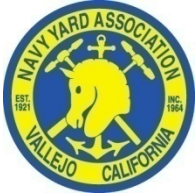


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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
 E-Mail Address: benefit@mareislandnya.com
 Website Address: www.mareislandnya.com

Volume VII, Issue 4

December 2009

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: 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: 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

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

membership numbers remained the same. Thanks to the tireless work of Robin Leong, Benefits Officer, a superhuman effort by NYA Director Carmen Merriman, and the diligent endeavors of the rest of the NYA officers and directors, new recruits and returning members equaled those with whom we've lost contact.

Also of note this year was our joint All Hands Meeting and Mare Island Reunion. This year's event was attended by nearly 300 members and their guests. For some, it was their first time back to the Shipyard since its closure more than 13 years ago. The event featured a "home cooked" Italian meal by none other than our own NYA Recording Secretary Sonya Domingo and NYA Executive Secretary Veronica Laird, along with BBQ (and pasta!) master Charlie Johnson and his son. The capable serving crew included Sonya's husband (Keith Domingo), mom (Ronnie Duquette), sister (Natalie Leesmann), and daughter (Isabella Domingo); Veronica's husband Jerry; Howard and MaryAnn Fitzpatrick; my wife Maureen; and countless others. Along with great food, there was a marathon raffle drawing that included nostalgic Mare Island memorabilia, a baseball autographed by Vallejo's very own CC Sabathia (donated by Carmen Merriman), a fully-loaded Longaberger picnic basket (donated by Lloyd Mahan), and several luxurious spa treatments donated by former Shop 38 apprentice and mother to the first baby born in the post Mare Island clean detachment known as SSports, Tanya Wigger. Thanks very much to everyone for their hard work and selfless contributions that made this event a great time for everyone.

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

As this year comes to a close, we can look back on some noteworthy statistics for the NYA—most notably our membership numbers. For the first time since the Shipyard closed, our total

In 2010, the NYA Officers have decided to keep the annual all-hands business meeting a little less elaborate by hosting a social hour following the business part of the meeting that is free to all members and one guest each. Complimentary non-alcoholic beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served. This event is currently scheduled for October 9, in the Historic Park Foundation Museum (Bldg 46), and advance reservations will be necessary. They can be obtained by sending us an e-mail or a note by regular mail no later than September 30, 2010. Hope to see you all there!

On a more somber note, many of you may know that former NYA president Lou Burgelin passed away in November. Lou served as the 4th of only 12 NYA presidents (from 1963 to 1969). For those of you who live close by, there was an extensive obituary honoring Lou in the Vallejo Times-Herald. For everyone who was blessed to know Lou and his lovely wife Betty, he truly was an inspiration to us all.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of you the happiest of Holiday Seasons and many blessings in 2010. Thank you for your continued membership.



Thanks to everyone for a successful 2009 reunion!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

[Dry Dock 2 & 3 Shipbreaking Proposal Passed by Planning Commission](#)

California Dry Dock Solutions' proposal to use Dry Docks 2 and 3 and adjacent waterfront areas to accomplish ship re-fit and maintenance, repair, overhaul, new construction, and dismantling was approved unanimously by the Vallejo Planning Commission in November 2009. Several NYA members were in attendance at the Planning Commission meeting in support of this project.

The initial critical phase will be the dismantling of naval ships currently located in the Suisun Bay Mothball Fleet.

The following information was provided in an initial study prepared for the City of Vallejo:

1. To ensure the ship dismantling operations do not impact off-shore areas, samples of materials in and adjacent to the dry docks will be collected and analyzed. Specific sampling of submerged lands will be required to obtain a dredging permit.
2. Air Quality consultants review of emissions estimates from the proposed operations conclude that the project will not contribute significantly to green house gas emissions and locations 1/2 mile from the site will not exceed air quality thresholds.
3. Noise levels at the site will increase slightly; however a noise analysis for the facility conclude that the potential noise level is consistent with industrial areas and no significant noise impact will be created. Project hours will be from 7 AM to 5 PM.
4. Because project work will be conducted mainly in dry docks, there will be no significant impact to aquatic species in the area.
5. Public access will be readily available to the planned waterfront pedestrian promenade area north of the ship dismantling project site (i.e., in the vicinity of historical Dry Dock 1 and the Mare Island Museum).
6. The proposed project expects to employ a maximum of 120 people. Businesses in the surrounding communities expect to benefit from ship dismantling work.

7. The maximum number of ships anticipated at one time for dismantling is four.

Environmental Remedial Action to Change VALLEJO Sail Location

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has directed remedial action for the black granular material (BGM) located in the soil between Dry Docks 1 and 2 to a maximum depth of 11 feet. This material, composed largely of loose furnace ash, coal ash, and metal debris (including lead), was generated from foundry, smelting, or blast furnace operations on Mare Island. The primary remedial action requires an asphalt cap over the entire triangle area between Dry Docks 1 and 2, followed by monitoring of groundwater in the area and on-going institutional controls.

