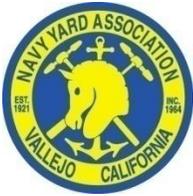


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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

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Volume XV Issue 1

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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

Shop 38 Luncheon

Denny's, 1701 E. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville
 April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9, December 11
 POC: Bill Cruz, stskills@castles.com

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

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Once again, I welcome you to our annual membership drive newsletter—filled with information we hope you look forward to and enjoy.

The membership drive issue always reminds me how grateful I am for our amazing Officers and Directors. We are completely a volunteer organization, and several of our members still work full time in their careers. Their dedication to keeping the NYA alive and strong is the only reason we're still here. Whether it's coming to the monthly meetings, handling the paperwork and finances, planning and staffing reunions, or producing this quarterly newsletter, our officers and directors are always there and getting things done—for the good of the membership.

For example, in a small organization like ours, this newsletter wouldn't be possible without the efforts of a dedicated group of individuals who donate their time to keeping the NYA going more than 20 years after the Shipyard closed. The newsletter includes news from around the island by our good friend, Bruce Christensen; membership stats from James Porter; member benefits (however few!) by Robin Leong; and other tidbits from me. Then, the newsletter is supplemented, assembled, and sent to a local printer by Executive Secretary Veronica Laird (who works 65-plus hours per week at NASA); it's paid for (and the books are reconciled and the checkbook is balanced) by Treasurer Lloyd Mahan, and the box of newsletters is picked up from the local printer by Membership Director Jim Porter and delivered to the NYA

Office. Benefits Director Robin Leong (who volunteers his time in many other organizations and travels the world regularly) buys the envelopes, labels, and stamps needed; manages and maintains the NYA membership database; and prints the hundreds of mailing labels needed for each issue. If Robin is out of the country, another Director willingly picks up that job, such as Recording Sonya Domingo (who works 60-plus hours a week as a Patent Paralegal *and* provides members with free Notary Public service). Next, NYA Officers—along with our always caring Directors Carmen Merriman, Gordon and Jan Triemert, Howard and Mary Ann Fitzpatrick, and Rich Wright meet up to fold the newsletters and stuff envelopes. Finally, someone (usually Jim or Robin) has to take the heavy box of newsletters to the Post Office for mailing. Once a year, we have the membership drive that adds producing membership cards and data strips and ensuring each NYA member gets only the membership information applicable to them. I'm sure you can see that a lot of effort goes in to keeping the NYA going strong. I'm proud to be part of the NYA. And, as always, I'm grateful to my fellow NYA members for keeping us a part of your lives.

I wouldn't be doing my job as president if I didn't include my encouragement to you to please take a few moments now to take care of your membership renewal. The details are later in this issue, but I hope you'll take a moment to renew your membership with the NYA. The low membership fee of \$15 annually helps pay for the cost of producing this newsletter—as well as the occasional reunion.

If you haven't visited the NYA's Facebook page recently, you should take a look. NYA Past-President Dennis Kelly continues to add interesting historical stories. Please be sure to "friend" us—if you haven't already—and buckets of thanks to Dennis for keeping the page fresh and interesting!

Pssst! Former Shop 38 coworker Bill Cruz is finally hanging up one of his hats and having a milestone birthday! Bill's daughter is organizing the celebration of Bill's 75th birthday on April 29, 2017,

and has set up an e-mail address for folks who are interesting in attending. Get more information by sending an e-mail to Bills75th@yahoo.com.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of you for keeping this going another year—21 years since the Shipyard closed and 96 years since the Navy Yard Association of Mare Island was incorporated—great job, everyone!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Book Signing at Mare Island Museum

On the 21st Anniversary of the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard—Saturday, April 1, 2017, at 1:00pm, Jake Sloan, author of the book about the Mare Island 21ers, will be signing copies of his book, "Standing Tall: Willie Long and the Mare Island Original 21ers." Mr. Sloan—one of the original Mare Island 21ers—will sign copies of his book that afternoon at the Mare Island Museum located at 1100 Railroad Avenue. He will be accompanied during the event by other surviving members of the Mare Island 21ers, Clarence Williams, Jim Davis, and Vernon Taylor. As part of the book signing event, Sloan will give a short presentation about the group of African American workers at Mare Island who secretly joined together in the early 1960s to protest what they considered to be unfair treatment of the minorities working on the Shipyard. The public is invited to attend this event and copies of the book will be on sale at \$15 apiece.

