

Washington Metropolitan Area Navy Nurse Corps Association

The Capital Zone



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Christine Boltz

Fall and the holiday season is here again, although Halloween items in stores in August seem a bit premature. A special thank you to those who participated in the virtual presentation, *Building Resiliency, Self-Stewardship and Integrity for the Future of Nursing Practice* on 13 August.

BOARD

PRESIDENT

Christine Boltz

VICE PRESIDENT

Ana Stoehr

SECRETARY

Boo Lahman

TREASURER

Shelley Savage

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Ben Boccuzzi

Rose Perdue

Ann Ross

Fall luncheon plans are coming together for an event in Annapolis in early November. As Veterans Day approaches consider participating or attending local events of interest. Take time out to observe the meaning of the holiday, to recognize yourself and other veterans. One year I attended a Wreath Laying at the Navy Memorial with a friend and following we both enjoyed lunch at a restaurant honoring veterans with a free meal. The Military Women's Memorial offers a late in the day program and they live stream their events.

The WMANNCA Leadership team meets on 16 September and we plan to discuss the results of the membership survey from June to guide future activities. We appreciate those who took the time to respond. The broad brush assessment of the results, what we have planned for the coming year meets the needs of the survey respondents. We also had a volunteer interested in helping with meet ups and program planning.

WMANNCA activities currently planned:

Fall 2024 Chapter Luncheon: 9 November 2024

Wreaths Across America: 14 December 2024

Virtual Event/Presentation: January 2025

Spring 2025 Chapter Luncheon: 5 April 2025



For those signed up for the NNCA 2024 Reunion, I will see you soon!

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

Rose Perdue

SCHOLARSHIP

Boo Lahman

TROOP SUPPORT

Kathy Thorp

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Ann Ross, Editor

Welcome to another edition of the WMANNCA Newsletter. As always our aim is to improve communication among our membership. In this edition we focus on Navy Nurses both past and present and have started a new feature , “Spotlight on a Member”.

Of course, we also need **your** stories. The deadline for the next newsletter is 30 November 2024. Please send to: **WMANNCAnews@gmail.com**.

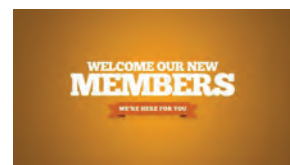
MEMBERSHIP

Sue Miller

WMANNCA currently has 146 members. About 90% of our members have renewed their memberships for the 2024-2025 membership year. If you are not sure whether you have renewed your membership, you can contact Sue Miller at millerses@gmail.com to confirm your status. Thank you to all members who have consistently renewed their memberships on time each year. Our chapter really appreciates your continued support and needs your input and participation to make us a strong and vital chapter.

New Members since last newsletter: **Cheryl Toulouse, Laura Kirchner, Jessica Pipkin, Patrick Powers, Neal Skerletts, and Karen Lynne Page** all from Virginia, Welcome!

Members lost since last newsletter: **Bobbi Hovis**, one of the charter members of WMANNCA and NNCA, passed away in May 2024. See the tribute to Bobbi on page 7.



FINANCE REPORT**1-31 July 2024***Shelley Savage*

Starting Balance:	\$29,491.12
Receipts/Deposits	\$ 400.00 (dues & \$50 NNCA donation)
Interest:	\$.25
Disbursements: (Checks Posted)	\$ 295.00 (#909; NNCA dues/donations)
Ending Balance:	\$29,596.37
Liabilities:	
Pending Checks:	none
Scholarship Fund:	\$ 2,737.66
History Fund:	\$ 445.25
Troop/Vet Support:	\$ 1,087.54
Rough Seas:	\$ 290.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 4,620.45
Working Balance:	\$24,975.92



BIRTHDAY CORNER

OCTOBER

- 1 Alice Moyer
- 1 Kathleen (Kay) Mikszan
- 2 Claire Burke
- 6 Christine Ehlers
- 7 Betsy Morris
- 9 Patricia Goodin (Patty)
- 9 Virginia York
- 16 Krystal Coulter
- 25 Tommy Stewart

NOVEMBER

- 1 Susan Stuart Miller
- 4 Carroll (Chris) McKown
- 7 Dennis Campbell
- 7 Kim LeBel
- 7 Assanatu Savage
- 9 Patricia Kenney
- 15 Judith Merring
- 16 Ann Devers
- 16 Carole Louis
- 17 Mary K. Nunley
- 20 Maureen Kusnierek
- 20 Catherine Cox
- 24 Maryanne Hugo
- 24 Alexandria Millett
- 28 Catherine Dischner
- 29 Patricia J. Kelly

DECEMBER

- 1 Odette Willis
- 2 Carol A. Carney
- 5 Kay Beasley
- 5 Judy Logeman
- 7 Maureen Holtzman
- 12 Anna Moretti
- 15 Mary Kathleen Smith
- 15 Nancy McCarthey
- 16 Tracy Lynn
- 23 Sandy Cupples
- 26. Catherine (Cathy) Wilson
- 29 Christopher Walker
- 30 Judith (Judy) Brinckerhoff

If any member has questions, changes to their information, or does not want their month and day of birth (not year) shared in the newsletter, please contact Odette Willis at WMANNCABDC@gmail.com.



