

NAVY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION

ONCE A NAVY NURSE, ALWAYS A NAVY NURSE

Volume 39 No. 1 | July 2025

Please Welcome the NNCA 2025-2026 Board of Directors!



The NNCA membership selected the following Board of Director members: Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Cynthia Kuehner, and Lisa Raimondo

NNCA 2025-2026 Officers are: Cynthia Sweeney, President, Michelle McKenzie, Secretary, Jenny Vedral-Baron, Vice President, Brian Dawson, Treasurer and Sandra Pearson, President-Elect (the board created this position recently to ensure succession planning for the future).

Top Row, (L to R) Cynthia Sweeney, President, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, Sandra Pearson
Middle Row, (L to R) Brian Dawson, Treasurer, Michelle McKenzie, Secretary, Tina Ortiz
Bottom Row, (L to R) Cynthia Kuehner, Lisa Raimondo, Jennifer Vedral-Baron, Vice-President

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President's Corner - Cindy Sweeney

During this summer season, I am reminded of the family road trip vacations undertaken with my parents during my childhood. In April, I took a three-week road trip on Route 66 – Chicago to Santa Monica with friends! It was a trip down memory lane. Those of a certain generation will remember summertime vacations when we would load up the family station wagon, wind down the windows (there was no air conditioning) and take off for summer vacation, stopping at family run motels, restaurants, and gas stations along the way. The roads were typically two lane and rambled into small towns across the United States. Depending on your end point, the trip could take days, sometimes weeks, versus hours to get from your home to your destination. We traveled on Route 66, known as the "Mother Road". During the Great Depression, it was seen as the path to opportunity for those fleeing the dustbowl ruins of family farms in the mid-west. Route 66 will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. I marvel at the history that road has seen! The trip could be completed in less than a week, but we opted for the journey lasting three weeks on Route 66's two-lane highway. It was a rich experience, learning more about our country and our fellow citizens. The interstate would have been easier and faster, but this journey was about digging deep and taking on the challenge of enjoying and learning in the moment.



There are parallels in this journey and our movement through life. The terms "trip" and "journey" are frequently used interchangeably. Both indicate travel, but journey can also describe personal growth and change. Charles Kuralt, a journalist, traveled the country covering interesting stories of average people. He once said, "Thanks to the interstate highway system, it is now possible to travel across the country from coast to coast without seeing anything." I hope your life is an off the interstate journey! Throughout your life, you could have taken the easy road and made the minimal grade to graduate, you could have looked the other way when there was a request for a volunteer, you could have taken the easier patient or set of orders, but I know as a Navy Nurse, you did not. I know you took the challenge and did the hard stuff. Continue to do the hard stuff! See the sights of life. Learn from those experiences.

The ANA theme for Nurses Week 2025 is, "The Power of Nurses". There are five million nurses in the United States. We continue to be the most trusted profession for the past 23 years. We have power. We need to flip the switch and access that power to advocate for our nursing organizations. Volunteer to be on one of NNCA's committees, or on the NNCA BOD slate. These are those 'dig deep' opportunities in your journey. You will meet amazing people and have fun contributing! NNCA is a great connector for mentorship, for professional development and for the collective voice of nursing to be heard. So please step up when our nominating committee puts out the call for candidates for our board of directors!

NNCA NEWS

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Board of Directors, 2025 - Current

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Continued on page 3...

President's Corner continued...

Despite the tornados and rain, your board of directors gathered to conduct the business of NNCA in our first face to face meeting since Covid! A very dedicated board with all in attendance! During this time, we bade farewell to our outgoing board members: Rose Perdue, Vince Starks, and Veronica Armstrong-Evans, as well as our longstanding NNCA Newsletter editor, Dot O'Very. We welcomed Sara Marks as our new editor and our new board members, Cindy Kuehner, who will shepherd our strategic plan, Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, our uplink to Oral Histories and Memorabilia, and Lisa Raimondo, our board member at large will assume the role of uplink for Marketing. At the May board of director's meeting, the board created the position of 'President-Elect' to assure succession planning for the future. Sandra Pearson was elected to this position within

the board and will work with me to ensure a smooth transition to the presidency in the spring, when my term ends. A sincere thank you to each of our departing board members who generously shared their time and talent, digging into the experience to make NNCA stronger. We look forward to the next bend in the road with our new board members and the journey ahead!

Wishing you a memorable journey!

~ Cindy

Executive Director - Mary Mahony

As summer arrives in full bloom—bringing with it warm days and bright horizons—the NNCA community continues to shine with energy, purpose, and camaraderie. From honoring our proud history to embracing a future shaped by innovation and shared experiences, this season offers much to celebrate.



Across commands and chapters, we saw inspiring celebrations of Nurses Week and the 117th anniversary of the Navy Nurse Corps. These events not only honored the legacy of Navy Nurses but also welcomed a new generation into our storied traditions—many of whom joined us virtually through social media, helping bridge the gap between past and present.

I'm especially thrilled about the excitement building around our upcoming **40th Anniversary Celebration in 2027**. Planning is already underway, and we invite anyone interested in participating to contact the committee at nnca40th@nnca.org. Your involvement will help shape an event worthy of our rich heritage.

Thanks to your continued support, over **80% of our members have renewed their memberships this year**—a remarkable show of dedication! We offer heartfelt appreciation to our Chapter Membership Chairs, whose behind-the-scenes efforts are essential to our mission. For those still needing to renew, our online system has been simplified to allow combined national and chapter dues, along with optional donations—all in one convenient place.

Staying connected as an organization remains a top priority. We recently gained valuable insights during the vote on proposed by-law changes. Historically, online voting via the NNCA website yielded just a 27% response rate over the past decade. This time, we tried a new approach: ballots were sent via Constant Contact to 1,030 members, and 52 paper ballots were mailed to those without email access.

Of those contacted, 81% opened the survey link, but only 535 members completed the survey; additionally, 33 returned paper ballots, 18 emails bounced, and 5 recipients had unsubscribed. Nearly 50% of our total membership participated—a major improvement! Although the amendment received strong support (95% for question 1 and 96% for question 2), it fell short of the required two-thirds majority of all members.

This experience highlights the effectiveness of email-based voting—especially as 474 members have never logged into the NNCA website. The Board is now considering using Constant Contact for future votes, including Board elections, to increase accessibility and engagement.

As summer unfolds, let's continue to stay connected—whether by attending events, volunteering, or simply updating your member profile. Every action helps strengthen our NNCA community.

With gratitude and excitement for what's ahead,

~ Mary



Why the Bylaws Should Be Changed: Empowering the NNCA for a Stronger Future

—Submitted by Mary Mahony & Jenny Vedral-Baron

The Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) stands at a pivotal moment—balancing proud traditions with an evolving membership. Our current bylaws require a two-thirds vote of the entire membership to pass critical amendments. This outdated requirement makes meaningful progress nearly impossible in today's digital age.

Recent voting data highlights this challenge: despite a record 50% participation rate using email ballots, the most successful turnout in NNCA history, a bylaw amendment still failed—not because members opposed it, but because the threshold was mathematically unattainable.

Revising the bylaws to define a majority or two-thirds vote based on those who vote—as is common practice in non-profit governance—respects the democratic process while enabling the Association to adapt, grow, and better serve

its members. This change doesn't diminish the value of any member's voice. Instead, it ensures those who choose to participate are heard and counted effectively.

The proposed update also modernizes how we handle membership classification and voting rights. Allowing the Board of Directors, with majority ratification by voting members, to expand membership categories provides flexibility for future growth while preserving oversight.

In short, these changes:

- Reflect best practices in nonprofit governance
- Increase agility without sacrificing transparency
- Empower members by ensuring their votes count
- Lay the groundwork for a stronger, more inclusive future

Within the next few months, you'll receive an email invitation to vote on these important bylaw updates. Your participation truly matters. This is our opportunity to shape the future of the NNCA—together. By casting your vote, you help ensure our organization remains strong, responsive, and relevant for generations of Navy nurses to come. Let's move forward with confidence, honoring our legacy while embracing the possibilities ahead. We look forward to your voice, your vote and continued engagement.

Editor Column - Sara Marks

As I'm familiarizing my role as your newsletter editor, I find that in the learning to crawl, walk, run that I'm crawling faster than I thought in the crawl stage. It's both humbling and exhilarating to learn about our organization as I develop my publishing skills.



Mostly I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter and for Dot and Mary for continuing to support me as I grow in my new role. I'd also like to acknowledge the obvious tremendous efforts that each of our chapter members who contribute to the Navy Nurse Corps, their respective communities and the NNCA. To quote Mother Theresa, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." Keep sending your stories of all the important things that you do every day. And remember, everything you do is important.

