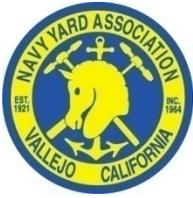


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



President.....Ralph E. McComb, Jr.
 Vice President.....Jim Porter
 Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
 Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
 Recording Secretary.....Sonya Domingo
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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 vcullum@hotmail.com (use subject line "NYA Bulletin Board")

Shop 64 Breakfast Meeting

Rotating between Vallejo, Suisun, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Woodland

Third Wednesday each month at 9:00am
 POC: Parry Benton; (530) 666-1639

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: Bill Lewis; (707) 643-6032

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
 Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm
 POC: Dotty Mufich; (707) 226-3642

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

The Front Room restaurant, Vallejo
 First Wednesday of odd months 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

Nuclear Engineering Luncheon

Locations vary each month
 Each Friday at 11:30am
 POC: Allen Green; aalgreen@napanet.net



Reunion—marking *15 years* since the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard?!? I certainly hope so. Not only will we mark the 15 year post-closure, we're celebrating the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the NYA, as well as the 157th birthday of the Shipyard (established in 1854). We are planning an event sure to be worthy of such historic dates. There will be excellent food prepared by our own NYA Directors and members (thank to Charlie Johnson and his son, Craig, for their barbeque skills and equipment). There will be museum tours, raffle prizes, and photographers to memorialize all the fun. Look for all the exciting details in a flyer in this newsletter, and make your reservations early (with the tear-off reservation form)! This year's event will be the best ever. You won't want to miss it!

Reunions don't happen without a lot of planning and volunteer effort. If you would be interested in sharing your time and talents to make this year's reunion a success, please leave a message at (707) 562-1812 or send an e-mail to Robin_Leong@netzero.net.

Youngest NYA Volunteer Invited to Join National Junior Honor Society

Veronica Laird

Isabella Domingo may be the youngest-ever volunteer for the NYA. Along with her NYA Director mom, Sonya Domingo, Isabella (now 13) has been a regular helping hand at nearly every newsletter-mailing meeting and reunion for the past five years. She's helped clean the NYA offices, set up



President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Let's get straight to the good stuff! Are you planning to come to the September NYA

for meetings and reunions, and she's easily the most energetic clean-up volunteer we have.

In May 2011, Isabella was invited to join as a member of the El Cerrito Portola Middle School's newly-inducted chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Of the 33 charter members (made up of mostly 8th graders), Isabella was one of only eight 7th graders inducted at the ceremony. Members are invited to join based not only on their academic record but also their community involvement. Way to go, Bella!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

Ships Continue to be Dismantled in Mare Island Dry Docks 2 and 3

U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) ship, SS SOLON TURMAN, arrived at Mare Island Dry Dock 3 at Mare Island for dismantling in February, followed by the SS PRESIDENT which went into Dry Dock 2 in March. However, in April, MARAD ran into problems with a ship that was destined to be towed to Texas for dismantling, so the Mare Island dismantling company, Allied Defense Recycling (ADR), agreed to undock the PRESIDENT, so that it could be towed to Texas, and replace it in Dry Dock 2 with the SS LINCOLN. Both ships (SOLON TURMAN and LINCOLN) continue to be worked to meet a completion date of later this year. The ADR ship dismantling work force includes several ex-Mare Island Naval Shipyard workers.

In late May, two more MARAD ships (USS BOLSTER [ARS-38] and USS CLAMP [ARS-33]) were towed from the Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay to BAE Systems in San Francisco for dry docking and cleaning of their hulls of marine growth and loose exterior paint. Both ships will then be towed through the Panama Canal to Texas for dismantling. They are Diver Class auxiliary salvage and rescue ships built in during WW II by Basalt Rock Company Shipyard in Napa. BOLSTER was launched on December 23, 1944 and was decommissioned in 1994. CLAMP was launched

on October 24, 1942 and was decommissioned in 1947.