SPOTLIGHT ON A MEMBER: CAROLYN KIRKLAND

Ann Ross

WMANNCA member **Carolyn Kirkland** lives in Warrenton, Virginia where she is very active in supporting veterans. Carolyn joined the Navy in 1966, already an RN, with the rank of LTJG. Her first duty station was Oak Knoll



(Oakland, CA), where she worked on a 20 bed amputee ward. The hospital was built by the Sea Bees in 1944 with wards connected by ramps., and she referred to herself as a “ramp rat”. Some nights she would cover as many as 4 wards as the only nurse with hospital corpsmen assigned to each ward. This was typical for many military hospitals built during WWII. The wards were large open bay units with 20-50 beds and the nurse’s station was usually in the middle of the ward. It was easy for the staff to see the patients and

watch them constantly.

Her next duty stations included Naples, Italy, and Quantico, Va. In Quantico, she met her husband, Bud Kirkland. Carolyn left the Navy in 1977 and worked as an outreach nurse at Vint Hill Station until it closed in 1997.

Her husband suffered from Agent Orange and has since died. Her focus now is on veterans and particularly helping those with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Carolyn volunteers with Hero’s Bridge and is an ambassador for the Boulder Crest Foundation. You may remember her introducing Ken Falke, the founder of Boulder Crest Foundation and Boulder Crest Retreat at our luncheon in October 2022. Boulders Crest not only helps veterans with PTSD but also Gold Star families and First Responders. Hero’s Bridge is an organization trying to start a village with small houses for veterans 65 and older.

Carolyn also belongs to the American Legion and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). At age 88, she is still going strong – **a Navy Nurse taking care of the troops.**

Please see her comments about PTSD on the next page.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

Carolyn Kirkland

Even Navy Doctors, Nurses & Hospital Corpsmen can experience PTSD. We all should take advantage of a program like Boulder Crest Foundation. Everything is very confidential. I did manage to encourage one Navy Nurse to enter this program and now she is living a happier life.

Seriously, if you or someone you know needs this kind of help PLEASE encourage them to pursue this program. They have a beautiful facility in Sonora, AZ and opening a new one in Italy, TX. I would be happy to arrange a tour of the facility outside of Leesburg, VA called Bluemont. Also some free weekends may be available for veterans.

Call me. Carolyn Kirkland: 540-216-4302.

MARINE CORPS MARATHON Nurse Support



The Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) is looking for compassionate and energetic volunteers to serve in numerous positions within the Medical Team for any of our events. **The greatest need is marathon weekend October 26-27 in the DC/VA area.** Licensed & retired providers, corpsmen, medics, students in need of volunteer or service hours are all needed.

They provide training and supplies and you get a shirt and qualify for Volunteer Recognition'

Visit the volunteer website and sign up to be notified as each event opens for volunteers: <https://xactllc.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=26281>

Questions? Reach out to Shelly Weinstein, Medical & Volunteer Coordinator. Michele.weinstein@usmc-mccs.org

REMEMBERING BOBBI HOVIS

Boo Lahman



LCDR Bobbie HOVIS NC USN Ret.
31 Aug 1925 - 5 May 2024

WMANNCA member **LCDR Vila J. “Bobbi” Hovis, NC, USN, Retired**, died on May 5, 2024, in Annapolis, MD at the age of 98. She was born in Girard, OH on August 31, 1925. A graduate of West Penn Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh, she joined the Navy in 1947. She was the first Navy nurse to undergo training to become a Navy flight nurse, the first to volunteer for Korea, and one of the first Navy nurses in Vietnam. She

described her Vietnam experiences in her book, [Station Hospital Saigon: A Navy Nurse in Vietnam, 1963-1964](#),

On Friday, 16 August 2024, friends and family gathered in the lovely lakeside community of Edinboro, PA, to say a final farewell to Bobbi. According to her cousin Sandy, it was in Edinboro, 20 miles from Lake Erie, where Bobbi fell in love with water and sailing. While Edinboro was her birthplace, Annapolis was her home. Whether you knew her as a participant in the many Navy Nurse Corps Birthday cake-cutting ceremonies, or an enduring fixture at Navy football tailgate events, or with her dear friend Tweedy Searcy, the first women members of the Naval Academy Sailing Squadron, diehard Navy football fans and tailgaters, or a steadfast attendee of our WMANNCA luncheons, Bobbi was simply unforgettable.