I also want to welcome two new copy editors, Joline DeVos and Joan Pate, who volunteered to assist with the newsletter. Though I didn't work with our two outgoing copy editors Carol Hinger or Barbara O'Brien, on behalf of Dot O'Very, our former newsletter editor, I'd like to thank each of you for your dedication and support. Of course I'm delighted to continue to work with Jeff Bashford, Margaret Beaubien, Christine Boltz, and Linda Daehn. Your attention to detail in reviewing this edition of our newsletter was a tremendous help.

As your newsletter editor, it is my privilege and honor to be part of the caretaking of our Navy Nurse Corps history and stories. It is also such a pleasure to become reacquainted with so many shipmates and meet so many NNCA members with whom I have a shared history in my editor role.

Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory. -- George S. Patton Jr.

~Sara

Articles of Interest

The Future of the Nurse Corps Looks Bright!

—Submitted by Ginny Beeson
 (reprinted with permission from the WMANNCA Newsletter)

This past February, while on vacation on Amelia Island, Florida, Bronwyn Fillion, NC (Ret) invited me and a few other retired nurses for dinner and an evening of fun and memories. She had a brilliant idea: why not invite some of the nursing ROTC students from Jacksonville University (JU) to join us!? She notified the JU unit, and 12 young, enthusiastic, excited nursing students joined us for a wonderful evening of Q & A, and fun stories about Navy Nursing.

I later thought, “Why can’t we do this in DC? There have to be NROTC units here with nurses who might be interested in getting together!” So, I did some detective work (with the help of RADM McCormick-Boyle) and got the name of the Midshipman in charge of the units at area schools and invited all who were free and interested to join me for lunch at an area California Pizza Kitchen. I contacted Rosie Perdue, NC (Ret) and Maria Harbeson, NC (Ret) and asked them to join me, and also invited 4 young active duty (AD) nurses from Walter Reed. We had such a good time with the JU students in Florida but found we couldn’t answer all the questions because it had been so long since any of us had been on AD, hence the invitation to these impressive young nurses.

Rosie, Maria and I met with 6 NROTC students, 2 from Georgetown University (MIDN Sydney Blackston and MIDN Madison Walter), 2 from Howard University (MIDN Maylise Abrogoua and MIDN Alexis Joyner), and 2 from Catholic University (MIDN Katrina Foeller and MIDN Nicole Seiler). The nurses from Walter Reed were: ENS Julia Baylosis, 1LT Michele Bennett, LTJG Christina Gordon and 1LT Judith Philpott. We had a wonderful afternoon sharing stories and answering questions. The young AD nurses carried the day; they were so enthusiastic and had great advice for these young students.

Rosie, Maria and I wanted to buy lunch and gave the waitress our credit cards; when she returned, she said, “Your bill has been paid.” We were all stunned, as the bill for the 13 of us was quite large! When I asked her who paid our bill, she said, “He doesn’t want to be recognized, please don’t ask me who it is.” After we all said good-bye, Maria and I went back into the restaurant. There was a couple in



Front Row L to R: LTJG Christina Gordon, MIDN Nicole Seiler, 1LT Bennett, ENS Julia Baylosis, MIDN Sydney Blackston, MIDN Madison Walter, MIDN Katrina Foeller. Back Row L to R: MIDN Maylise Abrogoua, MIDN Alexis Joyner, CAPT Rosie Perdue (Ret), CAPT Ginny Beeson (Ret), 1LT Judith Philpott, CAPT Maria Harbeson (Ret)

a booth behind us, and I asked the young man if he paid our bill. He said, “I did.” Maria and I thanked him profusely and told him how grateful we were, and he said, “I listened to all of you talking about how much you loved nursing, and the privilege of taking care of men and women who put their lives on the line for our country, and I thought to myself: ‘I want to do something too.’ And I thought, I know what I can do, I can pay the bill. Thank you all for your service.”

What a great afternoon! The future of military nursing is in very good hands, and there are, indeed, truly wonderful people in the world.



Memories of the 80th Anniversary of Normandy

—Submitted by Jane Glaser Mason



A year ago this June I had one of the most exciting experiences of my life. It began in November 2023 while my Navy Nurse roommate and I were attending the 30th Anniversary of the dedication of the Viet Nam Women's Memorial. We had attended the dedication those many years ago after serving on the USS Sanctuary during the Vietnam war.

I was invited to join a trip to Normandy for the 80th anniversary celebration of D-Day. It was sponsored by The Greatest Generation Foundation, an organization that had been returning World War II veterans to the places they had served in Europe for more than 20 years. There were 7 WWII veterans as well as veterans from Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and staff from the organization. It was only the second year that they included women so I met 2 Army nurses and a 101 year old Navy Wave named Marie who had become a blimp mechanic when the men were called to war. Our trip was very different from the first time those young men crossed the Atlantic. It was only later that I realized I was following a path my Dad, PFC Thomas J. Glaser, had taken 80 years before as a 20 year old soldier.

We traveled on the Queen Mary II for 8 days. Each day a group of us were interviewed by a news anchor who accompanied us. He interviewed those who landed on the beaches on D-Day, those who came later, Korean and Vietnam veterans, a Medal of Honor recipient from Vietnam, a WWII POW, and the 4 women. We spoke to hundreds of passengers each day. We enjoyed delicious food and met some lovely passengers who were eager to hear our stories. Our WWII veterans were treated with a reverence I had never seen.

When the Executive from the Cunard Lines welcomed us aboard the ship. He spoke proudly about their support in transporting troops during WWII. My Dad traveled to Normandy on the RMS Queen Elizabeth several months after D-Day. When he was on the ship, which comfortably held 2600 of us, it held more than 10,000 GI's. They slept in

shifts in stacked hammocks, played craps in the carpeted swimming pool and enjoyed their three meals a day anyway they could. They had no idea what lay before them.

When we arrived in Normandy the women were billeted in a chateau in St. Marie du Mont. Our backyard overlooked Utah Beach where Dad landed in September 1944. I am sure the gorgeous beach looked much less beautiful for him. I was drawn to the view over and over. 80 years ago it was covered in blood. My dad was lucky that he and his frost bitten feet made it back home but thousands of soldiers did not.

The biggest highlight of the trip was the Commemorative Ceremony at the sight of the Normandy American Cemetery on D-Day. There were 92 WWII veterans from all of the Allied nations. It was a beautiful, sobering, majestic day with fly overs, music and a cannon salute. The French and American presidents were there. I was so proud yet heartbroken thinking of all those men who sacrificed their lives to save the citizens in a country they would never know and for people they would never meet.

The French people are still so grateful to those veterans. Our Marie must have had her picture taken hundreds of times and most often with children who would have been the age of the great grandchildren those fallen men never had.

I have appreciated my trip even more since I returned. I am especially grateful for my "time" with my dad, even though decades, oceans and continents separated our wartime experiences. We proudly served our country.



Pictured: (L to R) Ruby Scheuing, Elaine Niggemann, Jane Mason and sitting 101 year old Navy Wave Marie who worked as a mechanic on blimps that looked for Japanese submarines off the coast of California.

NNCA Supports The University of Maine NROTC Nurse Corps

—Submitted by Sandra Pearson

The University of Maine NROTC NC candidates reached out to NNCA requesting support for their Zimmerman Fitness challenge (ZFC). The ZFC is a memorial fitness event held in honor of 1st Lt. James Zimmerman, a University of Maine graduate and Marine Corps officer who was killed in action in 2010. The challenge is open to the community, with all proceeds benefiting the 1st Lt. James Zimmerman Foundation, which helps newly commissioned officers with career-starting expenses. Here is a small excerpt from MIDN 4/C Justine Ordinario:

“On behalf of our Unit and our future Navy Nurses, we are deeply grateful for your generous donation and your consideration to support us and the Zimmerman Fitness Challenge! Your kindness and commitment means more than words can express. Personally, I have long admired the mission and achievements of the NNCA for quite some time. I admire your organization’s dedication to preserving the legacy of our Navy Nurses and honoring the stories of our community. Your generosity strengthens our MIDN and inspires us to continue in all your footsteps. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.”

What an opportunity to connect with other NC NROTC candidates throughout the nation. Stand by for innovative ways WE WILL be connecting in the future to share our legacy!



*Top photo: University of Maine NROTC NC Midshipmen.
 Bottom photo: NC NROTC Midshipmen wearing NNCA sponsored T-shirts.*

Memories of Rapidly Deployable Medical Facility (RDMF) Training

—Submitted by Linda Wilson



—RDMF Camp Pendleton, CA training, sleeping quarters with Linda Wilson – “Are we having fun yet?!”



