam War. She acknowledges Diane Carlson Evans as giving her help, guidance, honesty and support in writing this book. I was able to get an advance copy at the host hotel. As I love all of Kristin Hannah’s books, this will be a memorable read. The book is available at [The Women – Kristin Hannah](#)



NNCA Annual Meeting of the Membership

- Save the Date!
- Monday, 6 May 2024
- 7pm – 8pm ET
- Virtual meeting – invite and link will be sent separately





Celebrating and Educating over Veterans Weekend 2023 in Northern California – Vietnam, Space & Robots! submitted by Lorrie Sammons, BANNCA



In the Vietnam War section, Karen Born (photo above) displayed her scrapbook with photos depicting her tour aboard the USS Sanctuary (AH-17). The shadow box she created about that assignment reflects time on the ship and off-duty time, including many helicopter rides.

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Navy Nurses continued their support and participation in the annual 3-day 'Pop Up Museum' hosted over the Veterans Day weekend. The location was the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville, CA, where we share affiliation with 6 other Veteran Service Organizations. Starting Thursday afternoon, the empty Events Hall in the center of town was transformed into an inviting collection of static and interactive displays reflecting this year's themes focused on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, Space exploration, and Robotics.



Posters recognized the 265,000 military women who served during Viet Nam, as well as celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the National Mall. While only 11,000 women served in Vietnam, others served nearby in Japan, the Philippines, or Guam – such as Renee Sheehan, pictured above, with the Commemoration banner.



The excitement of space exploration was brought to life by an illustrated presentation by former Astronaut James Van Hoften, US Navy (Ret). He flew 3,300 hours of military flight time as a Navy and Guard pilot, mostly in jet aircraft. After selection for the NASA Astronaut program, he spent 338 hours in space, with 22 hours in 'extra vehicular activity' outside the spacecraft. Lorrie Sammons was part of the audience enthralled by his first-person accounts (photo left). During the Q&A, children did indeed ask the predictable questions about life functions in space.

With our proximity to and relationships with the USS Hornet Museum, we added a NASA Astronaut training suit from their collections to our exhibits. Mary Ellen Quinn (photo right) visits during the 3-day event.



A 'Treasure Hunt' set of questions related to the exhibits was an effective mechanism to increase engagement of the thousands of visitors of all ages. A variety of displays in addition to the main themes included impressive locally-captured astronomy photography, extensive Lego constructions, a surprisingly vast collection of 'STEM' themed Barbie dolls with accessories, posters about a local Nike missile/Civil Defense site in the area, and the iconic 'Huey' helicopter parked curbside.



The Robotics theme captured the interest of adults and children alike. Local high school teams demonstrated their competitive creations, Diablo Valley College encouraged manipulation of their robotic arm model, and the Police Department launched their drone (until called away for an emergent duty assignment.) The unquestionable hit was a life-sized R2D2 model that danced, 'talked', and enchanted everyone, while operated remotely by a clandestine operator. Here R2D2 joins Karen and Lorrie (photo left) in our best wishes for Navy Nurses!

NNCA and the Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) submitted by Pam Giza

NNCA partnered with WCC in May of 2018 to carry on the tradition of honoring fallen and inspiring service members and veterans by giving their names to Golden and Labrador Retriever puppies entering their mobility service dog training program which uses a Mission Based Trauma Recovery (MBTR) model. Since then, 18 Navy Nurses have been selected as namesakes!

Active component:

Beadle (CAPT Annette Beadle/MAY '22): Currently on “spycation” from Advanced Training but will be returning once she is fully recovered. Like her namesake, Beadle loves to work and be active and gives 110% effort to everything she does!
<https://www.facebook.com/WarriorCanineConnection/posts/5186987018045520>

Pam II (CAPT Pamela Giza/Jun '22): Currently in Advanced Training, WCC Pam II loves people and is called upon as a mentor for new, shy dogs. <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorCanineConnection/posts/184500080592132>

Stu (CAPT Susan Stuart Miller/May '23): Has moved from her “puppy starter home” (discussed below under “Puppy Parents”) into a new home in the VA region. The change in people, homes, and environments is all part of the training to reinforce adaptability and confidence that the world is a safe place. <https://www.facebook.com/100070964244473/posts/296112729430866/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

