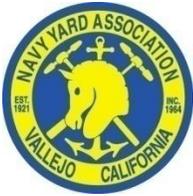


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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

Welcome to our midyear edition of our newsletter. First, I'd like to thank all of you for continuing your membership in this Mare Island family journal, and I wish you health and happiness as we begin our summer of fun.

This time—instead of pointing out what a fantastic group of Officers and Directors we have, and how their hard work and dedication keeps our group running like a well-oiled machine—I thought I'd share with you some observations about our very hard-working friends in another group that continues to look out for the well-being of all of us—the Officers and active members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE).

One thing that inspired me to write about our friends at NARFE is that many of their Officers and Directors are also current Officers or Directors of the NYA, such as Howard Fitzpatrick, Gordon Triemert, James Porter, or current Vallejo NARFE Chapter President Robin Leong. These folks are incredibly giving and generous with their time. For example, NARFE members are diligently spreading the word about items in the President's proposed FY18 budget that will have serious negative effects for Federal retirees—proposed reductions in COLAs, which was a huge surprise to read about. So, I forwarded that out to a few friends to see the letter-writing campaign being organized. I was surprised by the number of people who thanked me. Not because they thanked me (which I'll admit was great!) but for the information. Crazy as it seems, this is all going on without the affected

retirees even being aware of it. I supposed that part of it isn't all that strange, but to see retirees taking another hit just doesn't seem fair. Anyway, our friends at NARFE continue to have our back and are working to prevent that from happening. So, I thought this would be a terrific time to thank NARFE for everything they do for us and have done over the years. You know, if you have any questions about NARFE, I'm sure Robin wouldn't mind answering all of them.

I hope you enjoy the June newsletter— thanks again to Veronica and all the contributors— and have a blessed summer.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Betty Burgelin Celebrates the Big Nine-Nine

In March 2017, the widow of past NYA President Lou Burgelin celebrated her 99th birthday in Vallejo with family and friends. Lou Bergelin died in 2009 at the age of 93. The NYA sends its fondest wishes to Betty!

More than 150 attend Mare Island 21er Book Signing

On Saturday, April 1, 2017, Jake Sloan, author of the book, "Standing Tall: Willie Long and the Mare Island Original 21ers," held a book signing event at the Mare Island Museum. Mr. Sloan and the other three surviving members of the Mare Island 21ers, Clarence Williams, Jim Davis, and Louis Greer, were on hand to welcome more than 150 attendees, including former Mare Island employees and family members of the deceased Mare Island 21ers. Sloan give a brief presentation about his book, describing 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 minority workers on the Shipyard. Following the presentation, those in attendance participated in a

question-and-answer session, during which each of the 21ers described their involvement in this historical movement.

St. Peters Chapel's New Roof Installation Delayed

The City of Vallejo reported in March 2017 that the contractor's work on the new roof to be installed on historic St. Peters Chapel would be delayed. The work was originally planned to be performed between March and May 2017; however, due to the continued and unpredictable spring weather and the strong possibility of work continuing into the already scheduled-wedding season, the job mobilization and duration of the project has been changed to occur between August 21 and September 29, 2017.

Savage and Cooke Distillery Construction in Progress

In early April 2017, Savage and Cooke commenced major construction work at the site of their new Mare Island location in Buildings 45 and 65; located just north of the Mare Island Museum (Building 46). The construction work is scheduled to proceed through the summer, and the Distillery and Tasting Room is expected to open in the Fall of 2017.

The Savage and Cooke facility will have a 30,000 square foot production space, as well as a tasting room, patio, rooftop deck, and offices.



Distillery Construction at Bldg. 45

Mare Island U.S. Army Reservists Called Up

On April 23, 2017, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that more than 20 Army Reserve troops from the Mare Island 201st Transportation Detachment departed their home base at Mare Island for deployment to the Persian Gulf—Camp Patriot, at the Kuwait Naval Base.

Vallejo Times-Herald Publishing a History of Mare Island and Vallejo

In May 2017, the Vallejo Times-Herald began publishing a series of articles with the following introduction, “Vallejo is a city that oozes history, a city where legends and tall tales are waiting on every street, from the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum right by our new [Times-Herald] digs over on Marin Street, to the epic stories drifting through the wind over what once was Mare Island [Naval Shipyard].”

Brendan Riley started his biweekly “Solano Chronicles” with a special front page introduction on Sunday, May 14, 2017. Brendon was raised in Vallejo in a newspaper family. His father, Wyman Riley, was executive editor of the Vallejo Times-Herald and News-Chronicle and publisher of the Vallejo Independent Press. His mother, Marjorie Western Riley, was an author and newspaper columnist.

