

The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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

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

Volume V, Issue 4

December 2007

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

Shop 38 Luncheon

Denny's, 4355 Sonoma Blvd (Hwy 29/37 intersection), Vallejo;
Second Wednesday of each month (except July/August)
POC: Rudy Lukes, (707) 643-3225

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Cntr, 333 Amador St., Vallejo
Second Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm
POC: Elsie Babcock; (707) 643-7914

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm
POC: Dick Champion; (707) 253-7242

Mare Island Historical Park Foundation

Mare Island Quarters "A"
Third Monday quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) at 10:00am
POC: Ken Zadwick; (707) 557-1538

Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

Sardine Can restaurant, Vallejo
First Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
POC: Dick Barlow; (707) 642-6022

Ocean Engineering Luncheon

Sports Bar inside the Marriott Hotel, Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
No POC at this time

First, the NYA, along with the Navy League Council #1, Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, NARFE Chapter 16, the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, and others are planning a reception and dinner to honor Lou Burgelin for his many years of service to the City of Vallejo and the Navy. The event will be held March 1, 2008, at the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Museum. Reception and cocktails begin at 5:00pm and dinner starts at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$35 per person. Checks may be made payable to the "Mare Island Historic Park Foundation" and should be mailed to the NYA, PO Box 2034, Vallejo, CA, 94592. The deadline for registration is February 1, 2008.

Ten lucky NYA members will have the opportunity to win tickets to this worthwhile event. If you'd like to attend and join us in honoring Lou (and his lovely wife, Betty), simply send an e-mail to vcullum@hotmail.com or a note/postcard to the NYA PO Box, saying "I want tickets to see Lou." We will have a drawing on January 15, 2008, and will give tickets to the first 10 names pulled from Jim Porter's leather Raiders cap. Please remember to include contact information so we can get your tickets to you.

Next, the NYA is planning a barbeque for our annual All-Hands meeting to be held at Quarters "A" on a Saturday in October 2008. This event will be free to all NYA members (and, in fact, only NYA members are invited!). The event will include an election of the three Officers who's terms will expire at the end of 2008. As details are finalized, we will post updates in upcoming editions of the newsletter.

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Let me start by wishing you all the happiest and healthiest of holiday seasons and continued blessings throughout the New Year. Speaking of 2008, we have a couple things planned that you may want to attend.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to James Porter, Lloyd Mahan, Robin Leong, Bruce Christensen, Sonya Domingo Veronica Laird, all of the NYA Directors, and so many silent supporters for keeping the NYA fresh and going so many years after the Shipyard closed, and for allowing me the privilege of serving as your NYA president for the past 10 years

Historic Park Foundation Update

Bruce Christensen

First Navy Ship Arrives at Mare Island Since Closure

The WW II Gunboat LCS-102 arrived at Mare Island in September 2007. This vessel is the last remaining ship of the 130 'Mighty Midgets' built during the early 1940s. On November 10, a welcoming ceremony, open to the public, was staged dockside at Berth 7. Afterward, there was a buffet luncheon held at the Building 46 Museum for those in attendance.

The LCS-102 had been transferred from the U.S. Navy to our allies, the Royal Thailand Navy (RTN), in the 1960s, during the Viet Nam War. The ship was now being returned to its home in the United States. In attendance from the RTN were Rear Admiral Surasak Rounroengrom and several other RTN high ranking officers, many of who brought their families from Thailand. During the welcoming ceremony, there were more than 350 people in the standing-room-only crowd. Ex-SECNAV John Lehman was the keynote speaker, and his brother, Chris Lehman, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Both had personal ties to the Mighty Midget fleet because their father had served aboard an LCS in WW II. U.S. Navy Admiral Mark Balmert, Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 3, was also a guest speaker during the ceremony. Although the weather was foggy and drizzly, nobody seemed to mind, because they were caught up in this historic moment.

One of the highlights was that the original Commanding Officer of the LCS-102, 89 year old

Richard Jones attended the ceremony, as did two of his crew members—82 and 83 years old, respectively. When they served on the LCS in 1945, the C.O., Lt Jones (the "old man"), was just 27. There were several dozen ex-sailors who had served aboard other LCS ships during the war, who traveled from across the United States to attend the ceremony with their families. These LCS sailors were allowed to tour their sister ship (LCS-102), as well as shipyard historic sites, making a vacation out of the occasion.

The group responsible for the return of this last surviving LCS ship is the National LCS Association. Specifically instrumental in arranging for return of this Mighty Midget was Bill Mason, an ex-LCS sailor who lives in San Francisco. Mr. Mason worked in conjunction with the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation to obtain berthing space for the ship at Mare Island. The ship recovery process required several years of diligent effort by Mr. Mason, the LCS Association, and National Air Cargo (the company that arranged for the ship that transported the LCS from Thailand to Mare Island).

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 662—well on our way to our 2007 membership goal of 700. Dental membership stands at 349 members (including former NWS Concord and NAS Alameda dental plan members).