Veronica (CDR Veronica Rubin/Apr '23): Still affectionately described as “very wiggly”, WCC Veronica is “stationed” at the HQ puppy raising program where she enjoys her work time.
<https://www.facebook.com/WarriorCanineConnection/posts/pfbid0fH6evbHQPsdVitSP7ViJdcFmjzKM9byobHRip3k-bED5cm75MwT7z4Bh8fA8T9ptGI>

Fair Winds and Following Seas:

Esther (Esther Voorhees Hasson) Selected for a career change to do scent detection work; currently attending “sniffing school” with good reports. It is anticipated she will graduate and be placed with a handler.

Dorothy (CAPT Dorothy A Ryan/Jun '22): WCC Dorothy indicated a career change was desired and is considering her many options.

Kathy (CAPT Kathleen Thorp/Oct '22): WCC Kathy was released from the training program and is living the dream with her forever military family.

Kay (CAPT Kay Bauer/Jan '22): WCC Kay decided that living the life of a service dog wasn't for her. She sought to be a “beloved family pet” and was adopted by a military family who is thrilled with her choice of career!

And finally, Minda (CAPT Geraldine Araminda Houp/Jul '19): *What a legacy!* After providing WCC and some very deserving veterans with 22 wonderful puppies across three litters, WCC Minda has earned a retirement. She is scheduled to be spayed in the near future and will be spoiled for life in her forever home.

Photo: Minda with puppy



New nominations/naming pending: CDR Susan Swinhart. Stay tuned!

WCC NEEDS PUPPY PARENTS AND PUPPY SITTERS! For those who live in the DC Metro Area, another way to support WCC is to volunteer as a Puppy Parent or Puppy Sitter.

From Cheryl Bingham, WCC's Puppy Parent Program Manager: “As a Puppy Parent, you'll play a crucial role in shaping the lives of our incredible dogs before they graduate and are placed with Veterans in need. You'll provide a loving and nurturing environment for approximately 1.5 years, allowing our pups to grow and develop. Alternatively, if you prefer a shorter time commitment, we offer the option to raise a puppy from 2 to 6 months old. This flexibility allows you to make a difference within a timeframe that suits you best.

Interested in Puppy Sitting? You'll have the opportunity to support our Puppy Parents (PPs) when they need assistance due to travel or other circumstances. The application process is the same for both parents and sitters, empowering you to change your role based on your preference. [Volunteer Application](#)

Photo: Pam II's Puppy Parents





WCC NEEDS NAMES! It is easy to submit a namesake nomination and WCC is always looking for names, especially female! Nominations may be submitted directly by the Chapters, the Oral History and Memorabilia Committees via this link: <http://form.jotform.us/form/50645691646160>. A few nomination tips:

- 1) You must have either the member's or family's permission to submit a nominee.
- 2) Share an inspiring story of courage, compassion or support that will resonate with a wounded service member; and
- 3) Provide the nomination information to the NNCA WCC Liaison for tracking.

The WCC Puppy Cam which provides a live feed of adorable newborn puppies in the WCC nursery can be found here: <https://www.mangolinkcam.com/webcams/pets/dogs-warrior-canine.html>

Now Open! NNCA.org submitted by Cynthia Coyle

The new NNCA website was activated on November 1st just in time to allow online voting for the 2024-2027 Board members. Although several areas are still "under construction," the overall website is inviting and easy to use. We encourage you to explore the website at NNCA.org and provide us with your feedback. As we begin to work with our marketing contractor, we would like to know what you need as members and what you think can attract others to become members. Submit your comments to Cynthia Coyle at the following email address: Marketing@NNCA.org

The **public** page includes the following features:

