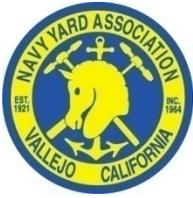


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
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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: Dotty 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

months past that mark for the shipyard's closure and a few short months from our Closure Plus 20 Years Reunion. No one left Mare Island unchanged. But, we all retain the memories of the unique experience of being part of the Mare Island family. The shipyard's history is part of ours, and won't be forgotten. That sense of belonging is just part of what we hope to share as we gather together on Saturday, October 1, 2016. So, please spread the word to everyone you know, and join us in a day of remembrance and shared camaraderie!

Another milestone we'll take notice of is the 95th Anniversary of the formation of the Navy Yard Association of Mare Island. The NYA's history is no less illustrious than the shipyard's, and we all owe a moment of fond thought for the organization that did so much to help establish benefits for Federal employees.

As you all know, these NYA events are made possible by the caring and giving hearts of ex-Shipyard employees and NYA Directors, such as Veronica (Cullum) Laird, Sonya (Croinex) Domingo, Lloyd Mahan, Robin Leong, James Porter, Bruce Christensen, Howard and Mary Ann Fitzpatrick, Gordon and Jan Triemert, Rudy Balli, Carmen Merriman, Rich Wright, Mary Rutland, and all their significant others (who don't get mentioned nearly enough but who help all these great people to keep at it). So, when you're at the event and see one of them, offer them your thanks for the great food and good time!

Speaking of the event, here's what you can expect: lunch at Quarters A, souvenirs, prizes, music by the Air Force Band, prizes, free access to the Mare Island Museum, and prizes! Thanks to the recent graduation party of one of the smartest kids I know (Bella, you know who you are!) and her knack-for-great-party-planning mom (our own

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Twenty years is no small amount of time, by any standards. Yet, here we are—merely a few

Sonya!), this year's lunch offering will be some excellent Mexican food from local vendors!

Advance notice is most appreciated (how else can we make sure we have enough of the tasty food we'll offer?). The bonus for advance notice is the cost. Advance tickets are \$5 for NYA members plus one guest. Additional guests are \$15 per person. For non-members, the cost is \$15 each (which includes membership through the end of the year, AND you can bring a guest for free). Walk-ins on the day of the event will be \$10 for NYA members and \$15 for non-members. Please plan to reserve your tickets as soon as possible! There's a tear-off at the end of the newsletter. Just fill it out and drop it in the mail to us, along with your money. We'll add you to the list!

We hope this year's event will be truly memorable for everyone. We hope to see you all there!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Twenty Years after Closure

Friday, April 1, 2016, marked the 20th Anniversary of the day Mare Island Naval Shipyard closed its doors after serving the Navy for 142 years.

On March 12, 1993, the Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin, reported that the Bay Area's Naval Bases were the least important on the west coast, and he officially recommended that they all be closed. On June 25, 1993, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRACC) voted unanimously (7 to 0) to close Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

After the decision to close Mare Island was made, the Shipyard Commander, Captain John Cavender, met with the shipyard employees and said: "I ask each of you to continue in the Mare

Island tradition of service and give your best to your shipyard."

Afterwards, the lives of thousands of employees were changed significantly and major hardships were encountered. Many employees relocated to find employment, many retired, several stayed in the area and found employment and/or started their own business, and a contingent of about 100 Mare Island workers opted to continue to work with the Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Portsmouth, VA (SSPORTS), Environmental Detachment, performing environmental remediation at Mare Island and other shuttered military bases for more than three years after closure. These additional work assignments with SSSPORTS gave the majority of those workers sufficient years of federal service to allow them to retire.

Now, 20 years after closure, approximately 2,300 persons are employed on Mare Island—a far cry from the approximately 9,000 jobs that existed when the decision was made to close the Shipyard in 1993.

Another Fire Ravages North Mare Island Structure

In late March, Building 503, located at the corner of Walnut Avenue and 'J' Street, burned in the middle of the night. Six Vallejo fire engines responded to the blaze, and it was extinguished before the building was totally demolished. As has been the common thread for past fires in buildings located on the north end of Mare Island, there was evidence that this vacant building had been occupied.

Western Dovetail Back in Business after 2014 Earthquake

In April 2016, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that Western Dovetail, a custom cabinet company that has conducted business on Mare Island for more than 10 years, is now back in

operation after being relocated to the former Shipyard Pipe Shop, Building 126.

Western Dovetail was originally located in the former Shipwrights (Woodworking) Shop inside historic brick Building 118. Unfortunately, the company was displaced by the August 2014 earthquake when significant damage to the structure occurred, resulting in the building being red-tagged as uninhabitable.