Welcome back: Jerry Sullivan (2003, recruited by Robin Leong), and Donald Steinke (2005, recruited by Ray Lingerfelt)

Recently, your NYA Directors followed through with their promise to award gifts to current members who recruited new members. Following is a list of members and how many new members they've recruited since June 2000: Carmen Merriman (8), Bruce Christensen (7), Pat and Ron Brosio (4), Charlie Johnson (4), Robin Leong (4), Helen Morgan (4), Bob Yeasted (4), Lea and Helen Zajac (3), P.A. Allen (2), Richard Daffron (2),

Phyllis Honodel (2), Lewis Knief (2), Sue Lemmon (2), Jim Porter (2), Dave Runge (2), Walter Allen (1), Rudi Balli (1), Lou Burgelin (1), Mike Christensen (1), Vandy Christy (1), Rie Cooper (1), Everett Crockett (1), Diana De Haven (1), Larry Fade (1), Russ Finlinson (1), Phil Fisher (1), the late Walter Garrison (1), Doug Ghiselin (1), Joyce Giles (1), Manny Griego (1), Mike Hansen (1), Penny Hicks (1), Bill Hughes (1), Sherry Irish (1), Veronica Laird (1), Mitchel Marquez (1), Bill Martin (1), Nancy Matlock (1), Lenna Moohart (1), Pamelyn Morgan (1), George Simmons (1), Dave Smith (1), the late Gerald Tagert (1), and Robert Tamayo (1). Thanks a bunch, everyone!

Your NYA officers have adopted the following award schedule:

- 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

Of course, the awards for bringing in new members are subject to the availability of the listed items.

The NYA offers our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Eldon Seltsmann, who passed away on September 12, 2007.



Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Dental Plan

By now, **all** of our dental members should be aware that there are new rates for the Prepaid and Blue Shield plans. The new rates apply

regardless of payment method. NYA membership dues of \$1.25 per month are included in these rates, so this saves you the need to pay annual membership dues. **PLEASE NOTE:** members paying by cash or check **MUST** include an additional \$5 each month for the bank handling fee (the NYA cannot pay that fee). For this reason, we encourage members to sign up for the Automatic Checking Account Withdrawal option in order to avoid that charge.

To reiterate, the new rates are:

- Prepaid (monthly): Single \$25, Family \$44.25
- Prepaid (bi-weekly—for those with payroll deduction): Single \$11.55, Family \$20.45
- Blue Shield (monthly): Single \$45.85, Couples \$79.11, Family \$107.59
- Blue Shield (bi-weekly—for those with payroll deduction): Single \$21.20, Couples \$36.55, Family \$49.70

PLEASE NOTE: All members have been notified of the new rates (through letters sent to your homes as well as in previous editions of this newsletter). Failure to pay the correct amount could result in the loss of your dental benefits with **no further notice**. For those of you who have payroll deduction, it is **very important** that you periodically check your pay statements to make sure you are having the correct amount withheld and make any necessary adjustments through your payroll office. Please remember that it is **critical** that you remember to update both the NYA and FirstTier Administrators of any address changes. If we cannot reach you, your dental benefits could be terminated due to non-response.

Contact Information (Blue Shield and Pre-Paid):

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

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

Notary Service

Your NYA Officers were pleased to learn that NYA members have been using our free Notary Service. Sincere thanks go to our Secretary (and Notary Public), **Sonya Domingo**!! In the past year, Sonya has notarized documents for more than two dozen members!

Living Trusts

Your NYA Officers are exploring a more economical way of creating living trusts. Look for more information on this subject in our March 2008 newsletter (or sooner if we have your e-mail address!).

E-Mail Updates

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

In case you DO want to receive e-mail updates and just forgot to let us know your correct address, following is a list of members whose e-mail bounced back: Oscar Arriaga, Elsie Babcock, Phyllis Bertoncini, William Blas, Matthew Barnes Jr, Dolores Ferrari, Marvin Hanson Jr., Gerald Hollaway, John Johnson, Arnold Lincoln, Thomas Meissner, Rich Nalley, Milan Pittman, Mark Pohle, Celia Rockholt, Joyce Scharf, Lou Sowersby, Joe Vizzini. Please let me know of your correct e-mail address.

I wish you all a VERY MERRY Christmas and a HAPPY New Year!

And then there was Yesterday

Sue Lemmon
Shipyard Historian

Commanders Of Mare Island Naval Shipyard

Following is a partial list of Mare Island Shipyard Commanders. Can you match the dates when they reported for duty?

<u>Names</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1. Alden, CMMO James	a. 5/5/1917
2. Bagley, RADM D. W.	b. 2/5/1919
3. Beach, CAPT Edward L.	c. 10/30/1947
4. Cavender, CAPT J. B.	d. 7/31/1968
5. Entwistle, RADM F. L.	e. 7/15/1959
6. Fahy, RADM E. J.	f. 1/7/1966
7. Farragut, CDR D. G.	g. 6/26/1992
8. Frankenberger, RADM N.	h. 4/12/1980
9. Friedell, RADM W. J.	i. 2/24/1941
10. George, RADM Henry	j. 12//9/1954
11. Haas, RADM P. W., Jr.	k. 8/14/1952
12. Honsinger, RADM L. V.	l. 8/1/1868
13. Lawrence, RADM M. J.	m. 7/11/1903
14. Lowry, RADM F. J.	n. 9/16/1854
15. McCalla, RADM B. H.	o. 1/28/1944
16. McQuilkin, RADM J. H.	p. 3/22/1955
17. Morgan, RADM A. M.	q. 5/31/1938
18. Scheyder, CAPT E. J.	r. 11/30/1945
19. Tisdale, RADM M. S.	s. 9/30/1955
20. Webber, RADM J. H.	t. 3/30/1962

Answers:

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. l | 11. p |
| 2. q | 12. e |
| 3. b | 13. s |
| 4. g | 14. c |
| 5. j | 15. m |
| 6. t | 16. f |
| 7. n | 17. k |
| 8. d | 18. h |
| 9. I | 19. o |
| 10. I | 20. r |