- ◇ Homepage is a visual representation of the Navy Nurse Corps past, present and future.
- ◇ Our History, including logos over the years
- ◇ Our Mission, Vision, and Values
- ◇ Our Stories (information about the Oral History Project)
- ◇ NNCA Virtual Museum (*Under Construction*)
- ◇ In Memoriam (*Under Construction*)
- ◇ Chapter pages, including special callouts for those that offer scholarships
- ◇ NNCA Committee descriptions
- ◇ How to Get Involved, including information about our Partners (The DAISY Foundation, Wreaths Across America, Warrior Canine Connection, The Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Organization and History Associates, Inc.)
- ◇ Reunion information (2024 Fall Cruise) and other Meetings
- ◇ Navy Nurse Recognitions, including those in the news
- ◇ NNCA Awards page

Highlights of the **members-only** page include:

- ◇ Your Profile (Please update your personal information to ensure it is included in the NNCA Directory)
- ◇ NNCA Governing Documents
- ◇ NNCA News and Chapter News (when applicable)
- ◇ Membership Renewal and Donor functions (NNCA and Chapter level)
 - ◇ Credit cards may now be used when paying membership & donor fees
- ◇ Access to the membership list

If you have not yet done so, please log in to the Member's Only page and update your profile information!

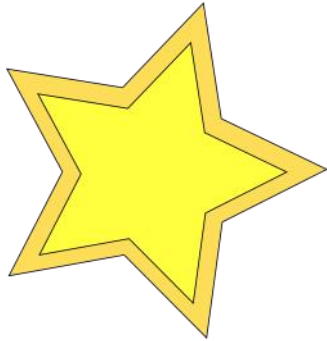
With our updated website, the Marketing team has published a new professionally produced and edited video:

Once a Navy Nurse, Always a Navy Nurse!

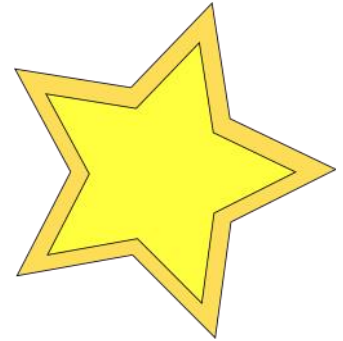
The video is on the front page of the website. This five-minute video presents a compelling reason for joining the NNCA and features our President, Cynthia Sweeney as well as several other Board and NNCA members. The intent of the video is to provide a marketing tool that all NNCA members can enjoy and promote. Watch the video, share it via your social media platforms, at any meetings with other Veteran Service Organizations or your local community gatherings. Let's get the word out—NNCA is the right place to be if you have ever been a Navy Nurse!

View the video at: [Navy Nurse Corps Association - Preserving History & Sharing Stories \(nnca.org\)](http://NavyNurseCorpsAssociation-PreservingHistory&SharingStories(nnca.org))





**Thank You to our very generous
2023 Donors!**
Your support sustains our organization and significantly contributes to special NNCA projects such as the Oral History Database and the Virtual Museum



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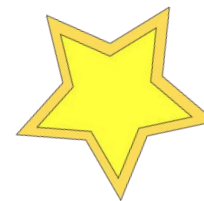
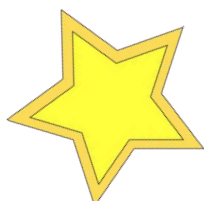
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Chapter News



Submitted by Lorrie Sammons

As the 2023 year end approached, the northern California/Bay Area Chapter moved toward dissolution and consolidation with the vibrant southern California NNCASC Chapter. We looked forward to a Final Hooyah event in conjunction with the Army/Navy Game Watch Party at the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville. On December 9th we gathered with 70 of our fellow veterans from affiliated Veteran groups. These excerpts are paraphrased from a description by Renee Sheehan, who has been steadfast as our outstanding Chapter Treasurer over the last decade:

Some left with new treasures....shirts, caps, pens, magnets, glassware, etc.” (Photo below)



Members were missed who couldn't attend due to travel, health, or schedule conflicts. Margaret Beaubien shared that she was busy Saturday preparing Care Packages with a Napa based organization, 'Operation With Love From Home.' She labelled 500 small American flags and prepared boxes and customs forms for active duty members throughout Europe.

“The Army-Navy game event where BANNCA had our final gathering was a fun time for all, despite Navy's loss. There was a ceremony of cake cutting with swords by our nurses Alice Darrow, age 104, and Peggy Wallace, the youngest Navy nurse attending.

