

Marine Corps  
League  
Auxiliary

**Office Hours**

**Monday through  
Wednesday  
9am – 3pm**

**MCLAHQ@  
nationalmcla.org**

**MCLA-  
newsletters@  
nationalmcla.org**

**HQ phone:**

**#571-477-2780**

# MCLA

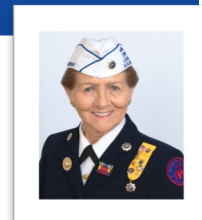
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Volume 2, Issue 1

August 2020

## National President Evelyn Joppa



### Greeting Auxiliary Members!

*Despite the pandemic, our Auxiliary Units and Departments are finding ways to carry out our mission of helping Marines, Veterans, Families, and Communities.*

*I hope that you have had a chance to look at the reports normally presented at the convention on the website \_\_\_\_ The reports show how much the Departments and Units have accomplished this past year. These reports only show a small part of what we do, as many members, unfortunately, do not report their efforts to the unit and are not part of the results.*

*Good news on the Headquarters office front! We have hired a new secretary. Ramona Smith brings a lot of talent and a positive attitude in taking on this position. She is being trained by our very capable Karen Grady. Please be patient there is much for our new secretary to learn. I thank the interview committee for their assistance in accomplishing this important task. National Sr VP Linda Chamberlain, National JA Mary Brief, PNP Cindy Marshall, and Karen Grady were invaluable help in this selection. The trip to Stafford was worth the adventure.*

*Welcome Aboard, Ramona!*

*Once again, the Board of Trustees has been proactive in planning for the unknown future. An addendum to the Emergency Election Procedure for Departments has been added to help those Departments who cannot elect their Officers before the date of October 31, 2020 due to the cancellation of their rescheduled Convention or Fall meeting. Should those meetings be cancelled the Department President will be contacting the units in their Department to implement this plan.*

*The Foothills Unit, NC and The Lewis & Clark Leatherneck Unit, SD are*

*totally up and running. Job well done by Pat Walker Mideast DIV VP, Darlene Mac Cubbin Midwest DIV VP, and the New Presidents Karen Barton of Foothills and Luana Johnson of Lewis & Clark Leathernecks. Welcome, Ladies!*

*The Memorial Fund Committee and the Headquarters Project Committee could use our assistance. If you or your unit could spare a few dollars, this is a good opportunity for helping.*

*I recently traveled to Michigan to represent the National Auxiliary at funeral services for PNP Virginia Johnson. It was a true celebration of her life. Her life commitment to others showed by the farewell tributes given by those she touched. The family did a great job in fulfilling Virginia's vision.*



*The Touhy's: PNP Gerri, PNC Jim, Peggy, and PNC John made my trip easy with the super hospitality given. The Michigan Auxiliary members greeted me with a warm welcome.*

*Help the Auxiliary shine and to stay informed. If your unit is doing various great things, take pictures, write an article, and send to*

[MCLA-Newsletters@nationalmcla.org](mailto:MCLA-Newsletters@nationalmcla.org).

*Remember September 11, 2001, those lost and those who rushed in to help!  
Pray for those affected by the ongoing disasters!*

*Thank You for all you continue to do. Be safe; Be well!*

*Success is built on the dreams of those who seek to serve others!*  
Semper Fidelis

*President Evelyn Joppa*



Due to postal issues, the decision was made by the Board of Trustees to obtain a Post Office Box.

ALL mail should be sent to this new address.

**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY**

**P O BOX 3038**

**STAFFORD, VA 22555-3038**



# SR Vice President

## How do you respond?

It seems I'm spending a lot of time lately at the Hallmark Store. I don't mind card shopping; I actually like it, but it is the types of cards I am looking for, reading and buying lately that is of concern. This concern has motivated me to share something a woman I worked with gave me when I was having a hard time understanding why a very dear friend was dying from cancer.

The world is a cold, unfair place in which many things we hold precious have been destroyed. Instead of giving up on this unfair world and life, instead of looking outward, to churches or to nature, for answers, we must look inward to our own capacities for loving. "Blow on the coal of this heart for what little light and warmth we will be able to muster to sustain us."

Is there an answer to the questions of why bad things happen to good people? That depends on what we mean by "answer." Is there an explanation which will make sense of it all? Why is there cancer in the world? Why did my family member/friend get cancer? Why did the plane crash? Why did my child die? There is probably no satisfying answer. We can offer learned explanations, but in the end when we have covered all the squares on the game board and are feeling very proud of our cleverness, the pain and the anguish and the sense of unfairness will still be there.

In the final analysis, the question of why bad things happen to good people translates into some very different questions, no longer asking why something happened but asking how we will respond, what we intended to do, not that it has happened.

