

The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 600 of your fellow NYA members, this bulletin board is available for your use to post information. Contact Veronica Cullum or send e-mail to benefit@mareislandnya.com

Shop 38 Luncheon

Sardine Can Restaurant, Vallejo;
Second Wednesday of each month
POC: Rudy Lukes, (707) 643-3225

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Cntr, 333 Amador St., Vallejo
Second Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm
POC: Elsie Babcock; (707) 643-7914

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm
POC: Dick Champion; (707) 253-7242

Mare Island Historical Park Foundation

Mare Island Quarters "A"
Third Monday quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) at 10:00am
POC: Ken Zadwick; (707) 557-1538

Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

Sardine Can restaurant, Vallejo
First Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
POC: Dick Barlow; (707) 642-6022

Ocean Engineering Luncheon

Sports Bar inside the Marriott Hotel, Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
No POC at this time

administration—the things that make our organization legal and auditable, such as ensuring regular meetings are held and recorded, bookkeeping, etc. Second (and equally important), is maintaining our membership numbers. We accomplish this by offering goods and services, such as our dental plan, newsletter, or numerous other benefits that may be of interest and value to our members. Finally (and perhaps most importantly), is offering a venue by which those who care can keep abreast of (or contribute to) those Mare Island causes in which we believe, such as the Historic Park Foundation, redevelopment plans and progress, or supporting the efforts of NARFE.

Mare Island is not just a distant memory, but is a place that lives on in each of us, as well as continuing to thrive. Please join us this year in making our membership drive/renewal a big success. And, please feel welcome to get more involved and play an active role—throughout the year—in preserving the legacy of Mare Island.

Mare Island Museum Audit.

Recently, we sent an e-mail requesting support from our members and folks interested in the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation's Museum (in Building 46 on Mare Island). The Navy Historic Center (NHC—who provides oversight of the museum's artifacts) visited the museum on January 30, 2007, to follow up on corrective actions requested in previous visits. Following is a quote from an email received from Jim Kern, Curator of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, shortly after the visit by NHC: "Although the Naval Historic Center has

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Keeping it Going.

As we kick off our membership enrollment drive and with no major event planned during the year, you might wonder what the NYA is doing. Well, I thought I'd share a little of what goes on throughout the year. First (and certainly foremost), we fulfill the requirements of

not yet presented an official report of their visit, overall I felt that their visit was a positive one and that they were pleased with the progress being made by MIHPF.

Ms. France (NHC) made a few comments on specific curatorial and conservation issues regarding certain artifacts in storage in Building 215. It is my understanding that most of these have been remedied by your volunteers since the January 30th visit. Of course, the NHC official report may offer other recommendations, but I am sure they will be easily dealt with.

The exhibits in Building 46 have been developed much more fully in recent months and recommendations from the NHC will provide valuable guidelines for continued improvements. Having the Mare Island Museum open on a regular basis and continuing to work toward the hiring of professional staff will also be greatly beneficial. Based on my informal conversations with Mr. Thompson (NHC) and Ms. France, I believe that they would echo that sentiment.

Nonetheless, the MIHPF volunteers should be complimented on the countless hours of hard work that they have put into the preservation and exhibition of Mare Island's valuable history. The Foundation has made great progress in recent months, and it is very satisfying to see all of that hard work coming to fruition. I look forward to reading any comments that may be forthcoming from NHC and I will do my best to assist you in their implementation.”

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Update

Bruce Christensen

Need for Additional Volunteers.

Many of you have volunteered to work for the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to help perform some of the ongoing tasks needed to keep the operations of Mare Island's Historic District running smoothly. There is always a need

for additional volunteers, and, as always, work hours can be scheduled at the volunteer's convenience.

If you can lend assistance at the museum in Building 46, Joyce Giles would appreciate hearing from you via email at jig313@aol.com, or you can drop by the museum and talk to her in person on most weekdays. If you'd like to volunteer for other tasks, such as docent, tour guide, gardener, etc., please email Bill Dornik at wdornik@sbcglobal.net, or contact Ken Zadwick at (707) 557-0662.

