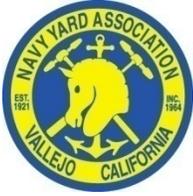


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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.mareislandnva.com

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NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 500 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, & Napa
Third Friday each month at 9:00am
POC: Jim Davis; (707) 226-1119

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador St., Vallejo
Second Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm
POC: Robin Leong; robin_leong@netzero.net

Napa Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St., Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm
POC: Doty Mufich; (707) 226-3642

Delta Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Denny's at Hwy 4/Somerville, Antioch
First Monday of each month at 12pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Sep)
POC: Bob Martin; (925) 458-1260

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

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

Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

The Sardine Can, Vallejo
First Tuesday of each month at 11:30am
POC: Lea Zajac; ldzajac@aol.com

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

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2015! We've had another good NYA year, and we're looking forward to some excitement in 2016.

As always, Bruce Christensen has the latest and greatest "meat and potato" news from around the former Shipyard. Usually, all I get is the fun stuff—to keep you aware of upcoming events on our social calendar. If you weren't able to join us this past August at our day with the Oakland A's or at our open-to-all-members meeting in October, you missed some good times with old friends.

On October 1, 2016, you, your family, and your friends are invited to join us for our biggest celebration yet—we're calling it "Closure Plus 20" in commemoration of the strong core of the NYA 20 years after the Shipyard closed. We're holding the event in Quarters A (the former Shipyard Commander's residence); the museum will be open; we'll enjoy music by a road contingent of the Air Force Band; there will be delicious food prepared by our own talented Sonya Domingo and Veronica Laird; raffle prizes, giveaways, and *lots* of fun. So, please mark your calendars and plan to join us. As the year progresses, more details will follow. There will be a small cost to members (a little higher for non-members).

So, help us spread the word (and, make it your event, too). Remember, we are only here because of you!

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

A Mare Island Overview

Following are some highlights from the October 2015 Lennar Mare Island, LLC, Progress Report.

Mare Island has more than 100 businesses, 2,400 full-time jobs, occupying 3.5 million square feet of space. Lennar Mare Island's (LMI) environmental cleanup, infrastructure work, and building rehabilitation efforts translate to tens of millions of dollars of investment each year. The impact of Mare Island's economy reaches far and wide, in Vallejo, the greater Bay Area, and beyond. Some of the successes and contributions of major Mare Island businesses are:

- Mare Island's PackagingArts is celebrating its 20th year in business. Of those 20 years, the company has been located on Mare Island for the past 15. Along with sister company Affinity Creative Group, they occupy two of Mare Island's historic officer's mansions with about 23 employees. More information can be found at www.packagingarts.com and www.affinitycreative.com
- Enclos, a façade manufacturer, is working on a variety of high-profile projects around the Bay Area, including the new UCSF Medical Center, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art expansion, and the new San Francisco General Hospital. Enclos assembles, sequences, and installs curtain walls out of their Mare Island facility. Learn more at www.enclos.com
- Alstom Transport Inc. has operated on Mare Island since 2009, using the Island's unique resources to restore and refurbish rail cars. High-profile clients at its Mare Island facility in Vallejo include Amtrak and Rocky Mountaineer. Alstom employs more than 50 people at its Mare Island facility.

- Mare Island Dry Dock LLC came to Mare Island in 2013 and has had many high-profile military and civilian ships along the waterfront. On August 26, the MV Cape Orlando came to the Mare Island Dry Dock LLC for maintenance and repair work. The ship completed work and left Dry Dock #2 on October 6, 2015.



MV Cape Orlando filling Dry Dock #2



MV Cape Orlando departing Dry Dock #2

For more information about the progress on Mare Island, visit the Lennar website at www.discovermareisland.com.

Alco Iron and Metal Company is Back in Operation after Devastating Fire

On August 20, 2015, a 3-alarm fire at 629 Azuar Drive (former MINS Building 629) burned the 62,500 square foot building to the ground. In October 2015, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that Alco Iron and Metal Company, utilizing the foundation of its destroyed building, was fully operational for the scrap metal recycling portion of their business. The California Refund Value (CRV) aluminum can recycling portion of the business will not be back in operation for at least another six months. Alco was one of the first anchor tenants on Mare Island after the Shipyard closed in 1996.

Solano County's "Best of 2015" Names Mare Island Sites/Businesses

The results of this year's voting for Solano's Best were released in November and included the following Mare Island related sites and/or businesses:

- Best Bar and Tavern – Mare Island Brewing Company

- Best Bartender – Cody at Mare Island Brewing Company
- Best Place for a Wedding – Saint Peter’s Chapel
- Best Place for a Reception/Private Party – Admirals Mansions on Mare Island
- 1st runner-up: Best Golf Course – Mare Island Golf Club

Vino Godfather Wine Tasting Room Opens

On Saturday, October 17, 2015 the wine tasting room in historic officer’s mansion Quarters O, located on Walnut Avenue, opened for business. On the opening day, because the weather was nice and warm, the wine tasting included the outdoor garden area behind the mansion. Initially, the wine tasting room will be open on Saturdays during the fall months. For more details, go to website: www.vinogodfather.com

Mare Island Naval Shipyard Sign on Machine Shop Lights up the Night Sky

A joint effort between Lennar Mare Island and the occupant of Building 680, Blu Homes, resulted in repainting of the large metal block letters displaying “Mare Island Naval Shipyard” located on the east side of the center bay of the former Inside Machine Shop. The sign was visible from across the Mare Island Strait for many years prior to base closure. Energy efficient lights have also been installed for nighttime illumination of the sign, which once again lights up the night sky.

