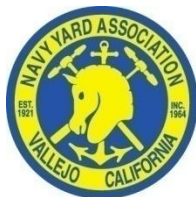


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084
Street Address: Bldg. 535, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592
Voice Mail and Fax: (707) 562-1812
Website Address: www.mareislandnya.com

Volume X, Issue 3

September 2012

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
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

Happy September, and I hope everyone enjoyed their summer!

Join us at this year's annual open meeting!

Since we asked for *your* help in planning this year's annual Open Meeting—which is open to all NYA members, as required by our By-Laws—here's what we've come up with: The universal suggestion was to hold a larger event every other year. To that end, we are inviting all NYA members to our Directors' Meeting, to be held at **5:00pm on Monday, October 15, 2012, in the Library of the Mare Island Museum (Bldg. 46)**. We will have Napoli's Pizza and soft drinks for everyone, and you will be free to roam around the museum for an hour or so before, during, and after the meeting. Additionally, you will be able to participate in the meeting and cast your vote for those offices coming up for re-election.

This event is free to all members and one guest. **All you need to do is call (707) 562-1812 and leave a voice message, or e-mail a short message to robin_leong@netzero.net by October 1, 2012**, and let us know you'll be there so we're sure to get enough pizza for everyone.

I and all the other Officer and directors are looking forward to seeing you there. Who knows, maybe Doug will bring some of his 5-star wine as door prizes?

In addition to catching you up on the latest plans for the October 15th open-to-all-hands meeting, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the over-the-top giving and caring spirit of many of our members, directors, and officers for their work in keeping us together—here and in NARFE.

As you might well expect, our once massive presence as a Federal workforce here in the Bay Area and around the country has shrunk significantly, and every year we become less of a force to be reckoned with. But, our friends in NARFE work tirelessly to prevent that from happening. Many of those same friends, such as Gordon Triemert, Howard Fitzpatrick, Robin Leong, Rudy Balli, their families, and many more work hard to keep the NYA together and relevant. On behalf of all NYA members, I want to say a sincere “Thank you.”

Without your support and membership, our work would be far more difficult. So, why don't we all reach out to a friend or ex coworker to see if they are interested in joining that proud group of us that called Mare Island a way of life and help NARFE protect all we have worked for so hard.

I look forward to seeing you all at next month's open Directors' Meeting!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Ordnance Clean-up at the Mare Island Ammunition Annex

The work to investigate and remediate unexploded ordnance (UXO) at the south end of Mare Island—started in May 2012—is on track to complete in late October 2012. This multi-million dollar contract is resulting in the removal of many below-ground metallic anomalies containing munitions debris from historic operations at the Shipyard's Ammo Depot. The work has

periodically impacted visits to areas (Mare Island cemetery, Shoreline Heritage Areas, etc.) located at in the vicinity of the former ammunition annex; however, the Navy is closely coordinating access by visitors to those areas during the times that UXO work is in progress. Once this remedial work is complete, access by the public may become available to additional areas at the south end of Mare Island.

Allied Defense Recycling (ADR) Activities

In late July, the historic ocean-going tugboat, USS HOGA arrived at Mare Island from the Suisun Bay Mothball Fleet. HOGA will undergo repairs necessary to permit the craft to make the journey from Vallejo through the Panama Canal to North Little Rock, Arkansas, where it will be docked alongside the historic submarine USS RAZORBACK at the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum. Both HOGA and RAZORBACK played important roles in World War II. HOGA is probably best known for towing the stranded battleship USS NEVADA out of the major channel leading into Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. RAZORBACK was one of the 12 United States submarines to be present in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese surrender was signed on September 2, 1945.

On August 1, the Mare Island Naval Shipyard-built submarine tender, USS NEREUS, departed from Mare Island after undergoing extensive repairs and hull cleaning by ADR in preparation for its final journey, the tow to Brownsville, TX. In Brownsville, it will be dismantled and ship's materials will be recycled to the extent possible. The 67-year old ship had been docked in Mare Island Dry Dock 3 since July 17.

