

The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
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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. **Send an e-mail to Veronica Laird at vcullum@hotmail.com (use the subject line "NYA Bulletin Board")**

Shop 64 Breakfast Meeting

Rotating between Vallejo, Suisun, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Woodland
Third Wednesday each month at 9:00am
NEED NEW POC – PLEASE CONTACT VERONICA

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 Sardine Can, 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

Nuclear Engineering Luncheon

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

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Let me start by thanking all of you for your continuing membership in the Mare Island Navy

Yard Association and welcoming back those returning members.

This summer finds us working closely with Dennis Kelly, NYA past president, in his new role as Chair of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation's "Bring Home the USS Olympia" efforts. It's encouraging to see that Dennis' well-thought-out approach has garnered the support of so many other organizations and prominent Naval figures.. But, he—and we—still need your help by writing, e-mailing or calling your local, State and Federal representatives to let them know you want to see this happen.

The USS Olympia comes from yet another part of our rich history and would certainly be a flagship addition to all the MIHPF offers to the public.

Also, this is the time of year in which we begin planning for our annual "open to all Members" event. These events are always filled with fond (mostly) memories from our time working together, as well as catching up with all those extended family members who made it all worthwhile. That's on top of all the memorabilia and giveaways we've had. This year, though, I'm asking for YOUR help in planning the event using just this one simple guideline: we'd like to do it on a Saturday in October. So, I'm asking all of you to send an email with your ideas to rmccomb@aol.com no later than July 31, 2012. I'll compile the results and present them to the Officers and Board of Directors. Then, in the September newsletter, we will publish the most popular suggestions that can be accommodated.

Lastly, I always enjoy giving special recognition to the those who are always there and

continue to make the NYA happen: Bruce Christensen, Chairman of the NAONE Trust and past NYA President; James Porter, NYA Vice President; Robin Leong, Benefits Officer; Lloyd Mahan, Treasurer; Veronica Laird, Executive Secretary and Newsletter Editor; Sonya Domingo, Recording Secretary; and Howard Fitzpatrick, Doug Ghiselin, Carmen Merriman, Gordon Triemert, Rich Wright, Mary Rutland, Rudy Balli, and Bob Yeasted, Directors-at-Large on the Board of Directors. Their dedication and hard work is what keeps the NYA going.

I wish you all a terrific summer.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

The following are some of the current goings-on around Mare Island:

Ordnance Clean-up at Ammunition Annex

In May 2012, contractors began several months of work to investigate and remediate unexploded ordnance (UXO) at the south end of Mare Island. The work will result in the removal of below-ground metallic anomalies which may be munitions or munitions debris from historic operations at the Shipyard. This work will occasionally impact visits to some of the areas (cemetery, Shoreline Heritage Areas, etc.) located at in the vicinity of the former ammunition annex that may be inside the explosive arc while the UXO work is being performed. The Navy is closely coordinating access to these areas during the times that work is in progress. Completion of this work will allow access to additional areas on Mare Island not previously available to the public.

Mare Island Building Serves as Training Facility for Vallejo Firefighters

The Times Herald reports that a 70-year-old abandoned Mare Island building has been converted into an all-inclusive training ground for Vallejo firefighters. Building 571, built during World War II, was a warehouse for ship

construction materials when the shipyard was in operation.

The fire department has created various fire conditions inside this huge warehouse. In one section of the building, the rooms of a home are simulated with a master bedroom and living room—complete with furniture—to allow a variety of rescue scenarios. Also, there is a small store and a low roof that has been set up to practice ventilation drills. In the back of the building, there is a wrecked car that can be used to practice extrications.

Currently the City has no plans for the building; therefore, a Vallejo fire battalion is using the building to train 10 new firefighter recruits, until their graduation.

Mare Island Bay Public Trail Remains Popular

The Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail is open daily from sunrise to sunset. This approximately 4-mile-long trail on level terrain is available at no cost to public visitors. The trail allows a unique view of the bay and other area scenery surrounding Mare Island. Along the trail, there are interpretive signs and benches to assist hikers during their visit.

Ample parking is available at the trail-head entrance, which is located at the west end of A Street, about a half mile west of Azuar Drive (formerly Cedar Avenue). Bicycles and pets are not allowed on the trail.