Mare Island Dry Dock Company Expansion Approved

On Monday April 18, 2016, the Vallejo Planning Commission voted unanimously to allow the Mare Island Dry Dock (MIDD) Company to increase their hours of operation to 24 hours per day and 7 days per week, when required to meet ship repair and maintenance schedules. While working only day-shift, MIDD has performed marine vessel repairs in Dry Docks 2 and 3 since 2013 and currently has several million dollars in contracts to perform work for various government and private entities.

During the Planning Commission meeting, several NYA members spoke in favor of allowing the MIDD to work nights and weekends. Some Vallejo residents voiced objections to the potential for increased noise, additional air particulate, and bright lights during the expanded working hours; however, MIDD assured everyone that that nighttime work would only be conducted to complete urgent work.

Mare Island's Blu Homes Previews New Product Lines

In April, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that Blu Homes had unveiled 16 new products from its Mare Island-based facility. After seven years of operation on Mare Island, the "green" pre-fab home designer and builder is offering a third generation of products which includes "tiny" or "mini" models of Blu Homes. The three smallest homes have floor plans with areas of 400 square feet, 640 square feet, and 840 square feet.

Regarding the new tiny homes, Blu Homes CEO Bill Haney said; "It's a cultural movement. A cultural change appears to be underway, as evidenced by the nationwide interest in the so-called tiny or mini homes."

Waterfront Promenade Taking Shape

On May 20, 2016, Lennar Mare Island reported on the development of the visitor-oriented Historic Core with pedestrian connection from Alden Park to the Mare Island waterfront promenade. This effort will include the adjacent parking lot and Wichels Park.

The overall plan for this area includes:

- Increased public access along the waterfront
- Enhanced pedestrian and bicycle connections
- Reconfiguration of Wichels Park to include new tables and trash receptacles
- Expansion and improvements to the existing parking lot

Touro University Mare Island Class of 2016 Graduation Ceremonies

In May 2016, advance degrees were presented to 449 students from Touro University. The University initially moved into the vacated Navy hospital area located at the south end of Mare Island in 1999 with an inaugural student body of 67 students. Touro University now occupies 23 buildings on 44 acres of land and in 2016 graduated the largest class since arriving at Mare Island.

Faraday Future Electric Vehicle Manufacturer to Open on Mare Island?

On May 24, 2016, the City of Vallejo announced that negotiations were underway to bring electric vehicle startup Faraday Future to Mare Island's north end. Faraday Future is a 2-year old private company based in the Los Angeles area, with its first U.S. manufacturing facility located in North Las Vegas, NV.

On May 31, the Vallejo City Council unanimously approved an Exclusive Right to Negotiate (ERN) for setting timelines and terms for the negotiations between the City and Faraday.

The entire area being considered north of G Street contains 157 acres and will require extensive demolition as well as addressing geotechnical issues in the area. The cost for making this area ready for construction is estimated to be in excess of \$50 million, which will be the responsibility of Faraday Future.

Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 465, of which 210 are dental plan members.

As of the printing of this issue, we have 146 people signed up for the Closure Plus 20 Years Reunion on Saturday, October 1, 2016! Submit your reservation today (you'll find a tear-off reservation form in this issue).

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends on the loss of Robert Ensminger.

Welcome back to returning members William Martin (2006); Frank San Nicolas (1995); Jerry Welsh (2012), recruited by Chuck Stephenson; Tanya Wigger (2013); and Raymond Wigger (2013), recruited by Tanya Wigger.

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Clearly the best benefit for your NYA dollars is the Closure Plus 20 Years Reunion in October. Your NYA Officers have just decided what goodies will go in your bag. So far, we have 146 people signed up.

We've established the NYA of Mare Island social media presence on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1010509199018933/>

Please visit the page and "like" the group so former Mare Islanders who are your Facebook friends can get information on the reunion. NYA member Dennis Kelly has been a great contributor to this site and has shared some wonderful bits of Mare Island history. I've learned a lot from these posts. I am sure there are others in the NYA family with stories to share. Please fill the site with your Mare Island historical (and hysterical) information.

In order to serve you better (since the NYA office is not staffed) and to save more money for future reunions, we have discontinued our business (landline) phone service. Now, I have a mobile phone with the same easy-to-remember number of (707) 562-1812. Please be patient with me, as I learn how to use a flip phone.

Navy Yard Association "Closure Plus 20 Years" Reunion Saturday, October 1, 2016

Yes! I'm an NYA member, and I plan to attend the reunion!

My name is _____.

I will bring a guest, and their name is

_____.

Enclosed is my \$5.

or

I'm not an NYA member, but I want to attend the reunion AND have NYA membership for the rest of the year.

My name is _____.

I will bring a guest, and their name is

_____.

Enclosed is my \$15.