Brendan got into the newspaper world at age 10, first delivering the morning and evening Vallejo papers, then as a Times-Herald messenger and, after graduating from St. Mary’s College, as a Times-Herald reporter. As a Vietnam veteran, he served two years aboard the USS Haleakala, a Navy ammunition ship, upon which many Mare Island employees will recall working. He is inviting the public to contribute any material that fits the History of Vallejo/Mare Island topic by either emailing: genoans@hotmail.com or mailing: Vallejo Times-Herald, 420 Virginia St, Vallejo 94590.

Mare Island Dry Dock Company Workload Continues Steady in 2017

In April 2017, two new ship availabilities started at Mare Island with the arrival of the Oil-Skimming Vessel, California Responder, into Dry Dock #2 and the US Coast Guard Ice Breaker, Polar Star (WAGB-10), into Dry Dock #3.

The California Responder, operated by the Marine Spill Corporation, is based in Port Hueneme, CA, and followed her sister ship, the Pacific Responder, into Dry Dock #2. The Pacific Responder left Mare Island to operate along the Pacific Coast earlier this year.



California Responder in DD#2

The USCG Ship Polar Star is the only remaining Coast Guard Ice-Breaker, since her sister ship, the Polar Sea was taken out of service in 2010 due to engine failures.



USCG Polar Star in DD#3

Other ships recently completing Mare Island Dry Dock availabilities were U.S. Navy Research Vessel Kilo Moana, which is operated by the University of Hawaii and the USAV General Brehon B. Somervell (LVS-3), a U.S. Army Reserve Logistics Support Vessel.

Blu Homes Gone From Building 680

Blu Homes, the ‘green’ prefab home manufacturer on Mare Island, has moved its factory operations out of Mare Island’s Building 680. Blu Homes’ move away from Mare Island was necessary in order to lower the prices of the company’s energy efficient modular homes by 15 to 25 percent. The cost of a typical Blu Home in the greater Bay Area, including site work, excavation, foundation, driveways, utilities, etc., along with the modular structure fabrication and shipping costs, currently ranges from \$1M to 1.5M.

Maura McCarthy, Vice President of Blu Homes Market Development says, “We’re committed to building in America, but not necessarily in California.”



Building 680 for Lease—Again

More than 700 attend Two-day USS Indianapolis Screening Event

On April 4-5, 2017, the Mare Island Brewing Company and Lennar Mare Island co-sponsored the showing of the film, “USS Indianapolis, the Legacy,” which was held at the Mare Island Museum. This moving film, featuring survivors from the USS Indianapolis, recapped the story of the sinking of the WWII Cruiser Indianapolis (CA-35) in July 1945, including the

ordeals of the 880 men who got off the ship in the twelve minutes before she sank.

Two of the Indianapolis survivors, Harold Bray of Benicia, and Tim King of San Francisco, joined the film producers, Sara Vladic and Melanie Johnson, during the event and answered questions from those in attendance after the film’s showing.

Proceeds from this event were shared by the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation and the scholarship fund for descendants of the USS Indianapolis crew members (Gwinn “Angel” Scholarship Fund).

Retired Navy Captain to Seek Grave-Marker Repairs

On April 22, 2017, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that Retired Navy Captain, Ralph Parrott, after observing the rundown condition of the Mare Island Cemetery, plans to work with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to correct the “general shabbiness” of the cemetery, particularly the grave markers, of which many are broken and in disarray.

Mother’s Day Tea at Rowser Garden on Mare Island

The Vallejo Times-Herald reported in May 2017 that the 8th Annual Mother’s Day ‘Cream Tea’ was scheduled to take place in the Rowser Garden at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve between 2 and 4 pm on May 14, 2017.

Power Plant Smoke Stack Just a Memory

In March 2017, the 240-foot tall Shipyard Power Plant smoke stack, which had accented the Mare Island skyline for more than three quarters of a century, was reduced to a “shadow of its former

self.” Less than 100 feet of the original smoke stack remains adjacent to Building 121.



Power Plant Smoke Stack Remnant

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

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.

Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 459, of which 201 are dental plan members. Please pass the word that the NYA is still here!

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Frank Celestial.

If you haven’t renewed your membership yet this year, here are the instructions again:

If your March 2017 newsletter included 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 contained 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.

There's a lot going on out there for former Mare Island employees. Take a look at the information found on the following links.