USS IOWA Departs Bay Area and Arrives in San Pedro

On May 26, 2012, the battleship USS IOWA departed under tow from its mooring at Richmond, CA, and passed under the Golden Gate Bridge just one day before the 75th anniversary festivities for the bridge. The 887-foot long, 58,000-ton ship arrived at its new home in San Pedro, CA, on May 30, where the Pacific Battleship Center will make the ship available as a naval museum for access by the public.

Three More Ships Undergo Hull Cleaning

In May, Allied Defense Recycling (ADR) completed cleaning of the hull below the waterline on three more ships from the Mothball Fleet in Suisun Bay. ADR used Mare Island Dry Docks 2 and 3 to perform this work. Once the ship's hulls were cleared, the vessels were towed through the Panama Canal to Brownsville, Texas, for dismantling.

Overall Progress at Mare Island

Recently, in the "Opinions" column of the Vallejo Times Herald, there was a list of positive factual "bullets" submitted by a Mare Island resident. Those bullets are worthy of repeating for those who may not have seen the column.

- Lennar, Mare Island, (LMI) has worked closely with the city of Vallejo and local residents to transform and improve Mare Island following the closure of the former military base.
- LMI has continued to invest in our community with environmental cleanup work which has generated jobs, building sales, new businesses, and other economic activity.
- Today there are more than 90 companies operating on Mare Island employing more than 2,041 full-time employees.
- To date, approximately 3.1 million square feet of commercial office space has been occupied.
- More than 60 percent of LMI parcels (property) have been cleaned up and approved for reuse.
- 274 new homes have been constructed and sold along with 10 historic homes also sold.
- 52 historic buildings representing more than 930,000 square feet of usable space are being utilized today.
- Alstom, ADR, and Blue [Blu] Homes are three of the companies that LMI has

brought to the Island in the past 3 years. This has led to improved infrastructure, community beautification, and the continued historic preservation that has helped foster a unique Island community.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation announces planned presentation to the Captain and Crew of USS DEWEY

On Monday, June 25, 2012 the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) will present the officers and crew of the Guided Missile Destroyer USS DEWEY (DDG-105) with copy of the 1899 publication by the Dewey Reception Committee documenting the celebration that took place in honor of the ship's namesake, Admiral George Dewey, when he sailed into New York harbor aboard his flagship, the Protected Cruiser USS OLYMPIA in 1899. This celebration was unparalleled in United States history. The OLYMPIA and Admiral Dewey were welcomed in a naval parade with over 150,000 people aboard a column of ships stretching 12 miles in length. Then, at a land parade held in New York City, 3.5 million people participated in Admiral Dewey's reception with more than 1 million people coming from outside New York City honoring Admiral Dewey and his crew.

The presentation will take place at the Dewey Monument in San Francisco's Union Square. The Dewey monument was dedicated in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt. The New York celebration held in 1899 and the erection of Dewey Monument provide tangible evidence of the great respect the people of San Francisco and all Americans held for the United States Navy and the officers and crews who sailed into harm's way on their behalf.

The MIHPF is currently engaged in an effort to save Admiral Dewey's flagship,

OLYMPIA, which was constructed at Union Iron Works in San Francisco and is now the oldest steel hulled warship in the world. MIHPF plans to bring her back to the Bay Area for display out of water in a historic granite Dry Dock at Mare Island Naval Shipyard from which she operated prior to her departure for the Asiatic Squadron in 1898. The display of a historic ship as a monument in Mare Island's historic Dry-Dock #1 has long been a goal of the MIHPF. Acquisition of the OLYMPIA remains the focus to fulfill this goal. The OLYMPIA has a historical connection to the San Francisco Bay Area as she was built here and operated from Mare Island prior to her dispatch to the Asiatic Station. It will require \$9M to tow her from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the west coast and conduct site preparations at Mare Island in Vallejo California.

Kenneth Zadwick, the president of the MIHPF, commented that: "We are excited that the Navy League of San Francisco has provided the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation with opportunity to express our respect and gratitude for the service the officers and crew of the USS DEWEY are providing to the people of San Francisco and to all citizens of the United States. The naming of the USS DEWEY, this event and the Dewey monument all demonstrate the importance of Admiral Dewey and his accomplishments to this nation, making our efforts to save his flagship all the more relevant."