NYA Past President Continues to Lead Effort to Preserve USS OLYMPIA

Besides working with retired Navy Officers to preserve and display the USS OLYMPIA in Mare Island's historic Dry Dock #1, Past President Dennis Kelly has been meeting with City of Vallejo, Mare Island, and other officials to discuss the steps that need to be taken to save this last remaining steel hulled U.S. Navy ship from the 1800s. OLYMPIA operated out of Mare Island from 1892 to 1895 until she was deployed to the South Pacific where her conquests in the Battle of Manila Bay helped defeat the Spanish Navy during the Spanish-American War.

In April 2011, after attending a March USS OLYMPIA summit conference Philadelphia, PA, Dennis presented reports of that conference to the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) Board of Directors, Lennar Mare Island, and other groups. During the April 2011 meeting, MIHPF Board members passed a motion to support the effort to preserve the OLYMPIA at Mare Island, and there is now a new link on the MIHPF web site <http://www.mareislandhpf.org/ships.html> at which persons who are interested in learning more about the ship and in helping to preserve the OLYMPIA can make a tax-deductible donation.

Dennis reports that the next major milestone for the OLYMPIA project is the submittal of a letter-of-intent by September 1, 2011, to the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia where the ship has been displayed since 1957.



Don't forget to make your early reservations for the September Reunion!

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

Become a 'Partner' in the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation!

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) is now offering Partnerships to encourage community as well as out-of-area support. The MIHPF is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) charitable Foundation and, as such, all partnership donations are tax-deductable.

Attached to the back of this newsletter is an application for partnerships at the individual, family, student and Out-of-State levels. The partnership plan allows free admission to the Mare Island Museum and to the Museum Library, 10% discount in the Museum gift shop and many other benefits.

If you are interested in becoming a MIHPF Partner, please complete the attached application and remit to MIHPF; Attention: Partnership, 1100 Railroad Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94592.

Become a Plankowner of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation!

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) continues to offer its Plankowner Program to those interested in preserving and displaying the history of Mare Island. As a reminder, the MIHPF is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) foundation.

Those interested in becoming a Plankowner may do so at any of the following levels:

- Ensign.....\$25+
- Lieutenant.....\$100+
- Commander.....\$500+
- Captain.....\$1,000+
- Rear Admiral.....\$5,000+
- Vice Admiral.....\$10,000+
- Admiral.....\$20,000+
- Other.....\$_____

To enroll in the Plankowner Program, please send your tax deductible donation check to:

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation
328 Seawind Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590

To donate by VISA or Mastercard,
Call: 707-280-5742

MIHPF Needs Volunteers

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) is the major force in the maintenance and preservation of historic properties and promotion of Mare Island's past.

Do you have a few hours each week when you can volunteer as a docent, tour guide, or to do gardening or maintenance work in the Mare Island Historic District? If so, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) will be glad to put you to work!

Some of the sites for which the MIHPF is responsible are the St. Peters Chapel, Officers' Mansions (Quarters A and B), the Mare Island Museum (Building 46), and the grounds surrounding each of these sites. If you wish to volunteer, please call 707-557-0662 or 707-280-5742 and leave you contact information or send an email to: kenzad01@sbcglobal.net or JIG313@aol.com.

Also, anyone interested in becoming a member of the MIHPF Board of Directors is cordially invited to attend the next Board Meeting as a guest.

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 561, while our dental plan membership stands at 282 members. We're 48 shy of meeting our 2010 membership level; and membership renewals are still trickling in, but we need to get the word out to renew. We hope you'll mention that the NYA has a

competitive dental plan available to Federal employees and retirees (and their dependents).

NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING DENTAL MEMBERS: Patricia E. Heady, Frank A. May, William J. Nelson, James F. Ray, Jr., Lashaun “Nina” N. Tyson, and John D. Wilson. We do **NOT** have your correct mailing addresses, thus we cannot send important information to you. **If you see this newsletter (or, if anyone reading this knows one or more of these folks), please forward the current mailing address to Robin Leong via e-mail (preferred) to robin_leong@netzero.net or by phone at (707) 643-1287.**

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of former Shop 38 General Foreman Steve Ciupek, who died June 1 (Steve was the one who hired our own NYA President Ralph McComb on Mare Island); NYA past Treasurer Elsie Babcock, who passed away on May 26; and Floyd Langerman. Those of you who knew our own Shipyard Historian, Sue Lemmon, will appreciate the column dedicated to her memory later in this newsletter.