Mare Island Brewing Company to Sponsor USS Indianapolis Event

On Tuesday, April 4, and Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 6:00pm, Mare Island Brewing Company and Lennar Mare Island will sponsor a viewing of the film, "USS Indianapolis, The Legacy," which will be shown in the Mare Island Museum. This film is the story of the sinking of the World War II

cruiser, Indianapolis (CA-35), in July 1945, and the ordeals of the 880 men who got off in the ship twelve minutes before she sank.

The doors to the Museum open at 6:00pm and there will be a Happy Hour until the film begins at 7:00pm. Beer, wine, and soda, as well as popcorn and candies will be on sale during the showing.

Admission tickets to the show are \$10 and can be purchased online at: <http://www.mareislandbrewingco.com/store>. Tickets purchased online will be at “Will Call” the night of the showing. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Mare Island Brewing Company or at Visit Vallejo—both located in the Vallejo Ferry Terminal—and at the Mare Island Museum during normal business hours. You may also call the Mare Island Museum at (707) 557-4646 or (707) 280-5742 to purchase tickets using a major credit card.

Proceeds from this event will be shared by the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) and the scholarship fund of the USS Indianapolis (Gwinn “Angel” Scholarship Fund). Tax deductible donations may be made payable to the “MIHPF” or “Gwinn Angel Scholarship Fund” and are very welcome.

Status of Power Plant Smokestack

On Wednesday, March 1, 2017, Lennar Mare Island (LMI) commenced actions to disassemble and remove the top section of the Power Plant smokestack at Building 121 on Mare Island. The Vallejo Times Herald reported that the 6.0 magnitude 2014 Napa Valley earthquake caused concrete to break off the top of the 240-foot stack. Although the remainder of the stack appears to be intact, various engineering studies have concluded that additional damage to the stack was so significant that even a moderate event (like another earthquake) could cause a partial collapse of the stack. By mid-March 2017, more than 100 feet of the stack had been removed. A spokesman for LMI explained that the demolition will continue until the

structure is deemed to no longer be a threat to the public.

Alstom – Mare Island Wins Multi-Million Dollar Contract

In February 2017, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that France-based Alstom and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency had signed a two-year \$14.5 million extension contract for an inventory control program. This program, called Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI), will help the SF Transportation Agency improve the fleet availability of their 151 light rail vehicles, 40 cable cars, and 26 historic streetcars. The Alstom railcar repair facility commenced operations on Mare Island in 2010 in Building 599 (first large building between Nimitz and Railroad Avenues just south of the Causeway [G Street]).

New Mare Island Ferry Terminal Open for Passengers

On March 6, 2017, the Mare Island Ferry Terminal located at Berth 10 was opened to the public for water transportation to Vallejo and San Francisco. The multi-million dollar Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) project completed in October 2016, and it is the northern San Francisco Bay Area watercraft maintenance and repair facility. The schedule for the Mare Island departures and arrivals can be found on the San Francisco – Vallejo Ferry website www.vallejoferry.com/vallejo-ferry-schedule.

Passengers may ride the ferry from Mare Island to Vallejo and return at a cost of \$1.60. Those passengers wishing to continue on from Vallejo to San Francisco will pay the standard rates for those trips.

Vallejo Transit Offers Free Bus Transportation to Mare Island

In January, 2017, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that the Solano County Transportation Agency (SolTrans) would provide free bus service between Vallejo and Mare Island through the

month of February 2017. Based on bus rider results for one month, in early March, SolTrans reported that the free bus trips would be extended until May 27, 2017. Busses depart from and return to the Vallejo downtown transit center on Sacramento Street and offer free WiFi, passenger seat belts, and wheel chair access. Once the SolTrans bus arrives on Mare Island, it will make stops at the Vallejo Unified School District offices, the Global Center for Success, the Veterans Affairs Center, Touro University, the Mare Island Museum, and the Mare Island Ferry Terminal.

For those interested in riding the bus to Mare Island, schedule information is available at www.soltrans.com or by phone at (707) 648-4666. The Mare Island bus is "Route 9 Mare Island."