—RDMF training Camp Pendleton, CA: a Marine is “attended to” during casualty management exercises



—Camp Pendleton, CA Casualty receiving, the triage area where wounds are assessed, and soldiers are checked for armaments.



Remembering the Fallen Nurses of Kwajalein



LTJG Liljegreen

—Submitted by Dot O'Very

When the NNCA was contacted by a family member of LTJG Mary Eleanor Liljegreen, one of the eleven Navy Nurses who died in a plane crash immediately after takeoff from the island of Kwajalein on September 19, 1950, I reached out to gather more information. The family member, Dennis Harn, is the nephew of LTJG Mary Eleanor Liljegreen and

resides in the Seattle, WA area. Although neither Dennis nor his brother Patrick ever met their Aunt Nell, they have embarked on a mission to ensure that she and the ten other Navy Nurses who died in that crash are retained in the memories and history of Navy Nurse Corps legend.

This commitment began after their mother Mrs. Timothy Hugh Harn Jr. (Elizabeth Louise "Betty") connected with a sister of LTJG Alice Giroux, one of the other nurses lost in the crash, who also resides in the Seattle area. Their mother shared stories about her sister with her sons. The brothers' interest increased as they were going through their mother's personal effects after her passing. Their family has a robust history of military engagement. Their mother was an Army Nurse. Her brother, LeRoy Randolph "Lee" Liljegreen was in the Army Signal Corps and became a POW on Corregidor during WW II. He then went on to serve during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Dennis served during the latter part of the Vietnam War, stationed in Europe, and Patrick served in the Air Force flying worldwide missions during Desert Shield and Storm.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the plane crash. Identified as the single greatest loss of Navy Medicine members in a single incident, the Kwajalein tragedy bears witness to the reality that many military members die in non-battle operational scenarios. (See Navy Medicine Facebook post-dated Sep 18, 2018: <https://bit.ly/442ggGR>). In her book, *In and Out of Harm's Way*, Doris Sterner shares the impact of this tragedy on the Navy Nurse Corps leadership. "There was a large number [eleven] because we were trying to build up [the nursing staff] at Yokosuka. It was terrible. And then Ruth Erickson, who had Details [the Assignments nurse at BuMed] said, 'I cannot go to that Board and pick out another group.'...Everybody was broken up about [the tragedies]."

To honor the memory of these sailors, the nephews along with family members of ENS Robert Allen Harsh, a crew member who died in the crash, will visit Kwajalein to see the memorial to all who perished on that day. En route to this destination, they are planning to install a new memorial plaque to honor all eleven nurses and flight crew members at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) Honolulu, HI. According to Dennis, Honolulu is the most common stop from the mainland of the US to Kwajalein, so it seemed the logical location to establish this 75th anniversary memorial. As with all things bureaucratic, the process of approval for this plaque has been arduous. You can help by contacting your state Senators and requesting that they support Senate Bill 411, Flight 293 Remembrance Act, proposed by WA Senator Patty Murray. This bill is designed to facilitate the establishment of memorials for service members who have died as a result of a military operational loss. (Link to bill: <https://bit.ly/3Ts4BvW>).

There is not space in this article to provide full descriptions of each of the eleven nurses but a full summary and the source of the content for the brief biographies below can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3SV5I7h>.

ENS Eleanor Clara Beste - Freeport, MN. Eleanor joined the Navy Nurse Corps in January 1948 and was assigned to the Naval Hospital at Bremerton, WA before receiving transfer orders to Japan.

ENS Marie Margaret Boatman - Abilene, TX. Marie was commissioned in the Navy Nurse Corps in 1948 and assigned to the Naval Hospital Long Beach, CA and then reported to the Naval Hospital Bremerton, where she remained until receiving orders for Yokosuka. Marie Boatman is buried in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

LTJG Jeanne Elizabeth Clarke - Portland, OR. Jeanne was commissioned in the Navy in 1944 and served until 1946. In November 1949 she volunteered for active duty again. She was assigned to Puget Sound, WA and San Diego, Long Beach and Oceanside, CA before receiving orders to Japan.

ENS Jane Louise Eldridge - Detroit, MI. Jane joined the U.S. Cadet Nurses Corps and entered the Navy Nurse Corps in September 1947. She reported to the Naval Hospital Bremerton, WA where she received orders transferring her to the Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

ENS Constance Rita "Connie" Esposito - Brockway, PA. Connie joined the Navy in 1948. She had assignments at Bethesda, MD and San Diego, CA before her transfer to Yokosuka. She is buried in St. Tobias Cemetery, Brockway.

LTJG Alice Stella Giroux - Seattle, WA. She joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1944, reporting for duty at the US Naval Hospital Long Beach, CA and then Naval Hospital Norfolk, VA. She returned to active duty in 1949, at Naval Hospital Corona, transferred to Naval Hospital San Diego, CA where she was issued orders to Yokosuka.

LTJG Calla Virginia Goodwin - Raleigh, NC. Calla joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1944, and reported for duty at Naval Hospital Portsmouth, VA. Other assignments included Naval Hospital Bainbridge, Naval Hospital Charleston, SC, Naval Dispensary Charleston Naval Shipyard, Naval Hospital Long Beach and Naval Hospital, SMR, Oceanside, CA where she received orders to Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

LTJG Constance Adair Hegge - Kirkwood, MO. Constance took her oath of office as a LTJG in the Nurse Corps Reserve in 1948. She was stationed at Naval Hospital Long Beach and Naval Hospital, SMR, Oceanside, CA, where she remained until receiving overseas orders to Naval Hospital Yokosuka.

LTJG Margaret Grace Kennedy - Webster, MA. Margaret joined the Navy Nurse Corps in 1944. She had a period of duty at Portsmouth, VA, Chelsea, MA, Newport, RI, Long Beach and San Diego CA. She re-entered the Naval Service and was stationed at San Diego, CA where she volunteered for overseas duty and received orders to Yokosuka.

LTJG Mary Eleanor Liljegreen – Seattle, WA. Mary Eleanor joined the Navy in 1947, reporting for duty at Naval Hospital Oakland, CA, followed by orders to Naval Hospital Bremerton, where she remained until receiving overseas orders for Yokosuka.

ENS Edna June Rundell - Stafford, KS. Edna joined the Navy in 1948 reporting for duty at Naval Hospital Bremerton, WA. She remained there until receiving orders to Naval Hospital in Yokosuka in 1950.

Endnote 1 Sterner, Doris. In and Out of Harm's Way. Peanut Butter Publishing, Seattle WA; 1996, Chapter 8, p. 235.

Memorial Day On The National Mall

—Submitted by Cynthia Sweeney

Members of NNCA attended the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial to remember all who died in Vietnam. Jane Southby, COL NC USA (Ret) provided her reflections as a nurse serving in country in Vietnam. The NNCA presented a wreath in honor of those who died and those who served during this conflict. Following the Vietnam Memorial ceremony, I moved the wreath to the Vietnam Women's Memorial. I shared the day with my daughter and granddaughter as it is important for each generation to appreciate the sacrifices of others that allow our freedom.



Cindy Sweeney's granddaughter



NNCA members with American Legion representative



Ginny Beeson and Cindy Sweeney at the Women's Vietnam Memorial



NNCA Committee News

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter (MUSNAVC) Legislative Update

—Submitted by Joe Gollasch, MUSNAVC President



MOAA has a year-round focus on advocating for uniformed service members, families, veterans, retirees, and all beneficiaries. In April, over 150 MOAA staff and council and chapter members visited the US Capital and met with

representatives, senators and their staff advocating for our earned benefits. This was a huge success, and many issues have been included in the National Defense Authorization Act and the DoD budget.

While DoD and VA budgets may not feel quite the impact of federal efficiency measures as other departments, it's worth noting that service-earned benefits weren't immune from collateral damage. MOAA continues to make certain that the earned benefits for our military members, their families, and our veterans are not affected by these measures. A lot of work was done to make great strides forward for the veteran community and MOAA certainly wouldn't want to see any of those things reversed or impacted as the result of hasty cuts or reductions.

MOAA, the largest and most trusted military officers' association in the nation, is dedicated to turning words into action with the launch of TotalForce+ conference scheduled October 28-29, 2025 in National Harbor, MD. Bringing together over 5,000 participants -- active duty personnel, Guard and Reserve members, veterans, caregivers, DoD and VA leaders, and industry professionals -- this event will address critical issues such as benefits, health care, military recruiting, and pay. Together, we'll explore new solutions to: Modernize Talent Management & Innovation; Optimize Leadership Development & Performance; Advance Quality of Life; and Amplify the Veteran & Retiree Experience. This will be a 'people first' focused conference.

