

ESPRIT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020-2022

The High Desert Marines (HDM) Board of Directors were elected unanimously at the 3 January membership meeting. The new directors will each serve a term of three years.

In accordance with the HDM Bylaws, the board ultimately voted for the Executive Committee. The following officers were elected: Commander Floyd Foster, 1st Vice Commander (vacant), 2nd Vice Commander Tom Stevens, Treasurer Dan Lamb, Secretary Pat Hagler, Public Relations Officer Hjördis Jones, Sergeant-at-Arms Herman Barnes, and Chaplain Jose Garcia. The Directors-At-Large are Albert Aceves, Jaime Camilo, Fred Daniels, Tom Lewellen, Angel Medina, and Chuck Wallin.

The board manages the business and affairs of the HDM in accordance with California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

SERGEANT MAJOR MCLB RETIRES

Sergeant Major Sergio MartinezRuiz, Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) - Barstow, retired from active duty on 10 January after a stellar 27-year Marine Corps career. Arriving to his retirement ceremony on the parade deck astride his horse, Arias, Martinez spoke graciously of his family and his time in the Corps, calling the Marine Corps the toughest, most challenging and dangerous job. He admitted he was looking forward to his first year of retirement.

He began his rise to the highest enlisted rank in 1993 as a Combat Engineer. Among his many and varied assignments, Martinez served as a drill instructor at Parris Island, an instructor at Officer Candidate School, Quantico, and deployed to Iraq twice. He was promoted to sergeant major in 2010. His personal decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal with gold star (in lieu of a 2nd award), and Navy Achievement Medal with gold star.

SgtMaj Martinez, who has attended the breakfast meetings frequently, recognized the High Desert Marines (HDM) during his farewell speech. HDM were represented at the ceremony by Floyd Foster, Carlos Ramirez, Hjördis Jones, Al Watson and Bob Chestnut.

The sergeant major's replacement will be on board at MCLB in February.



SgtMaj Martinez and Floyd Foster at the SgtMaj's retirement reception

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HDM GETS NEW QUARTERS

Beginning with this year's first Board of Directors' monthly meeting, the High Desert Marines (HDM) have a new meeting space in Victorville. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has given the HDM a meeting room plus kitchen access in the High Desert Vet Center at 15095 Amargosa Road, Suite 107. The space is available to HDM 1600-1945 every Monday except national holidays.

The Board of Directors and HDM committees will have exclusive access to the meeting room which includes a flag, TV, white board, computer, printer and conference table with comfortable chairs. Hjördis Jones, HDM Public Relations Officer, was responsible for obtaining the space.



HDM meeting room at Vet Center

HELP WANTED!

The purpose and mission of the High Desert Marines (HDM) is to provide a social setting for Marines and promote Marine Corps values and traditions in the community. This is accomplished by honoring veterans of all branches of the military, supporting veterans and active military, celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday and providing social activities for HDM and their families.

In order to operate smoothly and conduct business, a number of committees are needed in many diverse areas. Everyone can help HDM achieve its goals and continue the work of the organization.

That said, the HDM have established the following committees and ask all members, military and associate, to consider serving on at least one committee. The degree of commitment depends on the function of the committee. Please direct your questions to Commander Floyd Foster, (661) 433-9240.

Board Development and Nominations: Chair, _____; Members **NEEDED**

Finance: Chair, Dan Lamb; Members, **NEEDED**

Sales, On-Line: Chair, Tom Stevens; Members, Dan Lamb, Hjördis Jones

Sales, Live Events: (Car shows, etc.): Chairs, Tom Lewellan and Fred Daniels; Members, William Daniels, Pat Hagler, Carlos Ramirez, Albert Aceves, Chuck Wallin, Jose Garcia, Gilbert Reyes

Social: Chair, Pat Hagler; Members - Albert Aceves, Bob Chestnut, Jose Garcia, Mike Glover, Hjördis Jones, Angel Medina, Chuck and Sandy Wallin