Lorrie Sammons was honored by the Veterans groups for her contributions.

Our Chapter, represented by Janice, JeanAnn, Lorrie, Peggy, Karen, Alice, Bonnie, Mary Ellen, and Renee, presented donations to the American Legion Post 246 and the Veterans Memorial Building in support of operations and activities in 2024 (Photo top next column).

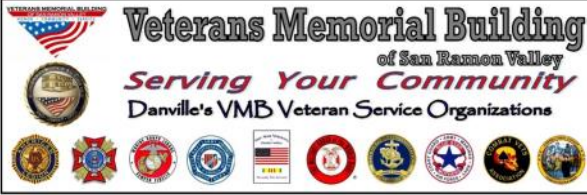


Members and guests followed signage in the Event Hall to enjoy the displays in a separate room of memorabilia.

In other year-end activities:

- We supported American Legion/California Boys and Girls State participants at a Luncheon recognition October 1.
- Bonnie Bouey discovered the 'Doors Open California' tour of the Admiral Nimitz House on Treasure Island, October 7.
- Our extensive involvement in the 'Pop Up Museum' over Veterans Day week in November is highlighted in a separate article.
- Karen Born continues to guide the Stitchery Group we support in organizing, designing, and delivering beautiful, hand-crafted Holiday ornaments to local VA facilities.
- Our Wreaths Across America donations again supported New England NNCA, while providing wreaths to the 100,000+ graves at Golden Gate National Cemetery. And by making an early '2024' contribution to the same beneficiaries by January 16, our donation is matched by WAA HQ through their promotion.





As we move forward in our transition and the dissolution of

BANNCA, we step back from the role we have taken in service, governance, and fellowship with our fellow veterans at the regional Veterans Memorial Building.

In signing off as a NNCA Chapter, in proud Navy tradition, we offer a salute (although virtual), and close...BANNCA Chapter, departing.



Submitted by Sherry Dotson

The Florida Navy Nurse Corps Association held its annual Fall meeting at the Stonewood Grill in Daytona on November 4th. Our guest speaker was Leslie Mullins from the Quilts of Valor Foundation whose mission is to "cover service member and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." Hand made with love and respect by volunteers, she presented one of our members, Cheryl McDonald, with a lovely quilt.



We also revised and approved our new Chapter Bylaws and recognized our new Board of Directors: President, Denise Johnson; Vice President, Mary Jackson; Secretary, Kristen Atterbury; Treasurer, Jacque Rychnovsky; Andra

Wilke, Sherry Dotson, Iris Boehnke, Terry McGuirk and Cheryl McDonald.



We followed the meeting by participating in the annual downtown Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade with hundreds of participants and thousands of observers along a two-mile route through the city to honor the over 80,000 veterans who live in the area.

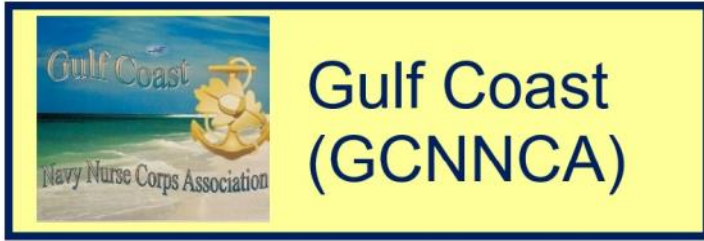


Afterwards we celebrated our day with a small luncheon at First Watch. FNNCA continued our celebration by selecting and awarding four scholarships to Samantha Drake, Jacksonville University; Yafang Zuo, Naval Reservist attending Miami-Dade College; Alexandria Carey, spouse of a USCG Reservist studying at University of Florida; and Madison Hershey, an Army Cadet attending Florida State.





We closed the year with several of us participating in Wreaths Across America on December 16, laying wreaths at our two area cemeteries in Jacksonville and Saint Augustine.



Submitted by Martha Hicks

The new GCNNCA Board of Directors are: President, Shirley Lewis-Brown; Vice-President, Trumin Brown; Secretary, Martha Hicks; Treasurer, Susan Ulloa; Scholarship, Sue Varenholt; and Oral History Coordinator, Dan Miller.

