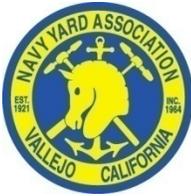


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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 Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
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Volume IX, Issue 3

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Published Quarterly

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
 POC: Parry Benton; (530) 402-1500

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

I bet you've been patiently waiting by your mailbox for your September NYA Newsletter to arrive, and here it is...in October! Go, figure. Well, after sending out a flurry of reminders and fliers about the Mare Island reunion and NYA Birthday celebration, we thought we'd give the Postal Service a bit of a break. And, this way we can also include a little recap on the reunion itself!

More than 200 of our members, their families, and friends attended this year's event on September 17th. The food was prepared to perfection (as usual!), the drawings for prizes were tons of fun (more so for the people who won, I'm sure!), and seeing our former co-workers with whom we shared a story or two was fantastic.



We're still hoping to catch up with Ron Hurst who walked around the event taking pictures; and when we catch up with him, we'll include some of those pictures in our next newsletter. However, Bruce Christensen did get a few pictures for this issue.

For those of you who joined us, thank you **very** much for making it such a happy experience; and, for those officers, directors, and their families who worked tirelessly to make it happen, your generous spirit is certainly your reward. A very special thank you to Isabella Domingo, daughter of



Keith and Sonya Domingo, and Margaret Wigger daughter of Ray and Tanya Wigger, for bringing their youthful exuberance that kept us all on our toes.

One question that was asked several times during the event is what's happening now on Mare Island so long after closure, and here's what we found out: There are currently 70 businesses with a presence on the former shipyard—not counting Federal government operations like the V.A., U.S. Army, or USDA Forest Service, just to name a few.

These businesses are operating out of over 80 different facilities, work spaces, and enclosures on the island. Some of them, like



XKT, have been going strong since even before the Shipyard closed. I hope to be able to post a list of their names in an upcoming newsletter.

Finally, on behalf of the Navy Yard Association, I'd like to send our most sincere condolences to the family of our friend and former Shop 31 superintendent, Dave Runge, who went to be with our Maker earlier this month. He will be missed by many. If you know of an ex-Mare Islander whom you'd like to see mentioned in our newsletter, please send us an email or card and we'll make sure it happens.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

This summer, there has been much going on around Mare Island. Following are some snippets of what's been happening in our neck-of-the-woods:

- A State of Washington-based railroad company, *Tri-City and Olympia Railroad*, doing business on Mare Island as *Mare Island Rail Service* has entered into a 20-year contract with the City of

Vallejo to do business using Mare Island infrastructure. This will include upgrading and maintaining rail service across the causeway and in specified areas on Mare Island. Rail service on Mare Island will be a boost to several companies doing business on the former shipyard and may serve to attract new businesses.

- Eco-friendly home builder Blu Homes will soon open their new West Coast branch in Building 690 (old Shop 31). The Massachusetts-based modular homes manufacturer produces environmentally friendly structures ready for easy shipping and assembly. When the modular homes business is up-and-running, *Blu Homes* expects to hire about 100 employees from the local area.
- The City of Vallejo is actively seeking developers for the 157-acre parcel at the north end of Mare Island with the deadline for submission of developer qualifications by September 19, 2011. This undeveloped parcel is one of the remaining large areas available for development in the greater Bay Area and includes a significant amount of waterfront access to the Napa River.
- Copper, bronze, and brass thieves continue to strike Mare Island buildings and other infrastructures. The Vallejo Police Department has received more than 35 reports of such thefts so far in 2011, with a significant number of them occurring on Mare Island. One of the latest thefts occurred in early September when the brass railings were stolen from the front entrance stairway to Quarters A. MIHPF volunteers responded rapidly and replaced the stolen implements with *other-than-brass* railings.
- The local group (*Historic Ships Memorial at Pacific Square*) that has been working to bring the USS IOWA to the Mare Island waterfront lost their bid in September 2011, when the Department of Navy made the decision to award the ship to the *Pacific Battleship Center* in San Pedro, CA. It is expected that IOWA will be towed from its Reserve Fleet location in Suisun Bay sometime in October 2011.