Mare Island Dry Dock Company Welcomes Several Vessels in Early 2017

During the months of January through March 2017, four ships arrived at Mare Island for various repairs. The first to arrive into Dry Dock 2 in January was the Pacific Responder, a Class 1 Oil Recovery Vessel operated by the Marine Spill Response Corporation. In February, the USNS Yukon (T-AO-202), Fleet Replenishment Oiler, arrived and was moored alongside Mare Island Berths 11 and 12 to undergo repairs. In March, the U.S. Navy Research Vessel (R/V), Kilo Moana, which is operated by the University of Hawaii, replaced the Pacific Responder in Dry Dock #2, and the Pacific Responder was moored at Berth 13. Additionally, in early March the USAV General Brehon B. Somervell (LVS-3), a U.S. Army Reserve Logistics Support Vessel, was docked in Dry Dock #3. By mid-March 2017, the USNS Yukon and the Pacific Responder completed repairs and departed Mare Island.

Lennar Mare Island Resumes Home Construction

Despite inclement weather, LMI has recently constructed the first two new (model) homes at the south end of Flagship Drive near the intersection with Club Drive. Seven additional

residential properties adjacent to the model homes are in various stages of construction with visible utility and foundation work in progress. There are already 324 homes on Mare Island; however, LMI indicates that the designated residential area will be able to sustain a maximum build-out of 1,400 homes.

Blu Homes to Leave Mare Island

The Vallejo Times Herald reported in January 2017 that Blu Homes, the 'green' prefab home manufacturer on Mare Island, plans to move its factory operations out of Mare Island's Building 680. Blu Homes' move from Mare Island will be to relocate to a less expensive facility, probably in another state. Blu Homes, which was founded in Massachusetts about a decade ago, arrived in California in 2012 and moved its manufacturing operations into the 250,000 square foot former Inside Machine Shop (X-31). Currently, this huge building is about four times larger than is required by Blu Homes to manufacture the prefab homes that are being built. Blu Homes also cites the excessive insurance and environmental requirements required of businesses in California as contributing to their desire to relocate outside the state.

For further information and viewing, Blu Homes has now constructed a second model home, available for inspection, on Club Drive near the Flagship Drive intersection. These homes will continue to be displayed by Blu Homes' local marketing personnel headquartered on Mare Island.

Update on Faraday Futures at Mare Island

In March 2017, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that Faraday Futures had been granted another extension in the Right to Negotiate Agreement with the City of Vallejo regarding the purchase of the North Mare Island 157 acre parcel. While the first extension in 2016 was for 90 days, this extension was for only 45 days. It is reported that Faraday is currently in a \$1.8 million legal battle with another contractor and that work has been stopped on Faraday's first production facility in

North Las Vegas, NV. These financial issues have impacted any further progress on the Faraday Mare Island project.

On March 24, 2017, Faraday Futures officially announced to the City of Vallejo the following: “Due to the new strategy to focus corporate efforts on development of its first vehicle and plant in North Las Vegas, Faraday Future has decided to end its Exclusive Right to Negotiate with the City of Vallejo.”

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

Annual Memorial Day Event to be held at Mare Island Cemetery

On Monday, May 29, 2017 at 9:00am, the MIHPF will host the public at the 21st annual Memorial Day Ceremony, which has been held at the Mare Island Cemetery every year since the Shipyard closed in 1996. As in the past, the RADM Richard O’Kane Division of the Sea Cadet Corps will provide the color guard for the ceremony, and bugler Ronald Acquistapace will play “Taps” during the laying of a wreath at the USS BOSTON Monument. Please plan to join with former Mare Islanders and their guests at this popular event.

St. Peter’s Chapel to get a New Roof

The Vallejo Times Herald reported in February 2017 that the City of Vallejo will have a new roof installed on historic St. Peter’s Chapel. The Chapel was built in 1901 and, although there has been no significant rain damage to the structures inside the building, the wood shingle roof and wooden rain gutters must be replaced in order to prevent further deterioration. The work was planned to be performed between March and May—a time during which Chapel usage is minimal. However, due to the recent inclement weather and the late arrival of materials, St. Peter’s Chapel will be closed from August 21 through September 30, 2017.

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 you 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.

2017 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

If your newsletter includes an envelope that is pre-addressed to the NYA, here's what you need to do:

- 1. Review the data on the card strip to the left of your new membership card.**
- 2. Mark any changes or corrections directly on the card strip.**
- 3. Cut the card on the dotted line, and keep your new membership card.**
- 4. Return the contact information portion of the card strip, along with your \$15 membership dues, in the self-addressed envelope provided.**

If your newsletter contains your membership card ONLY, your dues are collected electronically. While no action is necessary for you, this would be a great time to make sure we have your current contact information and make updates if anything has changed.

Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 507, of which 203 are dental plan members. This is the first time since the Shipyard closed that we have more members than the preceding year! Perhaps this was due—in part—to our very successful NYA reunion last October. Please pass the word that the NYA is still here!

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Russell Holt.

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Welcome to our 2017 membership drive! We are only as strong as our membership, so I hope you'll take the time to renew your membership today.

It's true that the NYA once offered many true benefits. Sadly, we aren't able to offer many benefits these days due to our decreased numbers. But, our number one benefit is still the dental plans we offer to current and retired Federal employees. And, eligible members may sign up for one of our plans any time. There's no need to wait for an open season. If you're interested, please contact Integrity Administrators at (800) 562-9383 or (916) 921-3386 or write to them at: Integrity Administrators, P.O. Box 13128, Sacramento, CA 95813-3128 or via e-mail to Melissa Nelson at mnelson@integrityadmin.com.

Another benefit (although not ours) is we can point you in the right direction to get your Department of Defense retired identification (if, of course, you retired from DoD). This card unlocks quite a few benefits, such as using military facilities' amenities to access bowling alleys, RV parks, and golf courses. You can also use your card to obtain time share condominiums throughout the world from Resort Condominiums International (RCI). You can obtain the card from Travis AFB or the Coast Guard Station in Alameda. Make an appointment through their websites.

We wish fair winds and following seas to Bruce Balbin, who has long offered NYA members a discount on smog checks. Bruce is shutting down his smog shop (so, no more discounts), but he offers his sincere thanks to all the NYA members who gave him their business over the years. Best of luck to you, Bruce, in your second retirement!

I've answered several calls from ex-Mare Islanders looking for a job this past month. They saw the ships on the pier and wondered what's up? I tell them to call Mare Island Dry Dock LLC at (707) 652-7360 or visit them on Mare Island at 1180 Nimitz Avenue, and speak to their Human Services department. If you know someone who's interested, please pass the word.

If you're a member who is signed up to receive your newsletter by e-mail, and you didn't receive it, please contact me right away! Most likely, your excellent firewall is the culprit, and you just need to update your safe sender settings. But, I'm happy to make sure you get your newsletter, so just send a note to me at robin_leong@netzero.net.

As a reminder, we no longer have a landline phone. Instead, our phone number rings on a cell phone. Due to the large number of telemarketer calls (even after registering on the Do No Call list!), most calls won't be picked up right away. So, if there's no answer when you call, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page! Dennis Kelly continues to upload great stories, interesting facts, and all things Mare Island. This is a closed group, so just request permission to join. Once a member of the group, you can share your stories there, too. Visit us on Facebook at:

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

**NAVY YARD ASSOCIATION OF MARE ISLAND
2017 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Do your part to support the Association that was “Created for Those Who Served and Continued by Those Who Care.” The NYA does its best to keep you informed about progress in the reuse of Mare Island and provide information for former employees of the Mare Island Complex. Join the NYA for unbelievably low annual membership dues of only \$15 and receive a quarterly newsletter providing updates about Mare Island, as well as listings of money-saving benefits available to NYA members. Help us to preserve the legacy of this great military base and the history that surrounds it as we embrace a new era on Mare Island—one that is rich with the promise of successful businesses, job opportunities, education, and recreation for those living in the surrounding areas. Join with the hundreds of Mare Island supporters who are already members and send your membership application and dues to us TODAY!

NOTE: If you, as a member of the NYA, recommend another individual, who joins the NYA, you will receive a gift for your efforts. Multiple gifts are available for recruiting multiple members. Simply fill in your name on the "Recommended by" blank of the membership application below, prior to returning it to the NYA.

NYA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2017

Name

Mailing Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

Recommended by: _____

Affiliation with Mare Island:

_____ Currently Employed at Mare Island: Government _____ Private _____

_____ Retired from Mare Island: Government _____ Private _____

_____ Actively involved with efforts concerning Mare Island, such as:

_____ Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

_____ US Navy or other Military (specify: _____)

_____ Navy League

_____ National Association of Retired Federal Employees

_____ Restoration Advisory Board

_____ Student attending College at Mare Island

_____ Not directly involved with Mare Island, but interested in the future of the island.

Please complete the above form and send it with a check or money order for \$15 made payable to “NYA” to:
NYA, P.O. Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084