Treasurer's Report

—Submitted by Brian Dawson

I can report that NNCA finances are still in excellent condition. We continue to receive small but steady donations that are added into the general fund to support programs and activities. Our Operating budget is sound and will allow us to meet all of the obligations throughout the 2025 budget cycle. Unfortunately, we continue to run at a deficit with respect to contributions vs. expenses as we have over the past several years. In an effort to address this issue, we are focusing on the growth of our investments.

Our financial advisor, Osborne Partners, have continued to invest our funds in safe and growing markets. Year to date our investments have gained over \$17,000 in positive growth, which is consistent with our long-term goal of growing our portfolio to offset the budget deficits we face. We will continue to monitor our assets to ensure growth.

As Navy Nurses we continue to honor our heritage by serving local communities and communities around the world in need. I wish each and everyone of you a safe Summer along with numerous enjoyable, loving gatherings with family and friends. As always it is my pleasure to represent each of you as NNCA Treasurer, I'm proud to be associated with such exceptional people, nurses and Naval Officers.

Recruitment & Retention

—Submitted by Linda Grant

Please welcome the new Chairperson, Ana Stoeher, whose tenure began in June. She is excited to lead the committee in the next chapter of this important journey.

We continue to work hard in our efforts to both recruit and retain members and increase donations. Despite an increased presence on various social media platforms from July through December 2024, our membership numbers show a modest increase to date. For now, marketing efforts will be more targeted to specific activities, such as development of an online toolkit for chapters to access and modify for their use. Improvements and updates will continue on the NNCA website to ensure ease of use, current information, and the site is working as planned.

A survey was sent to members with the November newsletter. The purpose of this survey was to provide members with an opportunity to share candid thoughts to help the NNCA in planning for our future. The response rate was very good, and we thank the members who took the time to complete it. The results yielded two important concerns that were voiced repeatedly.

These were (1) need to recruit active duty and younger members and (2) feeling isolated and disconnected from the Navy Nurse Corps. These results were reported to the NNCA Board. These are not new issues, but we now have even stronger recognition of the need to continue with our efforts, including the creation of a virtual chapter and connecting with MTFs, VA, and other veteran organizations to find and recruit the next generation of Navy nurses.

The Virtual NNCA members-at-large creation is an initiative to serve those members who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend a chapter meeting. They would be able to attend meetings via Zoom, enabling fellowship, communication, and sharing of information. Volunteers are needed from chapters to assist in the creation of a charter, budget, etc. Then, members and leadership will need to be recruit-

ed. Tina Ortiz at membership@nnca.org is your POC for questions or if you'd like to volunteer.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee was the resource link in support of local chapters, as requested, in planning activities in their geographic area for the week of May 12th Nurses Week and Navy Nurse Corps birthday celebrations. The goal was to expand NNCA's relationship with MTFs and other veteran organizations through NNCA Chapter participation. Initial planning began in January. Many chapters were successful in taking part in events at different venues. Read more on these activities in this newsletter chapter news. These events, and others that occur throughout the year, are critical to create awareness of our organization and foster meaningful and memorable outreach. They can nurture goodwill that can help recruit and retain members, ensuring our viability in the years to come.

If you have any ideas, questions, or would like to assist the Recruitment and Retention Committee in any way, please contact your Chapter membership chair or Ana Stoehr at membership@nnca.org.

Save the Date!!! **August 12, 2025, 7 pm EDST**



Virtual Presentation
Hosts: NNCA & WMANNCA
Continuing Education
for DOD & Nursing Personnel

“Working with an Editor to Publish Your Work”

Please save the date and time, **August 12, 2025, at 7:00 pm EDST** to join us virtually for Dr. Karen Hill's presentation, *“Working with an Editor to Publish Your Work”*. If you have thought about publishing in a journal, but felt overwhelmed by the process, please don't be! Dr. Hill will provide a lively presentation on lessons learned from her 14 years of experience as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Nursing Administration (JONA), having reviewed over 400 articles per year. Dr. Hill has been a nurse for over 41 years and recently retired from her role as CNO and COO of Baptist Health in Lexington, Kentucky.

In this session, Dr. Hill will review the responsibilities of her editorial role, including journal management, editorial decision-making, professional leadership, and support of

quality publications. Dr. Hill will discuss the role of peer reviewers including suggestions for how to become a reviewer and the type of feedback that reviewers provide. Steps for abstract and manuscript construction as well as journal selection and titling will be reviewed. Common issues that can deter a manuscript advancing to publication will be reviewed including reference selection, editorial feedback and author guidelines. Engaging in research activities designed to improve patient care and leadership supports nursing excellence and dissemination of these activities is a professional development opportunity. Attendees will understand the publication process including suggestions for success in manuscript development and working with a nursing editor.

This will be a great opportunity for those interested in advancing nursing practice and how we can better communicate and share our work. Dr. Hill is also the author of *“Establishing a Research-Friendly Environment: A Hospital-Based Approach”*. She provides practical advice and a personable perspective to promote nursing research and the communication of outcomes!

We will open the virtual door at 6:30 pm EDT to allow for some social interaction before the session begins. Many thanks to WMANNCA for co-sponsoring this event with NNCA. Registration will be sent on July 14, 2025.

Spotlight On An Oral History Innovation, Loyola University, Chicago

—Submitted by Diana Hackbarth

Diana Hackbarth RN PhD, a Vietnam era Navy nurse, NNCA member, and recently retired Loyola faculty, is leading a Navy Nurse Oral History project at Loyola University. The aim of this project is to preserve the military stories of Loyola nursing graduates who are veterans and/or currently serving. The project documents and shares their important military nurse accomplishments and inspires the next generation of student nurses to serve their country. This project aligns with the goals of the NNCA and the Library of Congress Oral History initiatives, “to preserve the history, stories and legacy of Navy Nurses and Navy Nursing.

Loyola’s oral history team is inviting NNCA members, who are Loyola alumni, to participate in a 30–45-minute oral history interview conducted via zoom or telephone. With participant’s permission, oral history stories will be highlighted in a digital exhibit on the Loyola University Chicago website and preserved in Loyola’s archives. Using NNCA current Oral History guidelines, the Loyola team will also share nurses’ stories with the NNCA history initiative, Women’s Military Memorial, and other organizations that honor nurse veterans.

Please don’t be shy about being interviewed and encourage your nursing colleagues not to be shy either! Project participants have an interesting and inspiring military story to tell that is “extraordinary.” Oral History provides a way to document the lived experiences of military nurses service and professional accomplishments. Your story also provides a history of the transition from nursing education to Navy Nurse Corps service and what shaped the life of honor for all nurses. Your history deserves to be shared.

To learn more go to <https://bit.ly/443NuFI> and to contact the Loyola University Chicago Archives and Special Collections e-mail archive@LUC.edu today to enroll and/or request more information. Or e-mail, Diana Hackbarth RN PhD, at dhackba@LUC.edu. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. To see the first instalment of our digital exhibit which features the military service of Loyola nurse alumni who have served in World War II, <https://bit.ly/3FPrs1x>.

Hope to hear from you soon!



This photo was submitted by Diana Hackbarth, LT NC USN (Former). Diana Hackbarth is a member of NNCA and is the only one in this image who is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago. The photo is of Navy Nurses celebrating the birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps at the Station Hospital in Taipei, Taiwan in May of 1971. Pictured from left to right: Pat Scroggin, Doris Green, Charlotte Clark, Captain Margaret “Maggie” Donoghue, Susan Bakey, Lynn Herman, Nancy Flood, Diana Hackbarth, and Eloise Bates. Possibly some of those pictured may be current members of NNCA.”

Oral History Committee

—Submitted by Maria Harbeson

The NNCA Oral History (OH) Committee has many interviews of our Vietnam era Navy Nurses on our website. These oral histories were captured by several interviewers over the past 10 years. Many more histories highlighting Desert Shield/Desert Storm and OIF/OEF stories can also be found on our website and are sure to engage and bring memories of past Navy friends and experiences.

This month we bid farewell and extend a sincere THANK YOU to Board member and Oral History Advisor, Rosemary Perdue. She guided and supported our team for over three years. We welcome our new Board Advisor, Mary Ann Jar-mulowicz, and look forward to working together.

The OH Committee is committed to streamlining the oral history process by increasing accessibility via zoom or similar. We collaborate with the Library of Congress to preserve and share our Navy Nurse Corps history. Please JOIN our team to give Navy Nurses the opportunity to SHARE THEIR STORY. Contact Maria via history@nnca.org.