In early August, two ocean-going tugboats, the LION (former USS QUAKPAW) and TIGER (former USS MOCTOBI) were docked in Mare Island Dry Dock 2. Both of the tugboats were built during World War II, have been moored just off-shore in Richmond, CA, for the past several years and will be dismantled by ADR.

Mare Island Rail Service is Striving to be Center of Commerce Hub

In July 2012, the Times Herald reported that the Mare Island Rail Service foresees the ex-shipyard as a bustling hub with goods coming to and leaving from Mare Island by trucks, ships, and railroad. Part of the hold-up for a major step in this effort is obtaining the City of Vallejo's approval to move forward on the construction of a rail loop for turning trains around.

The railroad company submitted the rail loop proposal in September 2011; however, after discussion by the Vallejo City Council, the proposal has been postponed indefinitely and company officials are frustrated. In July 2011, the railroad company signed a 50-year agreement with the City to improve the rail system at Mare Island. Now, it seems that because there is not a clear vision of what the future is for the section of Mare Island north of the Causeway, the City is hesitant to allow construction of a rail loop. Mare Island Rail Service Vice President Rydel Peterson said; "... that it [Mare Island] could be a viable commercial center. We're confident enough to put in \$10 million to make it happen."

After Mare Island lost its rail service more than three years ago, the Mare Island Rail Service Company stepped up to restore service because they believed that there would be a sufficient number of large clients to make the venture profitable.

As an aside from the Rail Company's main focus, the firm has recently refurbished a 1920's vintage passenger rail car, which they have available for meetings and conferences on Mare Island.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

Save Our Sail (SOS) Project Efforts Renewed

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Committee for relocating the nuclear submarine USS MARIANO G. VALLEJO sail from Shipbuilding Ways 2 to Alden Park has been stalled by regulations requiring that displays in the park must have dates of origin before World War II. Of course, since the 1960s, a Polaris Missile and other post-WW II artifacts have been displayed in Alden Park with no objections voiced.

The SOS committee members argue that the final 50 years of the Shipyard's existence were devoted to fighting the Cold War, and that critical time period must not be overlooked. Actual USS VALLEJO control room panels are currently on display inside the Mare Island Museum (Building 46 – Pipe Shop) and it seems appropriate that the ship's sail also be placed in a location where it can be showcased for public viewing.

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation presentation to the Captain and Crew of the USS DEWEY (DDG-105)

On Monday, June 25, 2012, at an event sponsored by the City of San Francisco, the Navy League of the United States, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF), the San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco MUNI and Ship Supply, the MIHPF presented the officers and crew of the Guided Missile Destroyer USS DEWEY (DDG-105) with copy of an 1899 publication by the Dewey Reception Committee. This publication documents 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.

In his remarks, MIHPF Vice President, Bruce Christensen, stated that "It is particularly

fitting for our organization to honor your ship as we are currently engaged in an effort to save Admiral Dewey's flagship, the Cruiser USS OLYMPIA, which was constructed at Union Iron Works here in San Francisco and is now the oldest steel hulled warship in the world."



Bruce Christensen Addressing the Crew of the USS DEWEY in San Francisco's Union Square

The presentation took place at the Dewey Monument in San Francisco's Union Square following a luncheon in the USS DEWEY wardroom. At that luncheon, Dennis Kelly, NYA past-president, and Bruce briefed the wardroom and Rear Admiral Dixon R. Smith, Commander, Navy Region Southwest on their effort. The



Wardroom of the USS DEWEY (DDG-105) in San Francisco' Union Square

Commanding Officer of the USS DEWEY, Commander Colby Howard, expressed interest in participation by the Navy and the USS DEWEY in the arrival ceremonies for the USS OLYMPIA when she is brought to Mare Island. In addition, the President of the San Francisco Council of the Navy League of the United States committed to assist the MIHPF effort to acquire the ship.

Commanding Officer of the USS DEWEY, Commander Colby Howard, expressed interest in participation by the Navy and the USS DEWEY in the arrival ceremonies

MIHPF Museum Membership now Offered

The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) has made a change to the former partnership program. The program is now known as Mare Island Museum Membership. Membership is for one year, renewable annually, and is fully tax deductible.