This action necessitated relocation of the ex-USS VALLEJO sail which has been displayed on the parcel of land in question since the mid-1990s. The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) has worked out a plan with the City of Vallejo and a local company to have the VALLEJO sail moved to a location near Shipbuilding Ways 2 on the shipyard. The move is scheduled for early December 2009. Check-out the new location the next time you visit Mare Island.

NARFE – Working for YOU!

Helen Zajac, NARFE Region VIII Vice President

I want to personally thank the NYA for the opportunity to write an article about NARFE for the Navy Yard Association Newsletter. I do appreciate the opportunity to let you know a little bit about the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. It was founded in 1921 and is the only association dedicated to preserve and enhance the retirement benefits of federal retirees, employees and their families.

The good news is that NARFE led the effort to include a provision in the economic stimulus bill that provides federal, state and local government retirees who are not entitled to receive

Social Security benefits, a \$250 per person refundable tax credit for the 2009 tax year. Internal Revenue Service Publication 721 for tax year 2009 will provide specific instructions on how you can claim your \$250 credit. NARFE will continue to work with Congress to lead the effort to pass a similar provision for 2010.

As you all know by now, for the first time in thirty four years, there is no cost of living adjustment (COLA) this year for either Federal retirees or social security recipients. The COLA is based on a formula that compares the average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the third quarter (July, August and September) of the current year to the average CPI of the same period the year before. Since the 2009 figure is lower, there could be no COLA increase.

There has been no legislated reduction in civil service retirement benefits since 1993. Despite years of budget deficits, major natural disasters, a changing world economy, terrorist attacks at home and wars abroad, our earned benefits have remained untouched, in spite of numerous attempts by Congress over the past several years to reduce or eliminate some of our retirement benefits. NARFE, backed by activist members and supportive members of Congress, has acted as a deterrent against such adverse proposals.

If you would like more information about NARFE, please contact me at 707-644-7565 or at HLZ17@aol.com. I wish all of you a Very Happy Healthy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen

Annual Christmas Concert at St. Peters Chapel

On Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 2:00pm, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) will present the Annual Christmas Concert at St. Peters Chapel. This year's program will feature

Vallejo's Melody Choral singers. Tickets are available for \$15 per person by calling Joyce Giles at 707-280-5742 (or, she can be contacted by e-mail at JIG313@aol.com). Tickets can be picked up at the Mare Island Museum, Building 46, during most weekdays. Tickets are also available at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum on 714 Marin Street and at the Vallejo Convention and Visitors Bureau inside the Ferry Building.

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.

If you would like to help support the continuation operations of the MIHPF, you can join those of us who have already become Plank Members. The membership donation levels are as follows:

Local	- \$25
Out-of-state	- \$20
Family	- \$50
Supporting	- \$100
Patron	- \$250
Sponsor	- \$500
Benefactor	- \$1,000
Life Member	- \$5,000

Membership benefits include reduced admission to the Mare Island Museum, discounts at the Museum gift shop, and many more. For further information, contact the Foundation President, Ken Zadwick, at 707-557-0662; email him at kenzad01@yahoo.com; or send your membership donation to: 328 Seawind Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590

Membership update

James Porter

Currently, NYA membership stands at 635 (only two members away from this year's goal of 637!), while our dental plan membership stands at 313 members.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bill Long (former Shop 67),

passed away on September 29. Bill was a longtime volunteer with the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (many would attest that he was Ken Zadwick's right hand). On November 30, Vallejo and Mare Island icon and NYA Past-President Lou Burgelin passed away on November 30. We offer our heartfelt sympathies to Betty, his wife of 70 years, and their three children, Jim, Karen, and Barry.

Welcome to new members: Bruce Balbin (recruited by Gordon Treimert); Don Christian (recruited by Jim Davis); Henry E. Dever, Jr. (recruited by Bruce Christensen); Harry E. Ewing (recruited by Carmen Merriman); Joseph N. Farmer Jr. (recruited by Ronnie Higdon); Peter Gonzales, John Gray, Larry Henry (recruited by Tom Cosso); Gus Kosha, Frank Nugent (recruited by George Nelson); Robert J. Ramirez, Lloyd H. Sepveira (recruited by James Davis); Brenda Vondo (recruited by Renon Haley); and Hubert L. Welch (recruited by Charlie Johnson). Welcome back to returning members James S. Converse (1997), recruited by Robert E. Smith; Alan Fortes (2007); Steven Frank (1999); Eddie Martinez (2007); George Nelson (1999); Mark Pittman (2006); and Thomas Powers (2003), recruited by Richard Daffron.

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

News on Benefits

It was so nice to see so many members show up at the Mare Island reunion this past October. Thanks for the warm applause when my name was mentioned—you folks are the best!

I have a couple of new benefits in the hopper: the first is member Tom Cosso, who makes Military plaques, patches, submarine models and hard-to-get Mare Island items (some of which were included in the raffle drawing). You can contact him at (707) 552-3691. His email address is cosso@pacbell.net.