The presentation by the MIHPF will be made in a public ceremony open to all, sponsored by the United States Navy League at the Dewey monument in Union Square, San Francisco at noon on June 25, 2012. The DDG-105 is homeported in San Diego as part of Destroyer Squadron Twenty-One. Squadron Twenty-One history began in March, 1943, when the first ships of the then-new Fletcher class, having been deployed to Guadalcanal in the southwestern Pacific's Solomon Islands, were organized as Destroyer Squadron Twenty One, part of Admiral William F. Halsey's Third Fleet.

Donations to support the historic venture to bring OLYMPIA home to Mare Island are being

sought. For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.mareislandhpf.org.

MIHPF Partnerships now Offered

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 566, while our dental plan membership stands at 276 members. We're striving to get back to our 2011 membership level of 605 members. As you can see in these newsletters, our members are our best recruiters!

We offer our sincere condolences to family and friends on the loss of Bob Means, Leonard Sevier, Richard Miley, Paul Gravelle, Parry Benton, Jim Conder, and Fred Tremewan. May they rest in peace.

Welcome to new members: James J. Gallagher (recruited by Lea and Helen Zajac) Delmar J. Holson, Jr., and Robert S. Rose (recruited by Robert E. Smith).

Welcome back to returning members Captain Thomas J. Brovarone, USN (from 2007); Albert Elser (from 2008); Christine Feaster (from 2007); Cheryl Gore Young (from 2008); Francis Guldenbrein (from 2010); Harold R Halloran (from 2009); Clarence Kriens (from 2007); Nancy Mahoney (from 2009); Joseph McCoulf (from 2008); Leanna Moothart (from 2010); Terrell H. Perkins (from 2007); Benjamin Sandoval (from 2009); Beverly Snow (from 2010); Chuck Stephenson (from 2010); and James M. Strode, Sr. (from 2010).

We are humbled by the generosity of members who donate money to the NYA in excess of their annual dues. MANY thanks to Ron and Pat Brosio who donated funds in memory of Verlin Cassity, James Carpenter James Rookwood, and Peter Schimplfe.

Membership Contest!

This year, we're having a "membership contest" with the hope of bringing in even more members in 2012.

Here's how it works: using the enclosed membership form (or you can download it from our website), ask the newly-recruited member to write your name on the "Recommend by" line when they send in their form and dues. It's that easy!

The contest ends on October 12, and winners will be announced (and prizes awarded!) at the all-hands meeting in October. The First and Second prizes are a gift certificate to the local dining venue

of your choice equal to the amount of dues received for the new members. Third Prize is the winner's choice of any one item from our stock of memorabilia. Ready? Set? Let the contest begin!!

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

We now have 96 members signed up to receive this newsletter via e-mail! This is a true 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!

Remember to add my e-mail address (robin_leong@netzero.net) to your trusted sender list so that timely e-mail notices and newsletters can reach you. To protect your privacy, I send these notices via blind carbon copy. Unfortunately, some spam-blocker and e-mail settings block those types of messages. So, adding my address to your contact list will ensure speedy delivery to your in-box.

Benefits

There isn't much new to talk about regarding benefits, so I'd like to take this opportunity to remind members who have a DOD Retired Employee Identification Card that you may stay at the Hawaii (Big Island) Kilauea Military Camp in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park <http://www.kmc-volcano.com/> or at the Hale Koa Hotel on Oahu in Waikiki at a discounted rate.

As a reminder, the NYA is no longer able to obtain DOD retirement cards for those who retired from Mare Island. However, you can get this card from any DOD facility by submitting your retirement Standard Form 50 (showing that your retired from a DOD facility) and a photo ID (drivers license or passport). There are only two facilities that can do this in the San Francisco Bay Area: the US Coast Guard Base in Alameda and

Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield. Applicants will need to make an appointment.

So, what good is this ID card? Well, for one thing, you are able to book lodging at military sites around the world (such as Hawaii!). Tip: if you are a NARFE member, you do not need the DOD retiree card; you can get this same benefit with NARFE membership.

Good luck and have a super 2012 summer!

Dental Plan News

The updated Prepaid and Blue Shield brochures are posted 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 Integrity Administrators, 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 Integrity Administrators. Their address and phone numbers are:

Integrity Administrators, Inc.
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