We offer a special welcome to new members who joined the NYA because of our involvement in the efforts to save the OLYMPIA: Dr. Tom Snyder and Clinton Collier. Thanks for donations in support of the OLYMPIA fund from Clinton Collier, Shirley Herbel, Dr. Tom Snyder, and Michael Werner.

Welcome back to returning member Vic George (2009)!

Thanks to Ron and Pat Brosio for donating money again this year in memory of Pat’s parents, Verlin and Wilma Cassity. Thanks, too, for donations received from James Carpenter and John Thompson.

Remember to let Robin Leong know if you’ve brought in any new members, so you can get your recruitment award! The September Reunion would be a great place to pick up your awards. In

fact, we look forward to seeing the following members receive their awards: Pat and Ron Brosio; P.A. Allen; Richard Daffron; Lewis Knief; Dave Runge; Mike Christensen; Vandy Christy; Diana De Haven; Joyce Giles; Mike Hansen; Penny Hicks; Bill Hughes; Sherry Irish; Mitchell Marquez; Lenna Moohart; Pamelyn Morgan; and Dave Smith. If you can’t attend, we’ll (reluctantly) mail it to you. Thanks a bunch for your interest in maintaining our organization!

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

Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

This newsletter is being sent to members who have discontinued their NAONE dental plan with us in the hope that you will consider continuing your membership with the NYA. As a reminder, you must be a member of the NYA in order to sign up for either the Pre-Paid or Blue Shield Dental Programs. However, when plan members cancel, their \$1.25 per month that went towards NYA membership ceased. Please rejoin the NYA today. Thanks!

Another benefit you are sure to enjoy is attending this year’s Mare Island Reunion sponsored by the NYA. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for all the exciting details.

We continue to have positive response from our membership, and I’m happy to report that we now have 81 members signed up to receive this newsletter via e-mail. This is a double benefit—it saves on printing fees, paper, postage, returned-mail

fees, is an easy way to keep past issues, AND it reduces the impact to the environment. If you haven't thought about it before, why don't you consider going "green," too? Please send an e-mail to robin_leong@netzero.net with "Yes, I want my NYA Newsletter via E-Mail!" in the subject line. It's as simple as that!

If you prefer that your newsletter be delivered by mail, please take a moment to ensure we have your current mailing address. We routinely receive at least 8-10 newsletters returned as undeliverable. In fact, we'd appreciate it if any members who know any of the following people would let them know that their NYA newsletter was returned to us because we don't have their current address. **Newsletters were returned for the following members: Patricia E. Heady, John A. Kamerzell, Frank A. May, William J. Nelson, James F. Ray, Jr., Lashuan "Nina" Tyson, and John D. Wilson.**

Benefits

One of our most popular benefits is FREE notary public service. This service is most graciously provided by NYA Officer and Director Sonya Domingo. To make an appointment for notary service, you can reach Sonya by phone at (510) 260-0429 or via e-mail to K-S-Domingo@sbcglobal.net. Please remember to give Sonya a minimum of 24 hours notice for notary appointments.

Dental Plan News

The updated Prepaid and Blue Shield brochures are posted them on our website. You can view them at www.mareislandnya.com. While there, why not go ahead and print out a membership form, send it to a former Mare Islander, and tell them about our benefits!