Local and farther-flung families from Oregon and Maine joined friends from Annapolis to remember Bobbi. All present were invited to relate our "Bobbi stories." One cousin shared that when he was four years old, he fell off a dock into Edinboro Lake, and Bobbi, ever fearless at age 12, jumped in and saved him. A couple from Annapolis related the story of meeting Tweedy and Bobbi on a wet and cold Saturday at a Navy tailgate. He invited them for a hot cup of coffee and new friendships were formed. This couple was also a longtime midshipman sponsor, and he would always send his midshipmen to interview Bobbi; he said they were always profoundly affected by meeting this epitome of a Naval Officer.

Continued on next page.

“Remembering Bobbi Hovis” continued

In later years, Bobbi and former WMANNCA President and longtime Chair of WMANNCA Membership, Sue Miller, were videotaped for the MPT/PBS special documentary, which became part of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

On behalf of WMANNCA, I attended the service and offered that I had met her at an NC Birthday cake-cutting. Again, after I retired and returned to Annapolis, I met her at her senior living center, Gardens of Annapolis, because my Mom was there also. One day, I picked my Mom and Bobbi up and went to a WMANNCA luncheon. I remarked that I had just read her book about her Saigon experience, and marveled at the conditions she faced. With typical Bobbi modesty, like nurses all over, she stated, "We were just doing our job." So, in my final remarks about Bobbi, I added another descriptor to Bobbi. She is resilient.

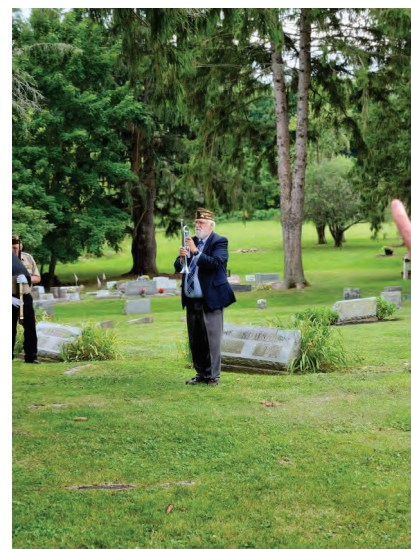
So LCDR Bobbi Hovis, NC, Ret; “may you have fair winds and following seas; we have the watch”.



Altar



Flowers from WMANNCA



Taps

BUILDING RESILIENCY, SELF-STEWARDSHIP AND INTEGRITY FOR THE FUTURE OF NURSING PRACTICE

Christine Boltz

WMANNCA in conjunction with NNCA and the **R3 Resilient Nurses Initiative** co-sponsored an informative and meaningful virtual presentation, *Building Resiliency, Self-Stewardship and Integrity for the Future of Nursing Practice* on 13 August. Our presenter, Cynda Hylton Rushton, PhD, RN, FAAN, (the Anne and George L. Bunting Professor of Clinical Ethics at the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics,) shared the key components of the Maryland State Initiative R³ Resilience Project which is focused on enhancing the resilience, renewal, and retention of nurses in Maryland.

Dr. Rushton discussed key themes of the research which focused on addressing burn-out, moral distress, and stress among nurses by fostering a culture of ethical practice. She also shared study outcomes and consequent curriculum enhancements that are resources available to staff nurses, nurse leaders and nursing educators to improve well-being and professional integrity. These findings may be applied to any practice setting. Though a Maryland state initiative, the findings can be generalized to settings outside the state of Maryland.

The report findings and resources are available at: <https://nursing.jhu.edu/faculty-research/research/centers/r3/r3-nurse-report/>.

The recording of the presentation is at: <https://nnca.org/news-messages/new-messages/>.



FALL CHAPTER LUNCHEON

Saturday, 9 November 2024 in the Annapolis area.
Place to be announced.

DAISY AWARDS

Christine Boltz

On August 8th NNCA President and WMANNCA member Cindy Sweeney was accompanied by WMANNCA President Christine Boltz, Secretary Boo Lahman and Member-At- Large Rosie Perdue for a quarterly DAISY Award ceremony at the A.T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC), formerly Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. There were an impressive 44 nominations for the individual DAISY Award this quarter. Presentations included the DAISY Individual Award to **Ms. Kristen Phillips** (not pictured) and the DAISY Nurse Leader Award to **COL Jovitta Chandler**. Cindy Sweeney, NNCA President presented the awards and provided remarks.



L to R: COL. Chandler, Cindy Sweeney, and CAPT Jacqueline Williams, DNS/Chief Nursing Officer.



NAVY NURSES HONORED

Recently honored at the Women Veterans Recognition Day at the Women's Memorial on June 12th are two current and former Navy Nurses. **Louise Terwilliger**, 107, who served from 1941-1947 and **ENS Julia Baylosis**. They represent the past and the future of military women.