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Board of Directors' next meeting is on Monday, April 23, 2007, in Quarters A, at 10:00 AM. If you would like to attend as a guest, please plan to join with the other NYA members who will be attending the meeting.

IOWA Group Looking to Bring Battleship to Mare Island.

In February 2007, representatives from the IOWA Group met with Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, Navy League and NYA members to discuss the possibility of bringing the USS IOWA (BB-61) to Mare Island. The battleship is currently part of the Reserve Fleet located in Suisun Bay. The plan for displaying the 887-foot long ship at Mare Island is to moor it at the seawall at Berth 11 (spanning Ways 1 and 2 and Dry Dock 1), and extending half-way into Berth 12 (present location of the USS VALLEJO sail).

IOWA Group members indicate that the dredging costs alone will be approximately \$3 million. Based on the time required to obtain all the permits, approvals and complete the preparatory work required, the earliest the ship could arrive at the Mare Island waterfront is 2009. The slogan for this effort is "USS IOWA – Mare Island, A Match Made in History." For additional information, see the IOWA website www.battleshipiowa.org.

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 765, which more than surpassed our 2006 membership goal of 682! Dental membership stands at 389 members.

We offer a warm welcome to new members William Fox (Russ Finlinson), and Darrell Van Schaack (Manny Griego). (*Errata thanks to Carmen Merriman!*)

The NYA offers our sincere condolences to the family of recently deceased member Fred Parker.

The NYA Directors try to keep the membership directory as accurate and up-to-date as possible. If you think we don't have your current e-mail address, please consider sending it to us. We will never sell or otherwise disclose your address to any third parties, nor will we send frivolous messages.

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Let's review some of the best reasons for being a member of the Navy Yard Association:

- ✓ A discount of 10% off the listed prices at www.giffordlaw.com for establishing a Living Trust. One of our best benefits!
- ✓ If you are an **active or retired** Federal government employee, you can get dental insurance through our NAONE Trust.
- ✓ Free Notary Public service, by our Secretary, Sonya Domingo.
- ✓ If you retired from **Mare Island**, you may be able to obtain a DOD retired card. This could save you \$\$ by staying at military bases RV parks, hotels, cabins and golf courses. But, more than that, you can make reservations for the leftover condominium timeshares.

- ✓ Kelly Moore Paint and Wallpaper offers 25% off on some items, but at least 10% off on all items for NYA members.
- ✓ Beaver Creek RV Park and Campground offers a 15% discount to NYA members.
- ✓ Napa Valley Day Spa offers a 10% discount on their services
- ✓ Napa Wine Train offers NYA members a 10% discount
- ✓ Information, such as handy consumer tips, emergent benefits, job announcements, "What's happening at Mare Island," and reunion notices on a timely basis may be obtained by sending your e-mail address to me.

Recently, we had a new member join just to get one of the best benefits we offer: a discount on establishing a living trust. If you have not already done this, I urge you to. Please remember to update your living trust whenever your situation changes.

Another benefit that a lot of our members (who retired from Mare Island Navy Shipyard) have found of value is the assistance we offer in obtaining a U.S. Government Identification Card (Form 55). Recently, some members have been stopped at Travis Air Force Base and told that this card is no longer being accepted there. We've looked into this, and our connection at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard noted that the Form 55 is an obsolete form and is no longer being stocked by OPM or GPO. The Federal Government (including DOD) is looking into developing a single Government ID. When that happens, we'll look for a way to obtain that ID for our Mare Island retirees. (I know I'll want one!) Until then, you should continue to use your Form 55 ID until no one will accept it or its confiscated. I visit Hawaii often; and recently, I used the card to golf at the military bases and to stay at the Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island. I did not encounter any problems using the ID. I've discovered that use of the card really depends on the

Commanding Officer at the facility you're trying to enter. For example, you can't use it to reserve bungalows at Bellows Air Force Base in Honolulu. Good luck in using the current ID; certainly you deserve it after working for the Government for so long!