If you are having problems with your dentist, you should first talk to your dentist. Next, discuss the issues with Premier Claims, and file a complaint form to document the issues. You may obtain copies of the complaint form in three ways:

(1) Get a copy of the complaint form directly from Premier Claims. Their address and phone numbers are:

Premier Claims Administrators, LLC
P O Box 19338
Reno, NV 89511
Office: 775-324-5644
Toll Free: 866-565-7557
Fax: 775-786-9637;

(2) Download a copy of the complaint form from the NYA website at www.mareislandnya.com; or (3) Contact me, and I'll mail a copy to you. My street and e-mail addresses are:

Robin Leong,
336 Benson Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94590-3027
robin_leong@netzero.net

Retirement benefits at stake –it's time to contact Congress and the President

Helen Zajac
NARFE Region VIII VP
Serving CA, HI, NV, Republic of the Philippines and Guam

You may have heard that Congress is trying to target the federal community—not only employees, but also retirees. The federal employees already have a 2 year pay freeze—which saves the government \$5 billion. They are trying to extend that freeze to 3 or even 5 years. The federal workforce is being considered for a 10% reduction. It has been suggested that retirement contributions (both CSRS and FERS) for employees be increased. The High 3 years of service for computation of retirement annuity is being considered for change to High 5 years. The federal employee will have to double their contribution to the thrift savings plan in order to obtain matching government funds. And, a bill was recently introduced that would, in fact, eliminate FERS for any new hires. Along with elimination of FERS would be the elimination of survivor annuity, since there would be no defined contribution to a retirement system; their only source of retirement annuity would be social

security and whatever they can save through their own savings plan such as a 401K. Employees today will not have the retirement that we earned and currently enjoy.

However, retirees aren't getting away without any harm. There is a plan being discussed which would increase the share that we pay for our Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP). Proposals have been made to make it a 50/50 split, up from the approximate 70/30 split today—or worse, there is a proposal to make it into a voucher system where you would have to find your own health care.

NARFE is urging its members—and other members of the federal community—to call the Capitol Hill Switchboard (1-866-220-0044) and ask (in three separate calls) for each of your Senators (Boxer and Feinstein) and your Representative's office.

Once connected to the staff, please give them this message: “I am a retired federal employee, and I am calling because I want to voice my opposition to any attempt to shift the cost of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program onto employees and retirees. A FEHBP contribution increase would squeeze millions of middle-class federal retirees like me—most of who are on a fixed income—forcing seniors to choose between healthcare and groceries and gas. We have served our country proudly and should not be unfairly singled out to bear the burden of fixing a budget problem that we did not create.”

When finished, then make one more call to the White House (1-888-225-8418), ask to leave a message and when connected to a volunteer, give the same message as above.

The more people who can call, the more we can get our message across to the Congress and to the White House, and let them know that we are not willing to be the scapegoats as we were in the 1980's and 1990's when the federal community gave back \$50 Billion in denied and delayed COLAs, while no other sector gave up anything.

If you have internet, please use the website: www.protectamericasheartbeat.org to send a message to your Congressmen via email. The letter is prepared and all you have to do is complete your contact information and send the message.

PLEASE make the calls – or send the emails—your earned retirement benefits are at stake!

And then there was yesterday...in memory of Sue Lemmon

Bruce Christensen

The NYA lost one of its most honored members on May 10, 2011.

On May 10, Helen (Sue) Lemmon passed away at her home in Vallejo. Sue had been ill for several months but still welcomed friends to visit her at home, and she always loved to have phone calls from well-wishers. Many thanks go out to ex-Mare Islander Darryl Baker who, after many years of working with Sue in the historical arena, spent countless hours helping her with many of her medical and personal needs towards the end of her life.

As most Mare Islanders know, Sue co-authored two Mare Island history books with Ernie Wichels in the 1970s; then, after the Shipyard closed in 1996, she wrote her last history book, which was published in 2001; “Closure - The Final Twenty Years of Mare Island Naval Shipyard.”

Sue was a dedicated contributor to the quarterly NYA newsletters; always able to obtain and write about various interesting historical facts and figures regarding the Navy...particularly Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

Those of us who worked with Sue during the years when the Shipyard was in operation, as well as afterwards, while she continued to work on a voluntary basis, will miss her friendliness and her wealth of historical knowledge, as well as her wry sense of humor.