Veterans Day Parade – The GCNNCA had two vehicles riding in the parade on Saturday, November 11. The vehicles displayed magnetic Chapter signs for Chapter awareness. The parade began at 1000 and ended at Veterans Memorial Park with a short ceremony following.

Chapter members participated in Wreaths Across America distribution at Barrancas Cemetery Pensacola, FL, on December 16, 2023. The ceremony included a Memorial service following the Wreath distribution, a Blue Angels flyover and the presentation of Colors with the NAS Pensacola CO and XO.

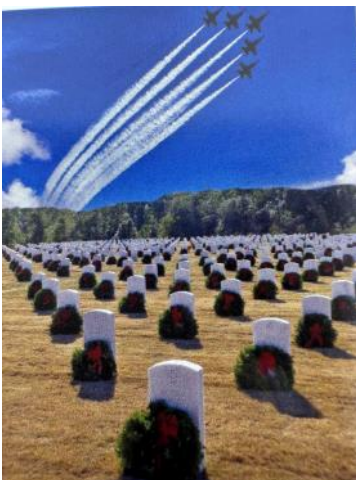


Photo: Martha, Shirley and Susan with friends distributing wreaths at NAS Pensacola's Barrancas Cemetery



Submitted by Ellen Hodges

The MSNNCA Chapter was excited to meet our newest member, Mary Kerdus, in person at our Fall 2023 meeting. We are looking forward to becoming good friends!!! Mary previously lived in the state of Washington after her retirement from the Navy. She and her husband relocated to Tennessee to be closer to family. Just like a PCS move, but Mary's choice this time and not the Navy's.

Our Chapter unanimously voted to make a monetary donation to the Warrior Canine Connection as our Christmas Project.

MSNNCA in person meetings for 2024 are scheduled:

- March 21 in Cullman, AL, at the LaQuinta Inn located at 2044 St. Joseph Drive, NW
- June 20 - location to be determined
- September 19 in Knoxville, TN. Specific site to be determined.



Submitted by Carole O'Byrne

The upper Midwest enjoyed a mild early winter that just yielded to some snow and typical below zero January temps.

At our December meeting, our Chapter continued with our practice of one member describing their start in the Navy



Nurse Corps. This time, we heard from Gwyn Faber Lang. The Vietnam War was still underway in 1971 when Gwyn and a fellow student nurse joined the Navy's scholarship program. The details of her story are on page 9 in this newsletter.

Following graduation from the University of Iowa in 1973, Gwyn received orders to Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland, CA. Initially, Gwyn worked on a surgical ward followed by postpartum.

She accepted orders to Naval Hospital Subic Bay, Philippines in early 1975 where the 7th Fleet was home ported and Cubi Point Naval Air Station experienced seemingly non-stop flights.

We all know now that this was the time South Vietnam fell to the North, sending thousands of Southeast Asians to flee their lives and contacts in South Vietnam.

On December 16, trucks from the Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization arrived at the Minneapolis Fort Snelling National Cemetery with thousands of wreaths for volunteers to place in the cemetery. Although it was a gray day, the mild temperatures resulted in several thousand volunteers, adults and children, arriving for a short program followed by the laying of wreaths.

In fact, there were so many volunteers MWNCA members Marcia Belisle, Jean Mahaffey, and Carole O'Byrne were left empty-handed until a WAA truck driver intervened. Once he heard our individual stories of service in the Navy Nurse Corps, the driver conducted his own search that produced twelve wreaths for us to present at undecorated graves. It was an enjoyable way to honor our veterans as the holiday season got underway.



Photo: Wreaths Across America truck arrives at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

MWNCA members Jean Mahaffey, Carole O'Byrne and Marcia Belisle





New England (NENNCA)

Submitted by Tom Wilson

The New England NNCA Chapter held a General Membership virtual meeting on October 18th and elected new Officers: Thomas Wilson as President and Deborah Brigadier as Treasurer. Special thanks to Irene Weaver (outgoing President) and Kimberly Lyons (outgoing Treasurer) for their dedication and significant contributions to the success of this Chapter.