Mare Island’s Historic Prison Building May be Demolished

In November 2015, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that due to concerns over levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found in Building 84, the structure may need to be torn down. The brick structure was built in the 1860s and was the first “purpose-built” Naval prison in the country. At its height, the Mare Island Prison held 650 Navy and Marine inmates. The Navy closed the prison in 1946, at which time the prison inmate population

was at 71. The destiny of Building 84 is still under review, and further information will be provided in future NYA newsletters.

Mare Island Causeway Repair Status

The Vallejo Times Herald reported on November 3, 2015, that the first stage of repairs to the causeway, which started on July 6, were now complete, and the final phase is underway. The south section of the bridge’s west end is now open to traffic and the north section of the west end has been demolished to support pile driving and reconstruction of that section. The entire project will cost about \$3.5 million—the bulk of which will be paid for by the California Department of Transportation. The bridge repair work continues through the end of 2015, with the final completion and reopening to two-way traffic in January 2016. Until that time, the traffic flow on the bridge continues to be: West-bound traffic is one-way entering from the east end via the Tennessee Street Gate. No east-bound traffic is allowed on the causeway bridge; all vehicles exiting Mare Island go through the north gate while structural repairs are performed on the west end of the bridge.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

USS VALLEJO 50-Year Celebration

On Friday, October 23, 2015, a group of former Mare Islanders and Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) volunteers gathered at the Mare Island Museum to celebrate the 50th anniversary (October 23, 1965) of the launching of the Polaris submarine USS MARIANO GUADALUPE VALLEJO (SSBN 658). Those in attendance also celebrated another milestone; namely the landing of the actual VALLEJO’s periscope through the roof of the Museum in Building 46. The periscope was then lowered into the VALLEJO Control Room—reconstructed from the actual submarine’s control room components delivered to the MIHPF by the Navy prior to the

submarine being scrapped at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. At the ceremony, former Shipyard employee Tom Cosso presented wooden models of the VALLEJO to the individuals instrumental in the reconstruction of the VALLEJO Control Room and installation of the periscope. The NYA recognizes the following individuals for their tireless efforts in this regard: Bill Linne (former USS VALLEJO crew member), John Chamberlin, Sam Shoults, Rod Lissey, Roger Lambert, Bob Smith, Jim Porterfield, Alex Gilmore, Richard Brink, and Jack Tamargo.

Causeway Bridge Tower Mare's Head Logo Restoration Making Progress

Former Mare Island Naval Shipyard electrician, Tom Watson continues to lead the charge to restore the badly faded mare's head logo located atop the eastern tower of the Ernest Wichels Causeway (Tennessee Street entrance). Working in conjunction with the MIHPF, many former Mare Island employees, and members of several affiliated unions of Mare Island, more than \$10,000 has been raised to cover the cost of the work. Watson plans to have the logo restored by April 1, 2016, the 20th anniversary of the closure of the Shipyard. Donations to the logo restoration fund can be made by going to the Mare Island Museum website: www.mareislandmuseum.org

Saint Peter's Chapel Pipe Organ Earthquake Damage Repaired

The 6.0 earthquake that hit the Napa-Vallejo area in August 2014, resulted in extensive damage to the pipe organ in Saint Peter's Chapel on Walnut Avenue. In September, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) allocated \$11,000 for repair of the organ, which was installed in 1929 and updated in 1966. The repair of the 31 massive organ pipes was performed by Schoenstein and Company from Benicia. Company representatives consider the repair will allow the organ pipes to remain in place in the event of another, similar earthquake.

Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 484, of which 219 are dental plan members.

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of John Walker, Jr., Rita Rapacon, and Frank Silvestri.

Welcome to new members Thomas L Combs and Bernice Padgett, recruited by Shirley Gotro; and Lionel Parriera, recruited by Rudy Balli. Welcome back to returning members Donald Dopkins (2013), James Gallagher (2012, recruited by Jim Millholland), Kathi Johnson (2008, recruited by Ralph McComb), and William Schneider (2014).

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

For this year's final edition, I'll break from tradition and talk about an organization near and dear to my heart. In my role as President of Vallejo NARFE's Chapter 16, I encourage you—wherever you are—please join and help raise the membership numbers and increase the voice of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees. This organization is dedicated to protecting the annuities and health benefits of current and retired Federal employees, and there are chapters all over the U.S. Currently, NARFE is actively trying to pass HR 4144. To learn more about what the bill is all about and how it might save you money, visit the NARFE website at www.narfe.org. (By the way, currently there are \$10 membership rebates from both the National level and the California Federation. That's a real bargain!) Keeping your hard-earned benefits and perhaps adding even more are two of the best benefits you can treat yourself to this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you!