Attached to the back of this newsletter is an application for memberships at the individual, family, student, and out-of-state levels. Benefits of annual membership are unchanged and include free admission to the Mare Island Museum and to the Museum Library, 10% discount in the Museum gift shop, advance notice via e-mail of new exhibits or events sponsored by the foundation, free newsletter via e-mail, and helping to preserve the history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

If you are interested in becoming a Mare Island Museum Member, please complete the attached application and remit to MIHPF; Attention: Membership, 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 your 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 579, while our dental plan membership stands at 275 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 Everett Leonard Crockett, Eddie W. Martinez—both of whom are interred at the National Cemetery in Dixon, CA—Richard M. Bennett, and Allen Taylor. We hope they may rest in peace.

Welcome to new member: George W. Simmons (recruited by Jack Bradley).

Welcome back to returning member Brian Lord (from 2007).

NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: Richard A. Armijo, Patricia E. Heady, Maryanne Homa, John A. Kamerzell, Timothy King, Frank A. May, William J. Nelson, James F. Ray Jr., 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.**

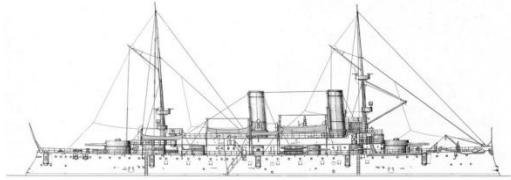
Membership Contest!

By the time you're reading this newsletter, there will only be a few weeks left in this year's membership contest. You still have a chance to come out on top!

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 "Recommended 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.



Bringing Home the USS OLYMPIA (C-6)

Dennis Kelly, OLYMPIA Project Manager

The OLYMPIA project committee has been busy on a number of fronts this last quarter advancing the OLYMPIA project:

Proposed Legislation. On Friday June 8, 2012, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) submitted a proposal to Senator Diane Feinstein requesting that she offer a Federal legislative amendment with the suggested title, “Restoration of U.S. Naval Ships of National Historical Significance,” (notionally numbered Sec. 7317).

The proposed legislation to fund OLYMPIA repairs was developed by Task Force Olympia, a partnership between the Historic Naval Ships Association and the Naval Historical Foundation. If this legislation is enacted, over half of our capitalization costs for the OLYMPIA monument would be covered. Because the House of Representatives had already marked up the defense appropriation bill, Senator Feinstein was asked that the amendment be introduced during either the House-Senate conference mark-up or on the floor. The full text of the proposal can be viewed at

http://www.mareislandhpf.org/ships/img/Olympia_a_Cover_Letter_DKelly_FeinsteinV2.pdf.

Publicity. We have had a couple of half-hour television appearances on the Veterans Roundtable hosted by Jesus “Jess” Malgapo on VCAT TV – VCAT TV can be viewed at <http://www.vcat.tv/>. In addition, our effort was featured on the front

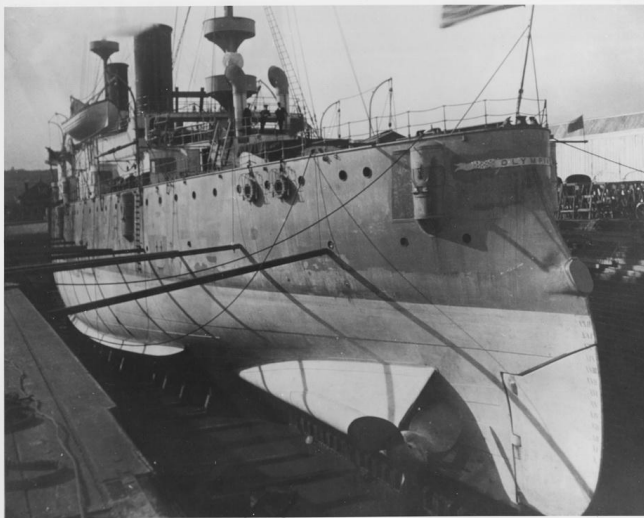
page of the June 11, 2012 San Francisco Chronicle. The full article is still available at <http://www.sfgate.com/default/article/Olympia-warship-rehabilitation-sought-by-group-3697257.php>. On August 18, 2012, I attended the San Francisco Fleet week fundraiser with Bruce Christensen and was impressed by the venue as well as the turn-out.