On October 22nd the Chapter held its Fall luncheon at the Publik House and Inn, at Historic Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts, attended by members from across New England.

On December 16th Chapter members participated in Wreaths Across America at the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery and St Michaels Cemetery, Derby Connecticut.

On October 24th, the Naval Health Clinic New England held The DAISY Award team award ceremony. Seven teams were nominated. The winner recipient of the Team award was Groton, Undersea Medicine. In addition, the Clinic will be awarding its first DAISY Nursing Leadership Award on February 29, 2024.



Dianne Kemmy, RN, was the first recipient of The DAISY Leadership Award at the Rhode Island Veteran's Home in Bristol, RI, this past December. CAPT Eric Gryn, CNO, NMRTC, Newport, RI, represented NENNCA/NNCA who jointly sponsor this award opportunity. Congratulations, Dianne!



Please see the NENNCA-sponsored NNCA Reunion Fall Foliage Cruise update details on page 5.



Submitted by Nancy Owen

NNCASC members attended the 33rd Annual Military Women's Luncheon which was held Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Veterans Association of North County (VANC) in Oceanside. Over 150 military women and guests attended the very popular event. Guest speaker was Lindsey Sin, recently appointed Secretary of the California Department of Veteran Affairs and U.S. Navy Veteran.

Photo, Top next column, back row, left to right: Jane Hourigan, Charlotte McCormick; 2nd row: Barb Beeby, Judith Brooks, George Waecker, Becky Nulty, Karen Foore; 1st row: Nancy Owen, Pat Clancy, Candace Curlee, Tina Hooker



Many events were held throughout San Diego on Veterans Day weekend. Eleven of our NNCASC members including Pat Clancy, Nancy Johnson, Barb Beeby, Nancy Owen, Cindy Perry, Jane Eberlein, Easty Law, Jane Hourigan, Candace Curlee, Judy Pattinson, Mary Rushton, (photo below), donned our patriotic gear, carried our banner and marched in the San Diego Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 12, the first Veterans Day parade held in three years. Our own Casey Meehan, Vietnam Veteran, member of a recent Honor Flight, was also in the parade riding with other Honor Flight attendees in an Old Town Trolley.



At our NNCASC Board meeting in November, Jane Hourigan succeeded Becky Nulty as NNCASC President. Becky served as President for twelve years leading our chapter and committees in an exemplary manner. At our January 10th luncheon, President Jane Hourigan recognized Becky for her



innumerable chapter accomplishments and presented a certificate designating her "President Emeritus of NNCASC."



Also, at the January luncheon NNCASC member and website administrator, Don Phillips, was honored (in absentia as he resides in Arizona) as our NNCASC "Member of the Year." Not only was he recognized for his contributions to the chapter but to his local community in Arizona. He and his wife, Marilyn, have been involved for several years in International Mission Trips serving in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala. When COVID-19 put a temporary halt to international travel, they became very active with a local non-profit in Arizona to help low income families with the goal to reduce poverty in the city.



Photo: Marilyn & Don Phillips

Three deliveries were made to the VA during the fall including gift cards, snack items, toiletries and over 100 pairs of socks. Part of one delivery being dropped off.

Photo: VA staff accepts PCNNCA donations

PCNNCA members prepared for their first float ride in the annual Veterans Day parade! We all had fun decorating our first float and decided that riding vs. walking was a great idea this year. The weather was perfect, and the crowds were so appreciative of the Veteran participants.



Submitted by Peggy Williams

The PCNNCA Board Of Directors meeting was held January 20, 2024. Current Board members include Peggy Williams, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Rebecca Crichton, Arlene Southerland, Alice Cagnina. Following the election of Officers, the Board members transitioned to the 2024 Board, enjoying brunch while planning a great year ahead!



Photo, left to right: Peggy Williams, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Rebecca Crichton, Arlene Southerland, Alice Cagnina



PCNNCA's Annual Holiday Event was held at Belle Hall Plantation Clubhouse. We enjoyed delicious prime rib fresh off the coals, with all the sides and dessert contributions. Our annual gift exchange and of course, the surprise gift raffle were enjoyed by all!