Social Media Committee

—Submitted by Deanna Ciaccia

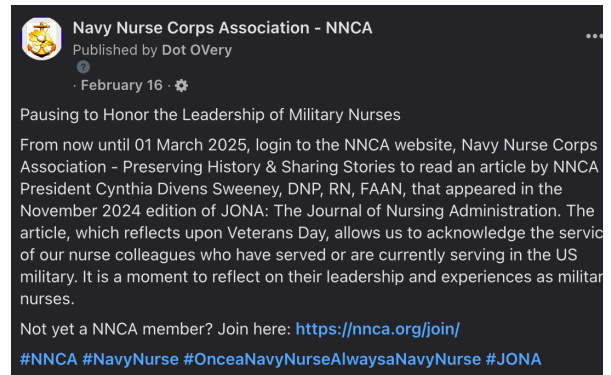
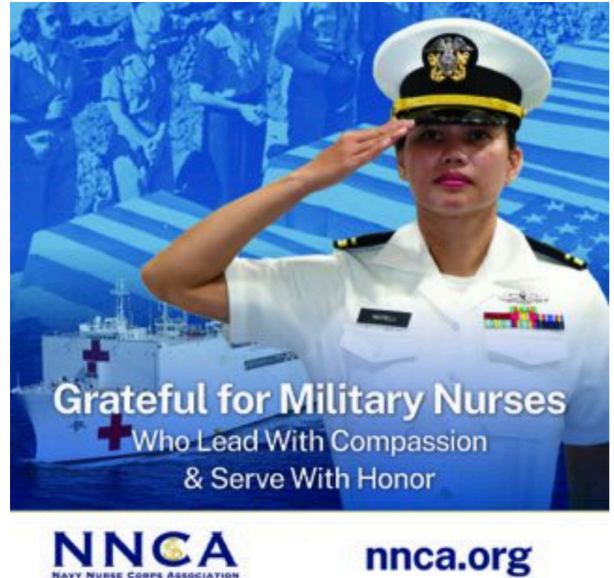
I am excited to step into the newly established role of Social Media Committee Chair, working in close collaboration with Sara Marks, NNCA Editor.

As part of recent updates, the Social Media Committee uses the email address: nnca.socmedia@nnca.org. Please send all social media submissions to this address that reaches the Social Media Committee Chair, the NNCA Newsletter Editor and Executive Director who have access. We're also enhancing our online presence by regularly sharing stories on both Facebook and Instagram.

To better understand and grow our reach, we've begun tracking follower counts and actively inviting users who engage with our content to follow our pages.

A strong and vibrant social media presence will help amplify NNCA's mission—so we're looking for enthusiastic members to join the Social Media Committee! A broader team means greater representation of the diversity within our organization.

The images highlight our top-performing Facebook post over the past 90 days!



Memorabilia Committee

—Submitted by Sherry Dotson

We were notified earlier this year that the company that stores our collection of memorabilia items to include oral histories that have been donated to NNCA has been sold, and the costs were going up significantly. We are negotiating with them as well as researching other options. We hope to be able to make a decision in the next month.

The committee continues to research all donation requests, but any items that are accepted will not be sent to History Associates for processing until we know where the collection will be stored.

The virtual museum is available on the new website. It is still under construction, and we welcome any comments or recommendations on how to improve it.

If you have a memorabilia donation, please contact your Chapter Memorabilia Representative, a National Memorabilia Committee Member/Chair, or the Memorabilia Board Goaltender.

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.

Virtual Chapter Creation

—Submitted by Tina Ortiz

The NNCA Board of Directors and the Recruitment and Retention committee members have developed the initial structure of a virtual chapter to be created by the end of 2025. At this time, Goalkeeper for Goal #3 (Tina Ortiz) is seeking committee members to assist with the further development of a virtual chapter. If interested in joining the committee, please contact Tina at membership@nnca.org.



Annual 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

This is a condensed version of the 2025 Board Of Director minutes. The full minutes are available at:

<https://nnca.org/meetings-reunions/meetings/>.

The 2025 NNCA Board of Directors meeting was held in person and virtually on April 5-6, 2025 in Franklin, TN. The meeting was led by President Cynthia Sweeney.

Strategic Plan Update:

The Board reviewed and updated the strategic plan, adding new tactics and outcome measures. The current strategic plan can be accessed by members at nnca.org. The Board reaffirmed **Goal 1**: Organizational Sustainability as the priority as Goals 2 and 3 rely on its success.

Strategic Plan Goals and Goal Tenders:

- **Goal 1:** Organizational Sustainability – Sandra Pearson
- **Goal 2:** Shared Traditions and Legacy – Mary Ann Jarmulowicz (formerly Rosemary Perdue)
- **Goal 3:** Camaraderie & Fellowship – Tina Ortiz

To strengthen committee operations, the Board adopted a structured Charter outlining roles, responsibilities, and reporting. Cindy Kuehner will lead ongoing Strategic Plan efforts.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee:

The Board approved a \$187K budget for committee operations and introduced methods to measure return on investment (ROI). Investment funds were moved to Osborne Partners to improve returns, aiming to offset over 50% of expenses, aided by a 2025 dues increase.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee – No awards were issued this year.

Nominating Committee – Need 6 candidates for each election cycle with election of 3 new board members annually. 349 ballots were cast in the 2024 election (189 online, 160 mail). The Board honored Jacqueline Sharpe, who passed away during the cycle. Motion was approved to destroy 2024-25 ballots.

Oral History (OH) Committee – 18 OH performed, 10 OH sent to Library of Congress (LOC), 5 OH are under tran-

scription. The master list of NNCA OH has been compiled and is being updated. Established contacts and communication with veteran organizations that are aligned with the LOC Veteran History Project to expand the availability of oral histories options for our Navy nurses. Standard procedures for processing and storing OHs are in development.

Memorabilia Committee – Quilt from Nurse Corps Centennial accessioned along with the book that Fran Conner created; WWII paintings by Dr. Ralph Thomas McLaughlin to be transferred to Navy History and Heritage Command. Discussions are underway for making notecards for fundraising. Challenges include storage logistics and improving catalog search.

NNCA News – Three newsletters were published. Transition to new editor Sara Marks has been completed. Weekly social media posts highlight key chapter activities, NNCA and veteran events. Assisted NNCA board with implementation of marketing strategy.

Recruitment and Retention – Linda Grant is chair until June 2025 then Ana Stoehr will assume the role. Membership increased slightly from 1065 (2023) to 1101 (2024). A survey was distributed to the membership online and by mail with 58 completed responses received. Some themes came through clearly such as the need to recruit younger members and active duty, some of the older members feel isolated, not due to geography but rather can't drive, or are not well enough to attend, or can't find parking but really want the interaction. Options for Chapters to increase outreach were discussed.

Virtual Chapter – Tina Ortiz -- The purpose is to provide fellowship and camaraderie for those who are not able to attend in person geographically or other reasons. Some of the chapters do hold virtual meetings since not everyone can attend. The goal is to establish this chapter by the end of year, will follow by laws, have its own charter, determine meeting dates and times, recruiting members and leaders and have them officially elected.

Warrior Canine Connection Program – Pam Giza -- Many NC officers have been honored by giving names to furry warriors. If interested go to website and pull-down application as they are always looking for female names.

Marketing – Sandra Pearson -- Many thanks to Cindy Coyle for all her work and assistance as Sandra Pearson assumed the uplink position to the BOD. Focused on brand awareness, donor strategy, ROTC outreach, and The DAISY Foundation engagement. No measurable membership growth led to prioritizing cost-effective projects with

Wax agency. Recruiting for members to be on the marketing committee.

Social Media Committee -- Deanna Ciaccia-- Social Media (FB, Instagram, LinkedIn). Deanna Ciaccia hails from Washington State. She recently left active duty and completed her Masters in Nursing Informatics. Deanna is a welcome addition to our social media and marketing team.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Florida NNCA (FL except Panhandle), President Denise Johnson, 104 members. Financially stable. Active in parades and veterans' events. Published biannual newsletter. Awarded 3 scholarships. Received \$1,500 donation in honor of Debora Gay.

Gulf Coast NNCA (Panhandle, AL, LA, MS), President Shirley Lewis Brown, 39 members. Reduced in-person meetings to twice annually. Members prefer daytime gatherings due to aging demographics. Recruiting efforts included postcards highlighting chapter history.