Please, Please send us your e-mail address. And, if you do, please remember to allow my e-mail address through your SPAM Blocker (especially those with AOL addresses). My address is: robin_leong@netzero.net. This really helps when sending a request for support, such as our recent e-mail asking folks to come out and support the Mare Island Historic Park Museum (as they were being audited by the Navy (see article in President's Corner). Thanks to all those who helped out and showed their support for the museum!

Dental Plan Updates.

There has been plenty of recent activity in our dental plan, and not all of it has been good news. The officers of the NAONE Trust are diligently working to iron out problems that have arisen following the death of longtime dental plan administrator Mr. Doyle Park. Doyle approved specialty care and was the contracts administrator for the Pre-Paid Plan. In addition, Larry and Betty Carter of Cost Containment Concepts, Inc., are retiring after more than 25 years with us, and NAONE Trustees are working with the new administrator, FirstTier, on a variety of transition issues..

Your Trust officers are working with Pre-Paid Plan dental providers (i.e., the loss of North Valley Dental in Vacaville; loss of a dental provider in Napa; and providers refusing to sign up new members). We will keep dental plan members updated through direct communication (letters and e-mails).

Also, we are looking into the impact of passing on to the member the charge for paying monthly dental plan premiums via check (instead of automatic deduction from a checking account). The bank charges us a \$5 fee for each check.

If you have any questions about changing dentists; changing banks for withholding; changing your dental status from family to single or vice versa; signing up for a dental plan; or complaints about a dentist, please contact First Tier Administrators. Following is their contact information:

First Tier Administrators
P.O. Box 19338
Reno, NV 89511

Phone: (775) 324-5644
Toll Free: (866) 565-7557

What's happening on Mare Island?

Bruce Christensen

Over the months, many NYA members have asked us, "What's going on at Mare Island regarding bringing businesses and other new occupants to the vacant facilities on the shipyard?"

We are pleased to report that there are more than 90 businesses and activities occupying real estate on Mare Island, with the promise of additional retail businesses and services in support of the approximately 200 family dwellings that were recently constructed (and the additional homes planned for the future). To make this happen, Lennar Mare Island has spent more than \$90 million to date in rebuilding and replacing a significant portion of the shipyard infrastructure, some of which dates back to the Civil War. This work includes miles of streets, curbs and gutters, water lines, sewers, natural gas lines, electrical systems, and cable and telecommunication systems. Although the more-than 1,800 jobs created since the closure of the shipyard falls

short of the number of Navy jobs lost at closure, more jobs will be created as the development of Mare Island continues.

The following is the February 2007 update of the businesses and other groups with a presence on Mare Island:

Advance Construction
AFLAC (insurance)
AJ Supply (cabinets)
ALCO Iron and Metal (recycling)
American Trash Management (repair of waste machinery)
Animatics, Inc. (robotics lab)
Babcock Construction
BattleBots (repair station)
Berkeley Farms (delivery trucks)
Bernard Bedur (custom cabinets & furniture)
Big Paw Grub (olive oils)
Brooks Street (real estate development)
CS Marine (marine construction)
Cable Moore (manufacture of rigging)
Carpenter Group (rigging and sails)
Carter, Jerry (vehicle storage)
Cerberus & Company (workers compensation investigators)
CH2M Hill (environmental consultants)
Chaudhary & Associates (engineering, survey & planning)
Cooper Crane and Rigging (crane & rigging operations)
Cornerstone Real Estate
Curtis Coleman Co. (furniture reproduction)
Custom Stone Veneer (manufacturer of stone veneer)
DL Construction (rubber, bolts & piping components)
Desal LLC (desalination machines)
Duhow, Douglas (collectable automobiles)
Earthquake Protection Services (bridge/building support system)
East Bay Erectors (steel building components)
ENGEO Inc. (geo technical)
ESCO Marine (“The Golden Bear”)
Euro Racing Technologies (race prototypes)
Expertees (tee shirt printing)
F&M Fabricators (fabrication of steel structures)