We were fortunate to be able to spend some time with San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and describe our efforts to bring the OLYMPIA to the Bay Area; we also explained the OLYMPIA’s ties to San Francisco (constructed at Union Iron Work in 1892). He was both attentive and supportive.

Also, we also met with Admiral Hueber, who had flown in from San Diego with about a dozen Navy officers along with a couple-dozen marines. Admiral Hueber is in charge of the Expeditionary Strike Group 3, which includes the USS DEWEY. The Admiral also expressed interest and was supportive of our quest for the OLYMPIA. On September 11, 2012, I presented to the Benicia Rotary Club on our effort, and club members expressed much interest in both Mare Island and the OLYMPIA.

OLYMPIA Acquisition Status. On July 2, 2012, another site dropped out of the running for the OLYMPIA, while the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation received approval of our Business Plan Phase IIA application to acquire the ship—completing another major milestone leading to OLYMPIA’s first passage through San Francisco’s Golden Gate in 117 years. The application was accepted by the ship owners, and the MIHPF—along with the two other remaining entities—were invited to continue with acquisition process. Submission of a Phase IIA Application by the MIHPF was the second step in a four-step process for acquisition of the ship. The four-step process was developed by Independence Seaport Museum (ISM), the Navy, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission—each of which have a legal interest in the ship.

The review panel commented that *“There are a number of areas in which your submission indicates that you have a thorough understanding of the requirements of the transfer process and establishing and running a successful ship museum. First, your submission presents responses to the requirements in an organized manner. Second, MIHPF is an established ship-based museum with an existing organizational structure, strong volunteer program and record of past accomplishments in acquiring and acting as a steward for ships and collections. The challenge is making the next step from a primarily volunteer based organization to a professional based organization. Third, the historic association of Mare Island Naval Station and Olympia is a strong asset in your effort and can be further emphasized in the interpretive, marketing and service programs. Finally, it appears MIHPF has made strong progress in working with the land owners, Lennar Mare Island and the City of Vallejo, CA, to secure a viable facility and location for the safe and secure permanent mooring site for Olympia.”*



OLYMPIA under construction in San Francisco - 1893

Major concerns expressed by the review panel included the vulnerability of the OLYMPIA to loss during tow from Philadelphia to Mare Island, and the budget for acquisition and transportation strategy for OLYMPIA artifacts known as the “OLYMPIA Core Collection.”

Our challenge now is clear. We must raise the funds necessary to capitalize the acquisition of the ship. Capitalization costs include funds for hull

repairs, towing, dredging and site preps and are \$20M.

Welcome Aboard. We are fortunate to have had a couple of former IOWA effort participants join our group managing the OLYMPIA acquisition process.

Welcome aboard, Russ Farnell and Joseph Railla. Also, we have been joined by Alexander Gilmore, USNR, who will be helping us with social media and getting the word out on our effort.

Interested? If you are interested in assisting with the important task of saving and bringing the OLYMPIA back to Mare Island, contact the MIHPF at <http://www.mareislandhpf.org/> and click on “ships,” “OLYMPIA” and “Contact Us,” or contact Dennis Kelly directly at drkelly107@gmail.com. Write to: 107 Lassen Pl, Petaluma, CA 94954 or call 707-778-0915.

Learn more about our effort at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AD2sAZ4nQrI>

Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

I hope all of you had a terrific and relaxing summer. There have been many warm days this year in which to enjoy retirement life and the grandkids.

We 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

While there is not much new to report in the area of benefits, there are some things going on. Please remember to check our benefits page for information on all membership benefits.

Three weeks ago, I attended the NARFE National Convention held in Sparks, NV. It was enlightening to learn how that organization decides what initiatives to work on for the next Congress. A good offense is the better defense, you know. We also learned the serious facts of life in that similar to the NYA, NARFE is suffering from a tremendous decline in membership. From a high of 494,000 members in 1991, NARFE is down to 272,499 members.