Midsouth NNCA (AK, KY and TN and environs), President Ellen Hodges, membership is 26. One virtual meeting. Donated \$3,000 to veterans' causes. Vanderbilt ROTC invited guest speaker from NNCA.

Midwest NNCA (IA, MN, ND, SD, western WI), President Jean Mahaffey, 25 members. Four meetings (in-person and Zoom). Leadership transition in May 2025. Donations made to Twin Cities honor Flight and Minnesota Area council for Veterans.

NNCA of Southern CA (Ventura County and South), President Jane Hourigan. 180 members. Absorbed 15 members from Bay Area Chapter. Strong scholarship fund and finances. Attended Women in Military Luncheon with RDML Cynthia Kuehner as keynote. Linked with 30 univer-

sities for scholarship outreach. Submitted 8 OHs to LOC. Quarterly luncheon and meetings with about 30-40 attendance. Working on transfer of the oil canvas paintings with the McLaughlin family who is signing a form for the paintings to be transferred to the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Northwest NNCA (AK, ID, OR, MT, WA), President Naydne Krienke. 61 members. Revamped logo and now have merchandise for order. Three scholarships were awarded. Held two board and chapter meetings with a coordinated tour of the historic Fort Vancouver national Historic Site and luncheon at historic grant house with 16 in attendance.

Palmetto Chapter NNCA (GA, NC, SC), President Melanie Frank, 62 members (50% Vietnam veterans). Participated in multiple veterans' events to include Beaufort County veteran affairs ceremony, Charleston parade. Completed 4 OHs. Revised bylaws in 2024. Financial status is strong.

South Central NNCA (AR, NM, OK, TX), President Mike Beimer, No formal meetings since COVID though some members continue to communicate with each other. One challenge is being able to find a place for a meeting that is central to both active and reserve personnel. Exploring the possibility of using Zoom. Financially solvent.

Washington Metro Area NNCA (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV), President Christine Boltz 157 members (net increase of 21). Activities included Wreaths Across America, scholarships, 2 luncheons and DAISY awards. Hosted two virtual events—one with the Navy Nurse Corps Director (90+ attendees), and another educational webinar (55+ attendees). Working on new OHs with Vietnam-era members.

Future Meetings

Next Annual Board meeting: April 10-11, 2026

Annual Meeting of the Membership: April 22, 2026

Happy 108th Birthday to Louise Terwilliger!!!



Louise turns 108 on July 1st, 2025!
Send her a birthday card:

Louise Terwilliger
[700 W. Broad Street](mailto:terwilligerlouise@gmail.com)
[Falls Church, VA 22046](mailto:terwilligerlouise@gmail.com)





Chapter News



FNNCA Florida, except the Panhandle

Submitted by Denise Johnson

The Florida Navy Nurse Corps Association held their Spring Luncheon at the Stonewood Grill on May 17th with 26 members in attendance. Our guest speaker was Teri Eno from Space Coast Honor Flight who shared their privilege of offering veterans' trips to Washington, DC up to 6 times/year and the opportunity to volunteer and/or serve as an escort in support of this endeavor of veterans recognition for service to our country.



We recognized our 2024 Sue Smoker-Hummel Service Awardee Robin McKenzie for her inspiring leadership, volunteerism, commitment and contributions to both FNNCA and NNCA. We also celebrated the 117th Navy Nurse Corps Birthday with a

cake cutting with our most senior member Rebecca Baker and most junior member Cesar Rhan Bendita, our recent scholarship winner. Spearheaded by Gerri Mukri, we held our luncheon raffle raising over \$300 towards our annual scholarship fund.

We supported Nurses Week and the Navy Nurse Corps Birthday at NAS Jacksonville Naval Hospital where Sherry Dotson participated in their cake cutting ceremony. Brenda Baker remains active organizing oral histories with 6 recorded and 3 more set up in the near future. Colleen McLarnon represented FNNCA at the Nightingale Society Reception at the University of Central Florida and Mary Jackson represented FNNCA at the local ALS Walk and ROTC gathering at Jacksonville University.



Our membership continues to grow with several new members stepping up to board membership and looking forward

to our Fall Luncheon on 8 November onboard the USS Orleck now serving as a museum in downtown Jacksonville.

Rebecca Baker and Cesar Rhan Bendita, recent FNNCA scholarship recipient cut the cake.



GCNNCA Northwest Florida, Alabama Mississippi, Louisiana

Submitted by Shirley Lewis-Brown

GCNNCA members attended The Navy Nurse Corps Birthday Cake Cutting at NH Pensacola on Tuesday May 13, 2025. It was well attended by GCNNCA members and many of the Navy Nurse Corps hospital staff.



*LTJg Blackburn &
Shirley Lewis-Brown*

GCNNCA is financially healthy. Our chapter presented a Certificate of Commendation to Daniel Miller for his service as the Oral History Coordinator. On a sad note please remember our deceased member Jeanne Gedney.

Continued on page 17...



GCNNCA at the Navy Hospital Pensacola during Nurses Week:

Right side front to back: Kyle Holley, Santa Rosa County United Way, Joseph Richards, President of the Santa Rosa County Veterans Foundation, Trumin Brown Vice President, Martha Hicks Board Member, Susan Ulloa, Treasurer.

Left side front to back: Shirley Brown, President, Daniel Miller, member at large, RADM Joan Engel member at large, JoAnn Kelly, member at large, Sue Varenholt, Board member, Chief Richard Wickers



Legacy of Navy Nursing Shared at 4/80 Banquet

During the recent 4/80 banquet at American Legion Post 1, Denver, CO guests were treated to stories spanning generations of Navy Nursing.

Maureen Christopher Bross honored her mother, a WWII Flight Nurse, by sharing moving accounts of her service transporting wounded soldiers from the front lines. Her stories highlighted the courage and dedication of nurses during wartime.

Marti Crockett followed with reflections from her time in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, offering insight into the challenges and accomplishments of modern-day Navy Nursing in combat zones.

The evening was a meaningful tribute to the enduring strength and service of Navy nurses—past and present.

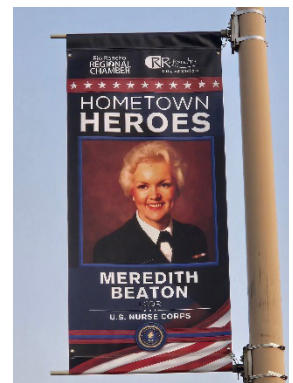
LLNNCA Group Luncheon: Some of the local members were able to attend a luncheon in April.

Civic and Patriotic Engagement: Several LLNNCA Colorado Chapter members actively volunteer with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). One member in particular, Liz Tovado, exemplifies this commitment. Liz serves as Chair of the Denver Republican Party and is also an active DAR member, balancing her leadership in civic affairs with her passion for honoring the nation's heritage.

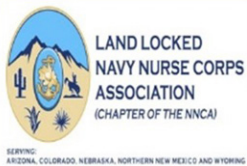
Leadership Transition & Ongoing Service: Marti Crockett recently completed her term as president of the United Veterans of Colorado, capping two years. Stepping down from that post: Marti continues to donate her time to both the VFW and the American Legion projects. That's truly special thank you for sharing that! Here's a way you might word your message to capture the pride and meaning behind

Member: Dr Meredith Beaton:

"This banner hangs on a light pole along Main Street in my city. I'm incredibly honored to be featured — this marks the third year in a row they've honored veterans in this way, and I've been included all three times. The banners go up from Memorial Day weekend through Veterans Day, a meaningful tribute to all who've served. After that, the city transitions to Christmas decorations. It's humbling to be recognized like this in my community.



Dr. Meredith Beaton's banner on Main Street.



LLNNCA
Colorado, Wyoming,
New Mexico & Nebraska

Submitted by Marti Crockett for Harriet Palmer-Willis



Margie Bezdek and Spider.

The LLNNCA Colorado Chapter celebrates the inspiring contributions of several members:

Service Dog Support: Margie Bezdek was recently partnered with Spider, a skilled service companion dog who will assist with daily tasks and provide emotional support. This meaningful addition brings renewed independence and comfort.

Sharing Vietnam Nursing Experiences:

Vietnam nurse Carol Brautigam served as a panelist for *Nurses/Corpsmen Caring for Soldiers*, discussing the realities reflected in Kristin Hannah's *The Women*. Drawing on her service aboard the Hospital Ship *Sanctuary*, Carol continues to speak at events across Colorado, offering powerful insights into the experiences of wartime nurses.



Carol Brautigam sharing her stories from Vietnam.



LLNNCA Front row L to R: Dorothy Ryan, Kathy Noll, Nancy Larson. Back row L to R: Terry Shade, Sara Karstetter, Liz Tovado, Marti Crockett, Mo Bross, Carol Brautigam.