Washington Metro Area (WMANNCA)

Submitted by Christine Boltz

The Washington Metro Area Navy Nurse Corp Association (WMANNCA) is active in a variety of active duty and veteran events. At our October luncheon, a videographer captured clips of social interaction, tasked by NNCA Board member and WMANNCA member Cindy Coyle. Many of those clips are now part of the new NNCA promotional video. We also took time at the luncheon to write cards to members who did not attend. We received several thank you notes from card recipients and plan to incorporate this activity into future luncheons.

In October, The DAISY Award was presented to Mr. Kedar Dahal, Perioperative Nurse for the Urology Service Line at Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC), formerly Fort Belvoir Community Hospital.

Photo: L to R: COL Jovitta Chandler, DNS, LT Riletha Smith, AC-NOIC, Inpatient Behavioral Health, CAPT Jacqueline Williams, Deputy DNS, WMANNCA member Maria Harbeson, Mr. Kedar Dahal, WMANNCA member and NNCA President Cynthia Sweeney, and LT Sarah Wolff, CNOIC, Executive Medicine Clinic.



On Veterans Day 2023 weekend, WMANNCA members and other military women from all over the country came to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. See the separate article on page 11.

During Wreaths Across America, we supported two locations: the United States Naval Academy (USNA) Cemetery and Arlington National Cemetery. The USNA Cemetery wreath laying occurred on December 1st. Kathy Thorp, Boo Lahman, Cynthia Sweeney and Maggie Balacki participated at the USNA event (photo next column).

The event at Arlington National Cemetery was held on December 16th.



WMANNCA members attending were Rosie Perdue and Christine Boltz (photo right).

Two of our long-time members passed away recently, Dottie Leonard and Joan Steyn.

Dottie joined the Navy in 1961 and served at a variety of duty stations including overseas in Yokosuka, Japan, and

Vietnam where she served on the USS REPOSE in 1966. Many knew Dottie as she was the Navy Nurse Corps Detailer before her retirement in 1989.

Joan started as a cadet nurse and became a Navy nurse in 1950. During the Korean War, she worked at Yokosuka Naval Hospital in Japan and went on to serve ten years until she married a Navy doctor and resigned her commission. In 2020, Joan received a Quilt of Valor having been nominated by WMANNCA.

Our next Chapter Luncheon is planned for Saturday, 23 March 2024.





NNCA
 Navy Nurse Corp Association
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In Memoriam

To report a death, contact
 the Executive Director at
ExecDir@nnca.org

Name	State	Dates Served	War Service	Death Date	Birth Date	Age
Adams-Harris, Rachel	UT		K	5/27/2017	4/22/1926	91
Barnes, Julia O	PA	58-90	V	9/14/2023	5/13/1937	86
Beeler, Joshua D	TN	94-20	G	12/22/23	08/25/74	49
Bizzelle, Johnnie E	NC	60-80	V	11/10/2023	12/16/2028	94
Davison, Barbara	NY	60-68	V	10/10/2023	11/9/1938	84
Glass, Joan "Pinky"	WA	62-90	V	1/27/2024	7/18/1939	84
Lufkin, Janice	PA	66-92	V, G	5/13/2023	12/18/1941	81
McDonnell, Shirley R	MD	55-66	V	12/07/23	02/06/33	90
Moyer, Martha Kerchner	CA		WWII, K	12/1/2022	2/21/1928	93
Neault, Patricia	CA	67-71	V	4/30/2023	3/29/1945	78
Richards, Margaret Ruth	VA	47-67	K, V	10/29/2023	7/11/1925	98
Robinson, Leslie	WA		V, G	1/9/2024	5/19/1945	79
Sattazahn, Mary D	VA	68-92	V	10/29/23	06/07/40	83
Shields, Patricia	CA	54-76	K, V	11/23/23	06/18/35	88
Siragusa, Helen Marie	ME	45-52	V, K	11/19/2023	5/23/1923	100
Steyn, Joan	VA	50-65	K	7/15/2023	11/28/1927	95
Willhelm, Patricia	FL	65-93	V, G	12/10/2023	3/12/1944	79
Wright, Margaret Ellen	FL		V	10/18/2023	8/30/1946	77