The second new benefit comes from NYA member Bruce Balbin, who now has a smog shop and has agreed to give our members a discount for getting their smog check in Vallejo. You can contact Bruce by phone at (707) 647-1601, or via email to bruce_balbin@sbcglobal.net.

If you've shared your email address with the NYA, you received the message I sent out this past summer, namely that I've received new information getting a DOD Civilian Retiree Card. The best news is that the card is not just for those who retired from Mare Island; the card may be requested by employees who retired from **ANYDOD** component/organization. A copy of the flier attached to my e-mail has been posted on the NYA website, and is included with this newsletter. The DOD Civilian Retiree Card is valid for 4 years. (Those who have already obtained the Mare Island retired employee's card will note that those cards should not expire.)

The most convenient locations at which to obtain the card in the SF Bay Area are Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield or the Coast Guard base on Alameda's Government Island. You can find other locations at which you can apply for the card at: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home>. You will need to bring two forms of ID from the OMB I-9 document list (visit www.formi9.com for more

information) and your most recent SF-50 (showing that you retired from a DOD facility AND your pay grade upon retirement).

Intrepid NYA member Paul Wright recently received his card from Travis Air Force Base. He shares his experience in obtaining the card: "The ID issue place is located at the "old" David Grant Hospital up on the hill, now known as Bldg 381. When you go up the hill, you come to an intersection; you make hard right turn, and go out and around until you come to the parking lot behind the old hospital. There is a sign that says "ID Cards;" go in and check in with the reception desk. You must call the day before to schedule your appointment. The phone numbers are: (707) 424-8483, 424-4075, or 424-8468. Their hours of operation are from 7:00am -3:30pm, Monday through Friday. Also, you are required to bring a copy of your Form 50, showing that you retired from a DOD facility. I hope this helps take some of the confusion out of getting the ID Card. If anyone has any questions, they can call me [Paul] at (707) 590-3065."

Okay, so you might ask, "what good is this ID card?" I'll repeat this for those who are new members or recently obtained Internet capabilities. You can purchase several books from www.militaryliving.com or by calling (800) 527-2345. I have two of these books: Temporary Military Lodging Around the World (\$30.55 Code K716N), and Hawaii Military Guide. These two guides help me find inexpensive lodging, RV campsites, and golfing on military bases. Actually, when I tried to do this online, I was not permitted; and I asked my retired military friend to pick these up for me at Travis. It may be different now. Then, I was reminded by member Helen Morgan that you can use those unused timeshares starting at \$329 a week per unit (a unit can sleep 4 to 10 people) showed on www.afvclub.com/search.asp. Normally, you must purchase a Resort Condominiums International (RCI) membership to make these reservations. This usually does not work if you don't have flexible travel plans because condos to be rented eight months in advance are usually not available. But, if you want to golf at

Hilton Head or somewhere else around the world a month from now, you're likely to find something available.

Recently, I was asked about cruise discounts. Visit Ambassador Tours at www.ambassadortours.com. If you find a tour or cruise to your liking, please mention Mare Island NYA.

Dental Plan News

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 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

Good luck on your travels through life and have a Happy Holiday. Please don't forget to notify me if you change your email address.

And then there was yesterday

Sue Lemmon, Shipyard Historian

Belated Birthday Bash

Happy Birthday to us!

On September 16, 1854, Commander D. G. Farragut wrote in a new log book:

“Took command of the Island this day, and forthwith warned off all the Squatters vz Turner, Roy, Vera, Gilbert and Antonio Pinto. Weather very fine but warm. Thermometer 86.”

One hundred fifty-five years later, we celebrate what Farragut started on that warm day: a shipyard on Mare Island. Let's fantasize a special, big event, a Belated Birthday Bash.

In our illusion, we will have an impressive Receiving Line to greet our guests—former Commanding Officers. This welcoming group would be headed by CAPT John Cavender, who was last on the list of the ninety-two special guests we are expecting.

Starting with Farragut, these gentleman walk down the Receiving Line with cordial handshakes and welcoming remarks, then go into a large dining hall with an enormous table laden with a huge cake bearing 155 candles. There would be a long (very long) bar on both sides of the hall with guests amiably gathering to continue animated conversations. Would the Thomas Phelps (father and son) discuss family matters? Would Farragut be gracious to his nemesis Alden?

If only there were hidden microphones to catch some of those conversations that would follow! It would be interesting to hear CAPT Beach expound on how the CALIFORNIA launching went astray; and listen to RADM Frankenberger explain the GUITARRO casualty.

No doubt stories about the ferry ADMIRAL GLASS to the USS ZANE (DD 337), plus nostalgic reminiscences of C.O.s Alden to Yates should provide great conversations.

But alas, the guests have dissolved into the past once more. We are thankful to previous Commanding Officers for laying the foundation for Mare Island's 155th Birthday Bash.