Submitted by Ellen Hodges

MSNNCA Chapter Elects New President!

CAPT Ronald Fancher, NC, USN (Ret) was elected to the position of Chapter President. Ron trained as a Nuclear Machinist Mate. He was selected for a NROTC scholarship and graduated from Auburn University with his nursing degree. This led to his commissioning as a Nurse Corps Officer. Ron had the opportunity to be stationed in some amazing locations, such as Okinawa, Japan, Pensacola, FL, Jacksonville, FL and Yuma, AZ. He is one of a very few individuals to serve as the Senior Medical Officer of the U.S. Aegis Ashore Missile Defense System in Deveselu, Romania. Ron served as the Executive Officer of Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Bethesda, MD. In this position, he was responsible for all Navy staff assigned to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. His final assignment was at BUMED as the Surgeon General's Executive Liaison to the Defense Health Agency. He retired from the U.S. Navy on 1 January 2024 and currently works for Emprata, LLC as a Subject Matter Expert Contractor for BUMED. Ron received The DAISY Nurse Educator award from Auburn University College of Nursing. Congratulations!



Ron's The DAISY Nurse Educator award from Auburn University College of Nursing.

Ron "strongly desires to see the MSNNCA Chapter regain some momentum and improve fellowship/camaraderie among our fellow NC Officers in the region". The members of this Chapter are looking forward to working with Ron.

Also, please remember CAPT Bonnie A. Leadford McLure (Ret) who died this May, (Ret). She was 84 years old.



Submitted by Carole O'Byrne for Jean Mahaffey



Front L to R: Jean Mahaffey, Kay Bauer. Back: L to R: Dee Albert, Marcia Belisle, Kathie Adam and Anne Ringquist.

At the time of the last newsletter article, our chapter was anticipating the 117th Navy Nurse Corps Birthday. The MWNNCA enjoyed a cake provided by President Jean Mahaffey and said a silent thank you to President Teddy Roosevelt for his authorization. Officers

sworn in: Marcia Belisle, President, Jean Mahaffey, VP/President-Elect and Carole O'Byrne, Secretary.

Last fall I wrote about the groundbreaking for the women's clinic at the Minneapolis VAMC. With an opening date of July 2026, Jean Mahaffey checked out the construction progress from a window of the hospital's fourth floor. She saw the enclosed shell for the new clinic covering the bare ground of last summer.



Women's Clinic at the Minneapolis VAMC.

As part of our chapter's ongoing pursuit of new members, Jean Mahaffey and Kay Bauer visited with 15 reserve nurses during one of their drills. Jean and Kay explained the NNCA and our chapter encouraging everyone to join. There were three nurses who indicated an active interest so the membership co-chairs will maintain contact.

Finally, our chapter is asking each member to share their Navy Nurse Corps story. At our meeting on May 10, I talked about my Navy Nurse Corps life.



NENNCA

Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont
New Hampshire, Connecticut & New York

Submitted by Thomas Wilson

Happy Summer from the New England Chapter...known for our ocean beaches, seafood, historic sites and abundance of hiking trail and outdoor enjoyment. Geographically our Chapter may be divided between the New York Yankees, the Boston Red Sox and a scattering of other Major League Baseball fans, but we are all united as active duty or former Navy Nurses.

DAISY Award: Once again, NNCA and the NENNCA were proud to sponsor and fund The DAISY Award to deserving nurse(s) at the Rhode Island Veterans Home and to



L-R: Board Members Trish Culver, Nicole Sousa and LT Jaeda Ewings, NC, USN.

the Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command New England (NMRTCNE).

Our Board members attended the DAISY award celebration on May 7 at the Veteran's Home in Bristol, RI. This year's Daisy Recipient for the RI Veterans Home is Nicole Sousa, RN. Ms. Sousa has worked at the veteran's

home for over 15 years. Bill Camara, the home's Executive Nurse, and Paul Murgo the administrator cited Ms. Sousa's work as a nurse as "always pleasant, professional and caring with utmost compassion." These attributes are in keeping with the intent of The DAISY award's ideals. NMRTCNE did not participate in this year's award.

Chapter Activities: Our membership is small and geographically challenging to participate actively; however, our Board is active and continues to meet virtually. In addition, we continue to conduct virtual General Membership meetings.

Nursing Scholarships: Planning continues for awarding nursing scholarships. In 2024, we awarded 3 scholarships to BSN, MSN and DNS recipients. This process continues with the review of applications and awards later this Fall. Funding for these scholarships is from donations to our Chapter from Wreaths Across America.

Hail and Fairwell: Best Wishes and Thank You to LT Jaeda Ewings (our Chapter Treasurer) on completion of her Master of Science in Nursing as an Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist at Rhode Island College. She will report to Naval Medical Center San Diego as a CNS and augmentee to the USNS Mercy. Jaeda assures us she plans on joining the NNCA of Southern California Chapter when she arrives. Special thanks to current Board member Bonnie Lou Hand, for agreeing to step up and assume the duties of Chapter Treasurer as Jaeda transitions.

Wishing Everyone a Wonderful Summer.



NNCASC

California, Nevada & Arizona

Submitted by Nancy Owen for Jane Hourigan

Forty-two members and guests attended our April 26, 2025 luncheon at Cocina del Charro restaurant and joined in celebrating an early 117th Birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps. In addition, we commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Also, on display at our luncheon were two of Dr. Thomas McLaughlin's oil paintings on canvas portraying the Navy Nurses who were held as Prisoners of War in the Philippines during World War II. The 33 canvas



NNCASC members flanked our oldest Navy Nurse, Rose Marie Castellanos and youngest, active duty Navy Nurse, Ava Kurtz who cut the cake.

paintings will be sent, in the near future, to the Naval Heritage and History Museum in Washington, DC.

Navy Nurse Casey Meehan, Vietnam veteran, who was stationed at the Naval Support Activity Da Nang at a 650 bed hospital 1968-69, shared her experiences at the Coronado Library in March as part of monthly activities surrounding the "Community Read" of the historical fiction novel "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. Forty people

Continued from page 19



L to R: back Nancy Owen, Barb Beeby, Tina Hooker, front: Casey Meehan

attended the presentation including Coronado locals, Navy Nurses, and Honor Flight volunteers.



The Library also had a display entitled "Women in

Uniform" displaying artwork from the Navy Art Collection including a painting of LTJG Ann Bernatitus, a WWII Navy Nurse who was captured on Corregidor in the Philippines and escaped on a submarine, the USS Spearfish. NNCASC participated in and supported Nurses Week



ed LT Nick F., Becky Nulty, Georgene Waecker



L to R: Becky Nulty, Jane Hourigan, LTJG Maldonado, Georgene Waecker, Nancy Owen

activities at NMCS D including The DAISY Awards, Cake Cutting and a Memorabilia Display on May 5, 2025. Memorabilia highlighted a commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and recognition of the 60th Anniversary of men accepted into the Navy Nurse Corps. LTJG Nicole Maldonado, NNCASC member, was nominated for one of The DAISY Awards. NNCASC also provided a memorabilia display and support for Nurses Week at the VA Hospital in La Jolla on May 9, 2025.

Several NNCASC members attend-

ed the annual Mount Soledad Military Women's History Brunch on March 20, 2025. This year's special honorees were the U.S. Air Force women veterans.



L to R: G. Caldwell (Supply Corps, Ret), NNCASC members: M. Donahue, K. Davis, B. Nulty, K. Bonnet-Langston, B. Beeby, E. Law



NWNCA
Washington, Oregon,
Idaho & Montana

Submitted by Nadyne Krienke

Our Chapter's general meeting was held on April 26, 2025, in Bremerton, WA and twenty- seven participants were in attendance.



Backrow, L to R: Carol Zylstra, Fran Conner, Anne Mulligan, Cathy Carter, AD LT Carolyn Reichert, CDR Heather Kirk, AD CDR Hana Ellison, Linda Green. Middle row, left to right: Jeanne Quindag-Raffles, Jan Therieault, Nadyne Krienke, Karen McNamara. Sitting, left to right: Maria Rossi, Madeline Ancelard, Bonnie Bulach, Dot O'Very, Peg Morris



CDR Heather Kirk NC, USN, CNO, Director for Healthcare Business, Naval Hospital Bremerton and Bonnie Bulach, Vice President of NW's Chapter presentation was on "The Evolution of the Defense Agency" (DHA). The presentation discussed DHA's mission, leadership, and structure. DHA is a joint, integrated Combat Support Agency that enables the Army, Navy, and Air Force medical services to provide a medically ready force and ready medical force to Combatant Commands in both peacetime and wartime.

