

The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



President.....Ralph E. McComb, Jr.
Vice President.....Jim Porter
Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
Recording Secretary....Sonya Domingo
Executive Secretary.....Veronica Laird

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2034, Vallejo, CA 94592
Street Address: Bldg. 535, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592
Voice Mail and Fax: (707) 562-1812
E-Mail Address: benefit@mareislandnya.com
Website Address: www.mareislandnya.com

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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 Laird or send e-mail to benefit@mareislandnya.com

Shop 38 Luncheon

Denny's, 4355 Sonoma Blvd (Hwy 29/37 intersection), Vallejo;
Second Wednesday of each month (except July/August)
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

One of the events planned for 2008 is a barbeque at Quarters "A" (former Shipyard Commander's home) to be held in conjunction with our annual All-Hands meeting in October. The barbeque will be free to all NYA members (and, in fact, *only* NYA members are invited!). The event will include an election of the three Officers whose terms will expire at the end of 2008. We hope you'll be able to join us (especially to see how skilled James Porter, a.k.a. JP, has become at flipping burgers since his retirement)! More details will be included in the June and September newsletters.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to James Porter, Lloyd Mahan, Robin Leong, Bruce Christensen, Sonya Domingo Veronica Laird, all of the NYA Directors, and so many silent supporters for keeping the NYA fresh and going strong. It has been a real privilege to serve as your NYA president for the past 10 years. A special "thank you" is reserved for NYA Past President Lou Burgelin for his decades of support. He continues to be an inspiration to us all.

Historic Park Foundation Update

Bruce Christensen

Fly-Way Festival

The annual Mare Island Fly-Way Festival was held at Mare Island and adjacent wetland and open space areas on the weekend of February 1-3, 2008. Despite the overcast and sometimes damp weather, record-breaking crowds flocked (if you'll pardon the expression) to Mare Island to take part in the excellent displays, hiking trips, guided tours

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Welcome to the 2008 membership drive edition of our newsletter! It is our sincere hope that, in addition to continuing your own membership, you'll help us expand our membership numbers by recruiting new members from your circle of former co-workers or family members who might be interested in Mare Island.

and general outdoor fun. Many former Mare Islanders joined in the festivities, both as tour guides as well as participants in the events. The Festival allows access to areas that are not normally open to the general public; e.g., the Ammunition Annex, the Mare Island Cemetery, the wetlands located on the west side of the Island, Skaggs Island, St. Peter's Chapel, etc.

If you missed this year's Fly-Way, be sure to watch for it again next year at the same time, when it is promised to be even bigger and better!

Tribute to Louis Burgelin

On March 1, 2008, the community paid tribute to a Past President of the Navy Yard Association, Lou Burgelin, for his more than 65 years of service to Mare Island, Vallejo, and surrounding areas. The event was held at the Mare Island Museum located in Building 46 and was attended by more than 200 friends and family of Lou and his wife, Betty. During the tribute, Lou was honored with presentations from organizations with which he has been actively affiliated over the years, as well as from City, County, State, and Federal officials. A feature of the evening was the keynote address covering the highlights of Lou's career delivered by retired RADM Mike Coyle, who attended the tribute with his wife, Renee. Coyle arrived from the east coast for the event and headed back on the following day. A high point of the tribute was the speech given by 97-year old Eddie Martinez, a former Group Master at Mare Island and longtime friend of Lou and Betty's. Of particular note during the evening was the outstanding performance of the Admiral Richard O'Kane Sea Scout Division, resplendent in their formal dress uniforms. The Sea Scouts directed traffic prior to the event, presented the colors, served the meal during the dinner, and gave Lou a magnificent Navy send-off with their traditional "Hoo-Yah!"

NYA Board of Directors member Doug Ghiselin donated 6 cases of fine wine for the event, each one containing a label commemorating the Tribute with "Chateau de Betty and Louis Burgelin,

March 1, 2008" inscribed thereon. The Burgelin family is grateful to all who attended.

To see a slide presentation of the Tribute evening, please go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ6ShUmuHqQ>

(and, remember to turn on the sound).

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 660—already well on our way to our 2008 membership goal of 700. Dental membership stands at 343 members.

Becoming a member of the NYA means that you are interested in what's happening with Mare Island and future development plans; hearing what's being done to preserve the legacy of the Shipyard's history by the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation; and want to stay touch with former co-workers. For many of us, Mare Island was more than a job. It was a community, with a rich history and a strong, enduring bond. The naval base and shipyard may be closed, but Mare Island's rich history will continue for future generations.

Welcome to new member Fred Volkerts!

Your NYA officers have adopted the following award schedule for recruitment of new members (awards subject to availability).