Patriotic Events: Chair, Hjördis Jones; Members **NEEDED**

Public Information and Affairs: Chair, Hjördis Jones; Members **NEEDED**

Budget: Chair, Dan Lamb; Members, Floyd Foster, Pat Hagler

Wellness And Welfare: Chair, Jose Garcia; Members, Chuck Wallin

By-Laws: Chair, Pat Hagler; Members, Floyd Foster, Jaime Camilo, Herman Barnes, Angel Medina, Hjördis Jones, Tom Stevens

Resource Development: (solicits donations, makes "friends"): Chair, **VACANT**; Members **NEEDED**

Inventory: Chair, Tom Stevens; Members **NEEDED**

Marine Corps Birthday Ball: Chair, Hjördis Jones; Members **NEEDED**

HDM Car Show: Chair, Floyd Foster; Members, Pat Hagler, additional members **NEEDED**

Barstow Veterans Home: Chair, Floyd Foster; Members, Joe Mitchell, Larry Avalos, Hjördis Jones, Pat Hagler, Carlos Ramirez, James and Betty Charlier

Website/Facebook: Chair, Tom Stevens; Members, Hjördis Jones, Dan Lamb, Jeff Cooper, Cindy Valasquez.

DID YOU KNOW?

High Desert Marines get together each Wednesday at the VFW, Hesperia, for a casual social lunch. Everyone welcome. Come on down!

AND THE WINNER IS...

The High Desert Marines (HDM) were the surprise champions of the 2019 Veterans Home of California – Barstow Pool Tournament, capturing the win by only one game. The Marine pool sharks brought home the much-anticipated trophy.

HDM host a monthly tourney every 2nd Tuesday at the home. Although the HDM are not there to beat the resident pool players, being Marines, they give it all they have when competing. Ultimately, they won a single game more than any of the residents when all the games for the year were tallied.

At the monthly contests, HDM play against individual residents. The winner of each game continues on to play another opponent. The top 4 winners (residents of the home) receive a gift card provided by HDM.

Congratulations to the HDM who have volunteered at the home and played pool during the past year including Floyd Foster, Carlos Ramirez, Joe Mitchell, Larry Avalos, Mike Glover, Jerry Wheeler, Tim Hille, Tom Stevens, Gilbert Reyes, Pat Hagler, Hjördis Jones, James and Betty Charlier, among others.



Joe Mitchell takes aim

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## High Desert Marines Road Trip

### ***RONALD REAGAN LIBRARY***

***Wednesday, 18 March 2020***

***Admission: \$30  
Seniors/Retired Military \$27***

***Transportation: Carpool  
(Volunteer Drivers Needed  
Call Pat Hagler, 909 238-3157)***

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Volunteers celebrating January birthdays at Veterans Home – Barstow. (left to right) Floyd Foster, Pat Hagler, Carlos Ramirez, James Charlier, Betty Charlier, Albert Aceves and Jose Garcia. Virginia McDougall, resident and Marine veteran, seated far right.

Veterans Home Birthday Party

Members of the High Desert Marines travel to the Veterans Home of California – Barstow monthly on the last Thursday to honor each resident celebrating a birthday that month. The party includes entertainment, cake and ice cream, and gift cards. The \$15 gift cards are provided by HDM. January's entertainment was Roadhouse Ron, a favorite at the birthday celebrations.

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## **Welcome Aboard!**

Marines joining High Desert Marines recently:

November: **Cpl Marietta Bilicer**  
January: **Virginia Wonenberg** (Associate Member), widow of LCpl Arthur Wonenberg  
**Cpl Wilbur "Rocky" Ford**

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"It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard ... Is what makes it great: US MARINES"

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## ***Chaplains Corner***

Jose Garcia, Chaplain, HDM

Before Abraham was, you were beloved. Now we are sons of God, joint heirs with Christ. Peace, health, love, joy and prosperity are here. These are the fruits of the Spirit, the gifts of God. If we look to Him wholly, we are healed of our infirmities in the transcendent name of the Lord Jesus.

God is in the midst of you, child of infinite, immortal Spirit. There is nothing to make you tremble or despair; nothing to make you fear. From the bosom of the Father you come, the breath of Almighty God created you a living soul.

*Please keep HDM Michael Glover in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from heart surgery. Hurry back, Mike!*

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