Are you capable of forgiving and accepting love in a world which has

disappointed you by not being perfect, a world in which there is so much unfairness and cruelty, disease and crime, earthquake and accident? Can you forgive its imperfections and love it because it is capable of containing great beauty and goodness, and because it is the only world we have?

Are you capable of forgiving and loving the people around you, even if they have hurt you and let you down by not being perfect? Can you forgive them and love them because there aren't any perfect people around, and because the penalty for not being able to love imperfect people is condemning oneself to loneliness?

Are you capable of forgiving and loving God even when you have found out that He is not perfect, even when He has let you down and disappointed you by permitting bad luck and sickness and cruelty in His world, and permitting some of those things to happen to you? Can you learn to love and forgive Him despite His limitations, as you once learned to forgive and love your parents even though they were not a wise, as strong, or as perfect as you needed them to be?

And if you can do these things, will you be able to recognize that the ability to forgive and the ability to love are the weapons God has given us to enable us to live fully, bravely, and meaningfully in this less-than-perfect world?

(The above is an excerpt from the book "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People" by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, who lost his teenage son to a serious illness?)

Until next month be safe.

Semper Fidelis,  
Linda S. Chamberlain  
**National Senior Vice President**  
[NationalSrVP@nationalmcla.org](mailto:NationalSrVP@nationalmcla.org)

# JR Vice President

August,  
Recruiters,  
And  
Friends

August, well, that was certainly an uneventful month for some of us. I am sure we are disappointed that we did not get to be together for the annual convention. I am pretty sure we are delighted that we can still talk on the telephone, correspond by email and get together by virtual meetings at the drop of a hat. On the one hand, this year we had no long drives with several restroom stops, no flights with little leg room and suitcases to handle and no need to get a babysitter/pet sitter. But on the other hand, we did not get to see old friends, make new friends, learn what other units are doing for their communities or bask in the sun on Daytona Beach. Nevertheless, we continue to be together in spirit and do good works as we are able.

Speaking of good works, I would like to spotlight more of our recruiters. Last month I reported on the top recruiters and now I would like to acknowledge another group of ladies – those that recruited more than one new member:

|                       |                        |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>LYNN CORTRIGHT</i> | <i>JEANNE SCHWARTZ</i> | <i>KATHY HOFFMAN</i>   |
| <i>GAYLE HEATH</i>    | <i>KAREN BARTON</i>    | <i>MARY BRIEF</i>      |
| <i>MITZY ABEYTA</i>   | <i>ANGELA BOLLWERK</i> | <i>CARRIE MCINTOSH</i> |
| <i>DARCY ANDERSON</i> | <i>JOYCE BRICKETT</i>  | <i>KAREN MASTRIANA</i> |
| <i>LYNNAE SIEVERT</i> | <i>PAT SKELDING</i>    | <i>REBECCA CORPUZ</i>  |

*Congratulations to these recruiters who are helping their units grow. Every one counts.*

August was certainly busy getting transmittals turned in and September will be a busy month for Headquarters. Not only are we losing our wonderful National Secretary Karen Grady but she will train her replacement as much as she can. Karen, I hope you continue to be a part of our Auxiliary family when your family relocates to your new home. Thank you to the Unit and Department Treasurers who have already turned their transmittals in for Karen to complete before leaving town. If you have not done so yet, please turn them in ASAP.

As the month of September continues to creep in like a foggy morning here in Missouri, many parts of the country will have a special day of tribute on September 11, Patriot Day, held in honor and remembrance of those who died in the September 11 attacks of 2001. I pray you have the opportunity to engage with others to commemorate this day.

Serving You Faithfully,

*Dotty Sanning*

National Junior Vice President



Michigan Auxiliary & National President  
PNP Gerri Tuohy, NJA Mary Brief, NP Evelyn Joppa,  
Nancy Haasa, Peggy Tuohy & Ann LeClair

## **From The Office**

Transmittals are rolling in! Thanks for working through the chaos and getting them to HQ.

Please remember we have a new secretary, turn around on the transmittals may be a bit long as she is learning the process. Please call the office if there are any issues.

# Judge Advocate

## What have I taught you?

I was blessed to be in attendance for the Celebration of Life Ceremony honoring PNP Virginia Johnson. It was a lovely, beautiful day with a nice breeze. The services were held on the church grounds under a tent, in order to comply with our Governors' guidelines. Virginia was a mentor to me, as well as many other MCLA members from Michigan and across the Nation.