- Recruit 1 new member: Mouse Pad, key chain, decal, or tie-tack
- Recruit 2 new members: T-Shirt
- Recruit 3 new members: Hat
- Recruit 4 new members: Mare Island Clock
- Recruit 5 new members: Briefcase
- Recruit 7 new members: Watch
- Recruit 10 new members: NYA Jacket or Windbreaker

The NYA offers our sincere condolences to NYA Director Mary Rutland on the loss of her beloved husband, Jack, who passed away on

January 9, 2008. Jack attended every NYA Director's meeting with Mary and was a valued member of the NYA family. Also, we offer our sympathies to the family and friends of Jack Gee, who passed away on December 23, 2007.



Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

I hope your new year is off to a fabulous start! Because this is the membership drive issue of our newsletter, most of this column will reiterate information already provided. However, there is information relative to a new benefit we will soon offer (look for it under Living Trusts)!

Dental Plan

By now, **all** of our dental members should be aware that there are new rates for the Prepaid and Blue Shield plans. The new rates apply regardless of payment method. NYA membership dues of \$1.25 per month are included in these rates, so this saves you the need to pay annual membership dues. **PLEASE NOTE:** members paying by cash or check **MUST** include an additional \$5 each month for the bank handling fee (the NYA cannot pay that fee). For this reason, we encourage members to sign up for the Automatic Checking Account Withdrawal option in order to avoid that charge.

To reiterate, the new rates are:

- Prepaid (monthly): Single \$25, Family \$44.25
- Prepaid (bi-weekly—for those with payroll deduction): Single \$11.55, Family \$20.45
- Blue Shield (monthly): Single \$45.85, Couples \$79.11, Family \$107.59

- Blue Shield (bi-weekly—for those with payroll deduction): Single \$21.20, Couples \$36.55, Family \$49.70

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to pay the correct amount could result in the loss of your dental benefits with **no further notice**. For those members with payroll deduction, it is **very important** that you periodically check your pay statements to make sure the correct amount is being withheld and make any necessary adjustments through your payroll office. Please remember that it is **critical** that you remember to update both the NYA **and** FirsTier Administrators of any address changes. If we cannot reach you, your dental benefits could be terminated due to non-response.

Contact Information (Blue Shield and Pre-Paid)

Blue Shield: (916) 851-3445
(Refer to "Offline Eligibility Group Number WN 3001")

FirsTier Administrators: (866) 565-7557
(Toll-free number)

Notary Service

This is one of our most popular and most-used benefits. Sincere thanks go to our Secretary (and Notary Public), **Sonya Domingo**, for her friendly and professional service!!

Living Trusts

Your NYA Officers are exploring a more economical way of creating living trusts. Currently, NYA members receive at 10 percent discount from the rates posted on the website of Jean C. Gifford, Attorney at Law. Here is her website: <http://www.giffordlaw.com/ltrusts.html>. Some members reported that they were unable to reach Ms. Gifford during the latter part of 2007. She had some personal health issues in November, but she notes that she is now back to work.

What if you do not require the services of an attorney? As our newest benefit, the NYA will soon be able to offer an economical alternative in the form of the services of a paralegal who is certified to assist in the preparation of legal documents such as wills, living trusts (including funding), powers of attorney, etc. The paralegal cannot provide legal advice but is able to provide information on a variety of processes and the associated paperwork. Details of our newest benefit will be posted in the June newsletter (watch the Benefits page!).

E-Mail Updates

If you received timely notice about the Lou Burgelin tribute, we have a good e-mail address for you. I received quite a number of “undeliverable” notices because robin_leong@netzero or robin_leong@yahoo.com was not authorized to send e-mail to that address, the mailbox was full, or the address was not good (perhaps changed and the NYA was not notified). If you would like to receive our infrequent e-mail notices, please do what is necessary to correct this situation. We do not want to force e-mail on members who do not want it. If you do NOT want e-mail updates from the NYA, please let us know.

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon, Shipyard Historian

Mare Island Logo

Thanks to an inquiry, the origin of the logo used by Mare Island Naval Shipyard was recently the subject of research. It was learned that the emblem was the result of a contest conducted by the Shipyard newspaper GRAPEVINE.

The winning design was submitted by Walter O. Bayha, a Design Division Draftsman who won \$975 for his efforts in a contest which elicited many interesting and unusual suggestions. It was used for the first time in December 1943, and was regularly used by the GRAPEVINE as a flag (nameplate for a newspaper) for several years.

Re-reading old GRAPEVINES turned out to be a joyous project, and checking to see if the logo continued to be used resulted in revival of many memories. The emblem continued to be used regularly, although sometimes it was muted, and occasionally the Mare’s head was affixed to other images without including the shipbuilding tools and anchor originally depicted.

As Mare Island moved into the nuclear shipbuilding era (1959) orbits were added, not only to the logo but also to the silhouette of a submarine. The logo was used on official keel laying, launching, and commissioning programs; since no trademark was involved, the logo fell into frequent use.

Whenever used, the significance of Mare Island Naval Shipyard was emphasized. Over the years, the mare’s head has been recognized as a trademark of quality.

So far, inquiries about what happened to designer Walter Bayha have not been successful. Perhaps one of today’s readers can help?