Falcon’s Court (birds of prey)
Falcon Truck School (big rig training school)
Finishing Technologies (painting, coating cabinets)
Globalcrete LLC (cementitious products)
Granberg International (chain saw accessories)
Hal Pierce Electric
Home Depot (training facility)
Huppe Landscape
Island Energy (utility company)
Jeffco (sand blasting/painting)
Keadjian Associates (public relations)
Kiewit Pacific (shipping bridge material)
Klamath Boat Company
Latham Truss (building components)
Lennar Design Center (new home finishes)
Lennar Homes (construction office)
Lennar Homes (warranty office)
LennarMI Welcome Center (public relations)
Level Marine (boat kit assembly/sales)
Lords Fellowship Center (homeless training center)
MI Golf Course
MI Historic Park Foundation (museum, weddings, tours)
Mactec Engineering
McCovey’s (restaurant interiors)
Miami LLC (repair of storage quilts)
Michael Boyle MI Sports Center
Nextel of California
North American Title Co.
North Hills Baptist (school)
Orantes Architectural Metal
Our Source (meeting production)
Packaging Arts
Pamala Norman (handyman services)
Performance Contracting (construction)
Praxis Associates (communications)
Pro Steel Erectors
RD Council (window manufacturing)
Red Barn Productions (entertainment services)
Roofing Supply Group
Scott Scherer (auto and truck repairs)
Shining Star School (Montesorri school)
Six Flags Marine World
State of California (bridge inspectors)
Stellar Distribution Company (beauty products)
Storage Mobility (PODS)

Suite Treatments (event planning)
Supreme Truck Bodies
Syar Industries
Tanglefoot Master Builders
Timothy Rose (art studio)
Touro University (osteopathic medicine)
Vallejo Ferry Service (berthing/fueling)
Vallejo Floor Company
Veterans Administration Clinic
Walsh Construction
Western Dovetail (custom woodworking)
Weston Solutions, Inc. (environmental)
Wines Central (wine storage)
XKT Engineering
US Army Reserve
US Forest Service

Updates on what's happening at Mare Island will be provided in future NYA newsletters. If you have additional information to provide on this subject, please send it to the NYA at P.O. Box 2034, Vallejo, CA 94592.

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon
Shipyards Historian

LONG LASTING LESLIE

By the time Mare Island's tenth ship was launched, boatbuilders were becoming somewhat complacent about turning out tugs. The launching of LESLIE, a wooden-hull fireboat was a fine occasion on December 2, 1902, but there was no indication that the vessel would have an exceptionally long career.

Built with an oak and fir frame and brass fittings the sturdy, well-crafted vessel was powered by steam. During its charmed life it underwent name and engine changes before being sold as a pleasure craft at Lake Pitt, British Columbia in 1984.

LESLIE was 71 feet 1-1/4" inches long with an 18-foot beam and a loaded displacement of 74 tons. It could attain a speed of 9.37 knots and cost \$39,344.49 to construct. Originally used

as a steam-powered fireboat, LESLIE was sometimes pressed into duty as a ferry boat. The latter use was rare, however, and only occurred when the DART and PINAFORE were laid up. Although perhaps 65 people could stand on deck, space for passengers was limited.

In 1930, the LESLIE was sold to a shipbuilding firm in Pittsburg which rebuilt the tug on speculation, replacing the steam engine with a diesel and renaming it DEL DRACO.

Purchased by Basalt Rock Co. in 1938, it was rebuilt and renamed Basalt No. 1. It was used in the company's rock, sand and gravel operations until shortly after the beginning of World War II, when it was commandeered by the Navy. Its next job was gate tender, and it was used to string heavy nets across the Golden Gate to keep out enemy submarines during the war.

The ship was later sold to Alf Jorgensen of Vancouver, British Columbia for \$5,000. He spent an additional \$25,000 to upgrade it for compliance with Canadian steamship regulations. When re-launched April 3, 1947, the ship bore yet another name, the JORGIE.