During her Celebration, her daughter Kimberly shared a memory of how years ago, Virginia charged Kimberly with a question, and asked that she would answer this question in writing the response as a letter to her mother. The question was: **"What have I taught you?"** Kimberly read that letter at the funeral; it was a very touching moment. I picked out ten important values that were mentioned in her letter and they are as follows:

1. Keep Trying
2. Love Unconditional
3. Respect Diversity
4. Value Patriotism
5. Volunteer
6. Faith in High Spirits
7. Honor Traditions
8. Act Responsibly
9. Be Conservative
10. Manage Stress



I found these values very thought provoking. I began to contemplate and found myself trying to answer the following question: "Have I shown my family and friends what my values are by the way I live my life?"

I challenge each of you to take a look at the values Kimberly learned from our dear sweet Virginia, and self-examine how you stack up against your own standards personally, professionally, and philanthropically.

As I contemplate my life, I know that I still have much to improve upon. I feel like the job of this life's ever-evolving and changing values and morals is never complete, because each day is a new day. That is the beauty of our lives, each and every day when we awake, we are given the opportunity to start anew. PNP Virginia Johnson leaves a legacy that will touch my life today, tomorrow, and for years to come. That legacy is left by the way she lived her life. I can only aspire to be like her and so many of the gracious ladies I am honored to know and have known through my membership with the Marine Corps League Auxiliary.

Semper Fi,

*Mary Brief*

National Judge Advocate

NationalJA@NationalMCLA.org





**ALMIGHTY AND  
MERCIFUL GOD,  
WE REMEMBER  
THIS MOMENT  
OUR DEPARTED  
MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS. WE  
RECALL WITH  
REVERANCE THE  
GOOD DEEDS  
THEY  
ACCOMPLISHED,  
WE HONOR  
THEM WITH  
OUR LOVE AND  
FRIENDSHIP.**

DORIS KINDEL \* AUGUST 5, 2020 MICKEY FINN UNIT, VA. Condolences to daughter: PNP Cynthia Marshall, 84 Devonne Drive, Fredericksburg, VA.

MARY BROWN \* AUGUST 11, 2020, Hamilton Walters Unit, IA, Condolences to husband: Harold Brown, 1201 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Burlington, IA.

DOLLY FOGAL \* August 12, 2020. Heart of Texas Unit, Tx. Condolences to daughter: Johnnie Lopez, 1001 Hamilton St. Waco, TX. 76705-3809.

AUDREY D. JOHNSON\* March 15, 2020. All Division Unit, PA. Condolences to daughter: Barbara Johnson, 302 N Elm Ave. Newtown, PA 18940

JUDY DIANNE CASEY\* March 28, 2020. Dept of Texas, Condolences to: John C Casey, 12403 Knoll Ridge Drive, Austin, TX 78758.

\*\*\*\*\*

Karen Bressler is undergoing radiation for her recurring cancer. She thanks all of you for thinking of her with cards, emails and calls.

The New unit in South Dakota, Lewis and Clark, has a member who could use those powerful prayers. Ann Marie Jacobs went in for a one day surgery and had to stay overnight. Cards of cheer for this new member may be mailed to: 106 Tootys Ave, Yankton, SD. 57078.

Lola Cochran, from the Dept of Illinois had foot surgery that sounded very uncomfortable. She is so loyal sending cards to all of us in need; she could use our cheer now. 340 Whitelaw Ave. Wood River, IL. 62095-1109.

HPNP Lynne Laberge was in need of our prayers upon learning of the murder of her granddaughter. She was found in bed with multiple stab wounds. An arrest was made and the person confessed. A very tough time for all in Lynn's family. Cards of condolence may be sent to Lynn at: 16958 SE 84 Colerain Circle, The Villages, Florida, 32162.

Susan Seyller lost her mother on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Condolences may be sent to her at: 446 Meier Lake Drive, Jackson, MO. 63764.

Joy Rubi from Mason O Yarbrough Unit member in MO, had knee replacement and is doing well at home with therapy, Cards of cheer may be sent to: 317 S Louisiana St., Cape Girardeau, MO. 63703.

Con't

CHAPLAIN con't

Upper Darby member Terry Sounder needed our prayers as her husband suffered a stroke. Cards of encouragement for both of them: 402 Highland Ave. Morton, PA 19070.

Another member could use our encouragement after her husband broke his leg in two places. Mason O Yarbrough member, Melissa Kinder, PO Box. 68, Jackson, MO. 63744.

Respectfully Submitted,  
PNP National Chaplain, *Barb Nobile*, PNP

NationalChaplain@nationalmcla.org

*May love and laughter light your days,  
and warm your heart and home.  
May good and faithful friends be yours,  
wherever you may roam.  
May peace and plenty bless your world  
with joy that long endures.  
May all life's passing seasons  
bring the best to you and yours!*

### ***"A Bakeless Bake Sale"***

Total to date : \$

<https://nationalmclahq.square.site/>

Thank you for your generosity,

The National Headquarters Committee

*Gerri Tuohy, Mary Brief and Peggy Tuohy*



How does your unit:

- Attract members?
- Announce events?
- Celebrate milestones?