NARFE is one of the few organizations dedicated to the benefit of the current and retired Federal employee. As anyone watching the news today can see for themselves, our benefits will be seriously challenged in the coming years. And, it seems obvious to me that Congress reacts to a large number of people supporting a cause. The more effort we have supporting and maintaining our benefits, the better. So, I implore you to consider joining your local NARFE chapter and become more active. The annual dues of \$45 are a very small “insurance policy” to pay, in spite of this difficult economy. NARFE has been extremely successful in defending employee benefits. Feel free to contact me if you need help in joining NARFE.

At the convention, I learned that if you are a NARFE member you can tap into unused time shares just like you can if you have a Retired DOD card. Just visit www.gettravelop.com. Of course, your retired DOD card has more benefits—such as getting you into military bases that are not on national alert to use their golf courses, bowling alleys, trailer parks, cabins, and hotels. Because I use some of these facilities when I’m in Hawaii, I

get e-mails from the Hale Koa Hotel telling me of their specials. For example, I did not know that they operate a hotel in Alaska (see www.sewardresort.com). That’s cool in more than one way.

Have you seen the video on Mare Island and the Cold War that’s out there on the internet? It is an awesome nearly 13-minute summary of our work at Mare. Thanks to NYA Director Dennis Kelly for bringing back pleasant work memories. Check it out on YouTube if you haven’t already seen it!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7LoXJ5Bxto&feature=related>

Have a good Halloween, and a Happy Thanksgiving!!

Consider Joining NARFE

Helen L. Zajac
Region VII Vice President

NARFE is your legislative voice

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is the *only* membership organization solely dedicated to protecting and preserving the benefits of all federal workers and retirees. NARFE’s national legislative program is advanced in Congress by a team of registered lobbyists backed by an informed network of grass-roots activists in every state and congressional district, as well as a member-supported Political Action Committee.

Weekly Legislative Hotline Messages keep you up to date on the latest developments in Congress and Administration proposals. *NARFE* magazine is your comprehensive source of federal legislative analysis and reporting on Capitol Hill and agency developments concerning your compensation, retirement, and health benefits. You also have exclusive access to NARFE’s Legislative Action Center, where you can actively participate in protecting your benefits by sending your own message to Capitol Hill.

When you Join NARFE Now, you strengthen every message sent to Congress and fortify our national outreach.

NARFE is your information resource

Federal retirement, life insurance, health care, compensation and other benefits for both current and retired federal employees are complex and often amended. NARFE keeps members informed of these changes and provides the answers you need to make important decisions.

When you Join NARFE Now, you have access to our Federal Benefits Service specialists for clear answers to complex benefit questions. *NARFE* magazine and website deliver one-stop access to dependable guidance whenever regulations affecting your benefits change. NARFE provides the information you need to make the best pre- and post-retirement choices.

NARFE is open to ALL federal employees, retirees, spouses and survivors. Join NARFE Now!

For more information, contact Helen Zajac, hlz17@aol.com, or 707-644-7565.

**Mare Island Historic Park
Foundation
Upcoming Events**

September 22, 2012

Shop 31 Reunion
Mare Island Museum

September 28, 2012

Shop 51 Reunion
Mare Island Museum

September 29, 2012

Sister City Dinner
Mare Island Museum

October 14, 2012

Navy League/Sea Cadet Dinner
Mare Island Museum

October 15, 2012

NYA Annual All-Hands/Directors' Meeting
Mare Island Museum Library

October 28, 2012

MIHPF Board Meeting
Quarters B

November 11, 2012

Veterans' Day Ceremony
Mare Island Cemetery

December 13, 2012

MIHPF Volunteer Party
Quarters A

December 16, 2012

Christmas Concert and Reception
Chapel and Quarters A

Tickets for the Christmas Concert and Reception can be ordered beginning in November by calling (707) 557-4646. Payment by credit card required for advance ticket purchase.

**For Further Information, Contact the
Museum at (707) 557-1538**