Madeline Ancelard informed the chapter that there are three ROTC Nursing students this year, all are attending Seattle University. None are due to graduate this year.



Cathy Carter, NWNCA Membership Chair and Fran Connor (not pictured) at Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor



L to R: Nadyne Krienke, Fran Connor, Meg Morris and Maria Rossi manning a table at NH Bremerton.



Bremerton NWNCA members, L to R: CAPT Lepore, MSC USN, CO NH Bremerton, Fran Conner, NWNCA Newsletter Editor, Nadyne Krienke, NWNCA President, NWNCA members: Peg Morris, Maria Rossi, Karen Mac-Namara, and CAPT Jenkins, DC USN, Executive Officer NH Bremerton



PCNNCA

North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia

Submitted by Melanie Frank and Jerry Davidson

Greetings to our fellow Nurse Corps officers and friends! After a busy fall and winter, President Melanie Frank convened our Spring General Membership meeting on May 3rd in Bluffton, SC.

Congratulations to Mary Ann Jarmulowicz, on her election to the NNCA BOD. Our membership of 60 remains stable and may increase in 2025! We noted that 50% of our members served during Vietnam. Several of our seniors facing health challenges had their annual membership dues paid by our Rough Seas Fund.

Mary Ann Jarmulowicz spoke about having at least nine oral histories recorded. All agreed this is an achievable goal. PCNNCA members currently provide their oral histories through the efforts of Lindsay Christmas, a USS Yorktown volunteer in Mount Pleasant, SC.

Jeff Bashford is our point man for Wreaths Across America (WAA). PCNNCA is the grateful financial beneficiary of dedicated wreaths laid in New Bern and Beaufort National Cemeteries during the December holiday season, receiving \$5 back for each memorial wreath purchased through the PCNNCA link on the WAA website.

South Carolina PCNNCA members traveled to the Naval Health Clinic Charleston on May 13th for the 117th Birthday of the Navy Nurse Corps.



PCNNCA members and Naval Health Clinic Charleston staff.



L to R: CAPT James Driscoll, Commanding Officer Navy Medical Clinic Cherry Point, Julie Pearson, Jeff Bashford and Kathleen Pierce Johnson

On May 12th in North Carolina, PCNNCA members Jeff Bashford, Kathleen Pierce Johnson and Julie Pearson attended the 2025 Navy Nurse Corps Birthday cake cutting at the MCAS Cherry Point Naval Health Clinic. As the oldest, Captain (Ret) Bashford partnered in the cake cutting with the youngest Nurse Corps Officer, LTJG Holiday Desio.



Jeff Bashford and Desio cake cutting, MCAS Cherry Point

At the May meeting our Chapter presented outgoing Sunshine Chair Mary Houser a gift for over 10 years of faithful service! Mary sent birthday cards to every member and countless cards with notes of encouragement to members who needed support every year.



Gift presented by President Melanie Frank to Mary Houser, outgoing Sunshine Chair.

In closing, we are sad to note the passing of two more members of our Chapter: Captain Marie Sue Senzig, 66, of New Bern, NC and CDR Caroline Jean Stoll, 89, of Mount Pleasant, SC. You can read about their remarkable lives in our PCNNCA newsletter.



PCNNCA members spring meeting in Bluffton, SC



WMANNCA

Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia,
Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware
& The District of Columbia

Submitted by Christine Boltz

In March our nominations committee announced changes to our six member board for 2025-2027. Odette Willis was nominated for her first term to replace Rosie Perdue. Christine Boltz, Ann Ross and Shelley Savage were re-elected at the 5 May spring business meeting.

On 27 February at A.T. Augusta Military Medical Center (ATAMMC), there were 35 DAISY Award nominees along with The DAISY Award recipient, Ms. Yuri Brinkman, RN, Wound Care Specialist. On 9 May at ATAMMC there were 24 DAISY Award nominees, and the recipient was ENS Rogelio Saldana. Additionally, CAPT Jacqueline Williams, Director of Nursing Services, received the DAISY Leadership award.

Spring Luncheon, a group of 20 members gathered at the Army Navy Country Club to enjoy lunch on March 29th, the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. We celebrated and remembered those who served during the Vietnam War era. March 29th marks the 50th commemoration of the day U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished in 1975. That same day was when the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. In addition

to lunch, we wrote greeting cards to NNCA/WMANNCA members not present. We have done this at two past luncheons, and it was a lot of fun and the cards were most appreciated.

On 5 May before the spring business meeting, WMANNCA member, Pat Kelley, gave a brief presentation on the Navy Safe Harbor Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance and support to Navy and Coast Guard sailors and their families enrolled in the Navy Wounded Warrior Program. Pat currently serves as the President of the Foundation Board. See link:

<https://safeharborfoundation.org/>



WMANNCA Spring Luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club

We had one scholarship applicant/recipient, LT Benjamin Lovley, NC, USNR. He is seeking a DNP in nurse anesthesia at Rush University. Former active duty, he is now attached to a reserve unit in Norfolk, Virginia.

The Blessing of the Hands Ceremony on Monday 5 May opened Nurses Appreciation Week activities at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). WMANNCA member Ginny Beeson was the featured speaker sharing nursing leadership experiences during challenging times, Desert Storm deployment, staff mobilization during and immediately after 9/11 at the National Naval Medical Center. This was followed by several prayers, lighting of candles, the Nightingale Pledge ending and with the Chaplain's blessing of the hands.

On Friday 9 May, WMANNCA set up a Memorabilia table for the Nursing Awards Ceremony. The Ceremony included a former patient as the speaker in addition to the presentation of several nursing awards. The DAISY Award recipient was 2LT William Trantum and The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award recipient was COL Wendy Woodall, Director Nursing Services. Other awards included Nurse Innovator, Leadership and the Nightingale awards.



COL Elba Villacorta, Director, ATAMMC and ENS Rogelio Saldana



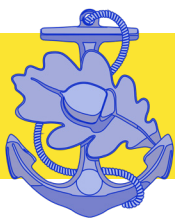
COL Elba Villacorta, Director, ATAMMC and CAPT Jacqueline Williams



Cake Cutting at the Awards Ceremony, Ginny Beeson, 2LT William Trantum, COL Wendy Woodall



Memorabilia display.

**NNCA**

Navy Nurse Corp Association
PO Box 908
Vonore, TN 37885

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In Memoriam

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

Full Name	State	Dates Served	Wars/ Conflict	Date of Death	Age	Full Name	State	Dates Served	Wars/ Conflicts	Date of Death	Age
Janel Allen	TX	88-97		2/6/25	64	John Hiltibidal*	LA	86-06	G	1/1/24	63
William Allen	NC	78-97	G	2/13/18	69	Eva Redd Hornsby	CA		V	2/27/25	80
Catherine Anthony	MO	44-45	WWII	2/22/25	104	Patricia Howell*	MA	64-89	V	2/9/25	85
Joan Arcand*	MA	50-57	K	12/24/24	97	Mary Hynes	SC	64-68	V	1/12/25	82
Ruth Ella Artiglere	SC		WWII	4/18/25	104	Johnnie King	IL	43-46	WWII	2/5/25	102
Mathilda Benson	PA		WWII	2/11/25	105	Sharon Kingsberry	CA	91-17	G, OEF, OIF	11/14/24	60
Marilyn Bingham	WY	70-91	V	3/4/25	77	Ann Lenhart	PA	43-45	WWII	3/12/25	102
Elsie Branch	OH	57	K	1/9/25	93	Mary Jo Majors*	MA	68-11	V,G	3/19/25	77
Virginia "Ginny" Briand	NY	65	V	3/25/21	76	Nancy Nolan	LA		WWII	8/27/24	102
Agnes Brinker	TX	43-59	WWII	3/9/25	103	Norma Nunn	RI	64	V	9/30/15	84
Dolores Buggy	CA	57-59		3/24/25	96	Marie Pinto*	WV	55-76	K,V	1/19/25	98
Frances Chapman	VA	60-79	V	7/8/24	89	Betty Rankin	TN	89	G	12/27/24	74
Catherine Drosdick	FL		WWII	4/4/25	93	Jacqueline Sharpe*	VA	72-01	V,G	12/13/24	75
Gae Fuller*	OR	71-95	V,G	1/21/25	86	Corene Toner	TX	52	K	2/27/25	95
Sharon Harper*	SC	86-01	G	1/19/25	64	Irene Treaster	NE	55-65	V	8/30/24	97

(+=Charter; *=member)