In Memoriam

Charles O. Johnson
August 10, 1940—July 6, 2011

Charlie Johnson graduated from Vallejo High School in 1958 and became a Shipfitter at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, where he worked for more than 30 years. Those who knew Charlie were well aware of his can-do approach to helping out at NYA events; always willing to tow his trailer-ready, industrial-strength barbecue to provide the heat source for cooking hotdogs, hamburgers, pasta, etc. In addition to longtime support of the NYA, Charlie was actively involved in his community of American Canyon, as a member of several service organizations and through his participation on City Commissions. Many NYA officers, directors, and members attended Charlie's service in Vallejo; an indication of the sincere appreciation that our association has for him.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Charlie's widow, Penny, and to his children, Cara and Craig.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

Mare Island Museum Library Named to Honor Mare Island Historian, Sue Lemmon

At the July 2011 Board of Directors meeting of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF), the Board members voted unanimously to name the Mare Island Museum Library located in Building 46, the "Sue Lemmon Memorial Library." When notified of the naming, Phyllis Honodel, ex-Mare Islander and long time friend of Sue Lemmon remarked, "There could not have been a person more deserving of the honor of having the library named for them."

The Sue Lemmon Memorial Library is now open and available to Mare Island Museum visitors as the result of many months of hard work by MIHPF Librarian Barbara Davis and her staff of volunteers.

NYA Past President Kelly Achieves First Major Milestone to Preserve USS OLYMPIA

The August 23 Vallejo Times-Herald headlines read: "**Mare Island takes new steps to acquire USS Olympia.**" The follow-on Times-Herald article reported that "the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation...has teamed up with the Navy Yard Association, composed of former Mare Island Naval Shipyard employees, to put the ship in Dry Dock #1...the Mare Island Foundation will submit a more detailed proposal and budget plan by March 2012, (Dennis) Kelly said...need to raise \$100,000 by March to hire outside consultants to complete the next portion of the application. Repairs to the Olympia's hull are around \$10 million...the National Trust for Historic Preservation may take on those costs. For more information on efforts to bring the Olympia to Vallejo go to www.mareislandhpf.org. Donations are being collected through <http://www.mareislandhpf.org/ships/donate.html>.

In some respects the USS Olympia is a better fit for Mare Island than the USS Iowa, since the Olympia could be put into Dry Dock #1. The bad news is that it is in bad shape and then needs to be towed from Philadelphia to MINS."

Dennis reports that the MIHPF's letter-of-intent which was due on September 1, 2011, was submitted in mid-August 2011 and all intended recipients of the letter have acknowledged receipt. The decision as to which of the six applicants for the OLYMPIA are still 'in-the-running' will be announced in October 2011; however, he is confident that the MIHPF application will be well received as he has indicated that our effort includes a number of favorable factors, such as:

- The display of a historic ship as a monument in Mare Island's Dry-Dock #1 has been a goal of the MIHPF since its inception. Acquisition of the OLYMPIA would fulfill this goal.
- The OLYMPIA has a historical connection to the Bay Area as she was built here and she operated from Mare Island prior to her dispatch to the Asiatic Station;
- Mare Island has the most extensive naval history on the west coast of any current or former west coast naval base; the first U.S. warship (1859) and first naval dry-dock (1872-91) constructed on the West Coast were built here;
- MIHPF has over 17 years of successful experience operating a number of facilities on Mare Island, including a museum in the oldest building on the shipyard, a historic chapel, and officers' quarters. All known competitors for the ship are recent startups and none have any operational experience;
- Our location in the San Francisco Bay Area provides for significant tourism that multiple economic studies done by the City and the MIHPF have indicated will benefit our ship display effort;
- A significant amount of planning for display of the ship in Dry-Dock #1 has already been completed in association with prior efforts to acquire submarines. This includes CEQA and NEPA planning ;
- Because we will display the ship out of water in a dry-dock, the ship's hull will no longer be subject to corrosion concerns, which is the reason the ship is being offered for donation; and
- We have a local shipyard, Advance Defense Recycling, right next door who has offered to assist us in docking and permitting.

Dennis has further noted that this effort will succeed or fail based on our success at fundraising. While we have sent over 100 personalized letters to American billionaires, the key will be our success at fundraising. Towards that end, anyone interested in

helping with this effort is asked to contact Dennis at 707-778-0915 or drkelly5@comcast.net.

NYA Members Join in Celebrating a Surprise Birthday Party for MIHPF President

About 25 NYA members joined about 50 other Mare Island Historic Park Foundation volunteers and friends in the August celebration of NYA member and MIHPF President Ken Zadwick's 80th birthday party held at the Mare Island Museum. ***Happy birthday Ken, and here's wishing you many more!***

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 600, while our dental plan membership stands at 283 members (an increase in dental membership!). We gained 7 new members at the 2011 Reunion!

NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: Patricia E. Heady, John A. Kamerzell, 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 retired Shop 31 Superintendent David Runge, who passed away on September 30 due to complications from surgery; Rick Jeffers, who passed away on September 16; Sandra Cook, who died on September 11; Ferdinand Magallanes, who passed away on June 11; and Captain Milan L. Pittman (USN Ret.), who passed away on his 90th birthday on May 14.

Welcome to new members: Frank Delahaye (recruited by Burt Mahoney); Jim Boyd (recruited by Edward Tenney); LaVerne E. Bradley and Jean M. Burrill (recruited by Karen Stoneman); Calvin Cantrell and Daniel Delwiche (recruited by Joyce Giles); Raymond G. Erck (recruited by Walter Allen); Louise A. Garcia and Sonya Mayo (recruited by Carmen Merriman); Mark Hutchings (recruited by Vic Gasser); Richard Rogers (recruited by Les Crozier); and Glenn Stanphill and Matt Thelen (recruited by Tom Cosso).

Welcome back to returning members: Robert “Benny” Benevento (2007); Donald Christian (2009); George Cunningham (2007); Manny Griego, Jr. (2008); Robert M. Lutomski (2007); and Charles Persall (1997)!

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

Remember to let Robin Leong know if you've brought in any new members, so you can get your recruitment award! Thanks a bunch for your interest in maintaining our organization!

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

This year's Mare Island Reunion, sponsored by the NYA, commemorated the 90th birthday of the NYA, 15 years since closure of the Shipyard, and 157 years since the creation of Mare Island Naval Shipyard. And, it was a resounding success! More than 225 folks signed up for advance tickets, and we welcomed 34 walk-ins. Of those who attended, 22 percent were NYA members! That means we were very successful in getting the word out about this year's event.

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.

One of our newest benefits is a \$30 coupon for a Smog Test at Bruce Balbin's Smog Shop (Test Only) on Tennessee Street in Vallejo. Recently, I used Bruce's smog test service (with my NYA discount!), and I was thoroughly satisfied with the service. This is a great deal, folks! It's a good idea to call ahead to Bruce, as he has excellent advice for getting the most out of your vehicle and smog-test experience.

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 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

NARFE'S Campaign to Protect America's Heartbeat

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

Protect America's Heartbeat --- that's NARFE's (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) campaign to showcase the federal community, which is essentially the heartbeat of America. The middle class federal workers and retirees who protect our borders, who provide medical care for our military veterans, who inspect the food we eat, who ensure the safety on our commercial aircraft, who oversee the fabrication of our commercial nuclear reactor plants and ensure they are safe, who manage and safeguard our country's treasures such as our National Parks, wild lands and monuments, who protect our country against foreign attacks, who protect our airspace from commercial and private aircraft disasters, who inspect and ensure our medicines are safe, who protect our environment to ensure safe drinking water and clean air, who protect our public waterways, who ensure safe public transportation, and of course our U.S. Postal Service who ensure our mail is delivered regardless of heat, rain, sleet or snow, are all representative of America's Heartbeat.

Congress, in searching for spending cuts to reduce our federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion, is targeting the federal community for a major portion of these cuts. They have already proposed arbitrarily cutting the federal workforce by 10%. Can you imagine cutting any, if not all the agencies listed above when most are already understaffed? The President has already enacted a 2 year pay freeze for nearly all the federal employees listed above which will result in about \$5 Billion in savings.

Some of the other critical areas proposed by Congress are: to increase the contribution to the retirement fund from 7% to 12-1/2%, which essentially is a dramatic pay cut; change the formula for determining the retirement annuity by using the high 5 years of salary in lieu of the current 3 years; to reduce or eliminate the cost of living adjustment (COLA); and to increase the health premiums for annuitants from about 30% to about 40% or even 50%.

Our best defense to battle these proposals is to make our voices heard by flooding our Senators and Representatives with e-mails, letters, visits, and phone calls requesting them to vote against such proposals. After all, we have spent our careers serving the public and we did not cause the federal deficit. One of the easiest ways to contact your Congressional Representatives is to use the toll-free number 1-866-220-0044 for the Capitol Hill Switchboard and ask the operator to transfer your call to your individual Congressmen and ask them not to make budget scapegoats of the federal workers and retirees. If you have email, you can go to the website www.protectamericasheartbeat.org and send a prepared letter to your Congressmen.

Whatever way you choose to contact your Congressmen, we *need* your help to protect the earned benefits of the federal community.