During the late '40s, it was a very busy boat towing a variety of vessels and serving as a floating battery shop. It was renamed OCEAN COMET and later the MT. COMET.

It served as a pleasure craft on Lake Pitt in 1984, but sold again in '86. The new owner, Adrian Bartelings, estimated it would cost \$380,000 to replace the old hull, which he planned to do. Meanwhile, he was living on the boat which was moored up the Pitt River. In correspondence with the Mare Island Historian, he offered to show her the boat when she came to Vancouver.

In September 1988, a visit was arranged. Sad to report, upon arrival I learned from the owner that just 12 hours earlier, MT. COMET had sunk. The old tug had somehow become loose from its mooring, gone downstream for a

mile, hit a bridge pier and sank. Although the owner had hopes of raising the boat, he was unsuccessful. In December he wrote: "MT. COMET has finally been removed from where she sank in the Pitt River. Unfortunately they had to blow her up in order to get her out of the water. She is now piled up in many, many pieces somewhere in Richmond (the other side of Vancouver from where she sank)."

It was a tragic ending for a craft that lasted more than eight decades. The old boatbuilders would have been very proud of their product

NARFE National Legislative Report

Lea Zajac

CSFC National Legislation Director

Every two years, our National Headquarters schedules a National Legislative Conference in February or March after the new Congress has been elected. The purpose of the conference is to educate NARFE members from all Federations across the country on the priority issues facing the federal community. Following the conference training, the NARFE members travel to Capitol Hill to visit with their respective Congressmen, discuss our priority issues, and to encourage each Congressman to support these issues. Such a conference was scheduled in early March 2007, wherein nine California NARFE members, along with 280 members nationwide attended the conference and visited Capitol Hill.

Those representing CA were: Helen Zajac, CSFC President; H. Ray Harrington, CSFC Executive Vice President; Lea Zajac, CSFC National Legislation Director; George Bardwil, CSFC District II Vice President; Carol Marx, President Vallejo Chapter #16; Ellen Rafferty, Legislative Chair Palm Springs Chapter #587; Andrea Heckman, Legislative Chair Tri-City Chapter #1494; Alice Pena, member Vallejo Chapter #16, and Thea Max, member Greater Paradise Oroville Chapter #352.

The CSFC National Legislation Director scheduled appointments with 18 Congressmen for March 6, which included our two senators and all CA Representatives assigned to a Committee that primarily affects our issues. Those Committees were: Budget, Ways and Means, and Oversight – Government Reform. Three Congressmen were visited who are not on one of these Committees, but who had constituents within the CA visiting delegation.

The two priority issues discussed with each Congressman were: Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) H.R.-82 and S.206; and Premium Conversion (PC) H.R.-1110 and S.773. Complete repeal of the GPO/WEP has been a Bill in Congress for several years. GPO adversely affects not only the federal community, but also CA retired teachers and CA retired police and firemen. PC affects both federal and military retirees and some active military. This Bill would allow health premiums to be paid with pre-tax dollars and save federal retirees about \$300 - \$800 per year depending on their tax bracket. Local Congressmen Mike Thompson and George Miller have cosponsored both H.R.-82 and H.R. 1110.

All but six Congressmen were sympathetic to our issues and will cosponsor/support (some already have) our Bills H.R.-82/S.206 and H.R.1110/S.773. The six Congressmen who are not yet convinced to support our issues are: John Campbell CD-48, Dan Lungren CD-3, Devin Nunes CD-21, Brian Bilbray CD-50, Darrell Issa CD-49, and Jerry Lewis CD-41. Those NARFE (and NYA) members who are constituents of these Congressmen need to contact them by either personal visit, letter to the local office, e-mail, FAX, or telephone and request each to cosponsor the above noted House Bills. The easiest way to telephone is to use the NARFE Toll Free Number 1-866-220-0044, which rings the Capitol Hill Switchboard Operator and ask to be transferred to your Congressman.