Share your information in our newsletter...

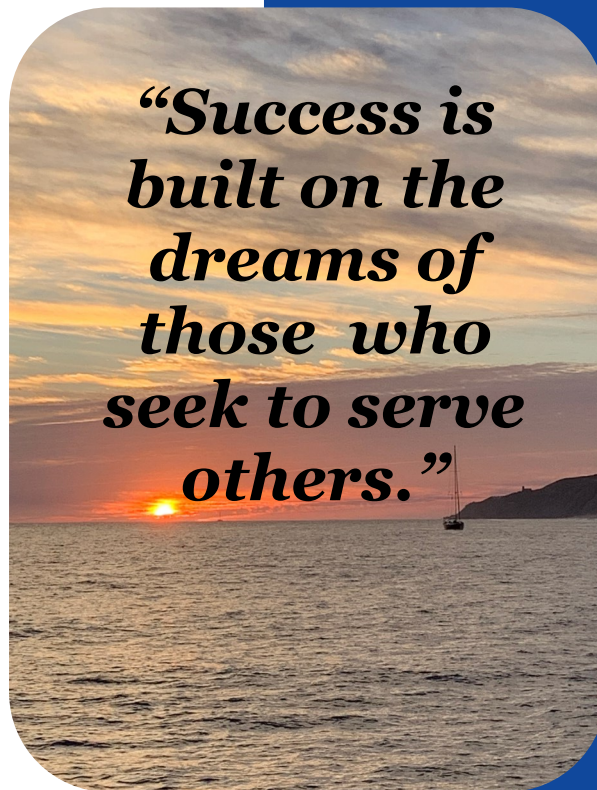
Share dates for conferences...

Share celebrations...

We want to hear from you!

[MCLAHQ@NationalMCLA.org](mailto:MCLAHQ@NationalMCLA.org)

***“Success is built on the dreams of those who seek to serve others.”***



**Introducing**

## **New National Secretary for Marine Corps League Auxiliary**

Ramona Smith is an Army spouse of 20 years. She is a native of Germany and met her husband Adam on his first assignment there. Since then they have lived in South Carolina, Kansas, Virginia, North Carolina, and again back in Germany. They are the proud parents of three boys, Justin (17), Daniel (14), and Cody (12) who are all bilingual and share their parents passion for traveling the world and exploring new cultures.

Ramona has served as the 2nd Vice President for ASCGWA for over a year and has been a member of various other spouse clubs over the years. She has been an FRG leader and advisor, volunteered for many non-profit organizations supporting Veterans, and an active member of her children's booster clubs.

She is very excited to join MCLA and looks forward to meeting and working with you all!





**Christmas will soon  
be here and what  
would be better than  
a gift for yourself?**



**\$20.00**



**\$25.00**

**These items are available for sale  
on our store page! Click below:**

For other items please use the regular order form on the MCLA website.

**Shop Now**

## ELECTED OFFICERS

President Evelyn Joppa

NationalPres@nationalmcla.org

Sr. Vice President Linda Chamberlain

NationalSrVP@nationalmcla.org

Jr. Vice President Dotty Sanning

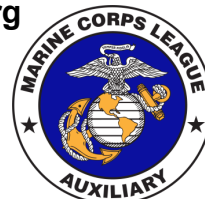
NationalJrVP@nationalmcla.org

Judge Advocate Mary Brief

NationalJA@nationalmcla.org

Jr. PNP Carol Smith

carolnco@mchsi.com



## DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS

Renee McGuan

CentralDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org

Pat Walker

MideastDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org

Darlene Mac Cubbin

MidwestDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org

Susie Lee

NewEnglandDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org

Sydney Minchin

NortheastDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org

Vickie Brown

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Karen Bressler

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Carol Mazzara

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Terri Gothard

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Vacant

SouthwestDivisionVP@nationalmcla.org

Barb Nobile

NationalChaplain@nationalmcla.org

Operation Little Angel

OperationLittleAngel@nationalmcla.org

**WORK FOR A CAUSE,  
NOT FOR APPLAUSE.  
LIVE LIFE TO EXPRESS,  
NOT TO IMPRESS.  
DON'T STRIVE TO MAKE YOUR  
PRESENCE NOTICED,  
JUST MAKE YOUR ABSENCE FELT.**



Marine Corps League Auxiliary  
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Stafford, VA 22554

Dated Material : August

Address Service Requested

Newsletter Articles are due by the 18th of the month.

Please send articles and requests to [MCLA-Newsletters@NationalMCLA.org](mailto:MCLA-Newsletters@NationalMCLA.org) (NEW E-Mail)

For a hardcopy, please send \$10 to the HQ office to cover shipping.