Mare Island Ex-Riggers and friends:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/102725206517854/?multi_permalinks=520549564735414%2C519726721484365¬if_t=group_activity¬if_id=1493735530667568

NYA of Mare Island:

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

Mare Island Museum:

<https://www.facebook.com/MareIslandMuseum/>

NARFE Chapter 16 Vallejo, CA:

<https://www.facebook.com/NARFE16/>

Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vallejo%20naval%20and%20historical%20museum>

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

When Bruce Balbin's Smog Shop closed recently, I really wanted to get another smog discount for our members. NYA Director Gordon Triemert provided me with three companies that had coupons in the Vallejo Times-Herald; so, I wrote letters to Morri's Smog Shop, Vallejo Smog, and Sonoma Smog and asked for a discount, and I hand-delivered them. Morri's Smog Shop owner was not there, so I left my letter on the desk. The Sonoma Smog coupon was for \$31.50, and the owner there turned me down flat. He said they just bought the business and that was their cost. They wanted to get old clients back and new ones, too. Vallejo Smog's owner was not in, too, but the receptionist said that he would respond on Monday (but, he didn't). By the way, the receptionist thought his price would be \$60.

When I got home, Doris Herndon called. She is the mother of David Martin who is taking over Morri's Smog Shop (after Morri passed away). She worked at Mare Island and later went to work for another Federal agency. She spoke for her son. They were a Navy family and wanted to give us a discount. Their rates are \$38 for cars 1999 and newer and \$48 for trucks. Their regular price is \$50 and \$60 respectively. I went back and talked to David; and he agreed to the aforementioned discounts. Here are the details: Morri's Automotive Services, 1300 Sonoma Blvd (at Sonoma & Curtola Parkway), Vallejo, CA 94590, Phone: (707) 644-0442. They are State of California Approved Test Only. I highly recommend making a reservation to save yourself some time, as it is a very small shop, and bring your membership card.

I know all of you share in the mission of the NYA. But, I also know that most of you are Federal retirees. When I took over as President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Vallejo Chapter 16 four years ago, I was surprised to find that there were a lot of you who lived in American Canyon, Vallejo, Benicia, but were not NARFE members. I've stayed quiet about this, but can tell you now that I can't remain quiet

any longer. If you have seen President's Trump's proposed budget, you will see that for the first time, he proposes to **reduce** retiree annuities. NARFE needs your membership and voice. The biggest benefit you can get is to fight for the benefits that you so rightly earned. My recommendation is to join NARFE where ever you live.

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.

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/>

If you have any other ideas for benefits to share with our members, please contact me.

Have a safe and fun summer!



CODE 950 (Formerly Shop 51) ANNUAL REUNION FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

**Dear Former Mare Island Electricians/Electronic Employees from
SHOPS 02, 03, 06, 07, 36, 51, 52, 67, 99, Codes 133, 365 & 1390, etc...**

The reunion will be an ordinary lunch with no speeches, no head table – just a couple of necessary announcements and lots of good fellowship and shared memories of Mare Island.

All Ex-Code 950 (“Any”) Mare Island Employees, friends are invited, so please share this !
MENU: 96 Original Tri-Tip, Sweet Whiskey Chicken, Hot Links, Potato Salad, Caesar Salad, Coleslaw, BBQ Beans, Dinner Roles, Signature BBQ Sauce, Plates, Napkins and Utensils. Plus Domestic Beer, Local Wine, Cold Water and Fresh “HOT” Coffee...

WHERE: MARE ISLAND MUSEUM, BLDG. 46, 1100 Railroad Ave. on Mare Island.

WHEN: Friday, September 8, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Food service at Noon

PRICE: \$22.00 per person. Catering by <http://www.96hbrand.com/home.html>

If any ex-Code 950 employee has not received an invitation, it is because we did not have his/her email address or home address, so check with friends. If anyone is missed, please have them contact us. ALL ex-Code 950 employees, friends and any ex-M.I.er are invited!

Please send us your correct email address, as each one will save the cost of a stamp!

In order that proper reservations can be made, please confirm your intentions to attend by sending remittance to one of the persons listed below by August 30, 2017. This year we will be honoring those that started the original Shop 51 Annual Luncheon more than 39 years , Paul Gravelle, Larry Blankenship, Dean Allen, Floyd Duensing, Tom Chulick and Richard Karr. We are creating a “Code 950 Mare Island Survivor Club GIFT”, to see who is the last man/woman standing!

You can send checks in the mail to either one of us, OR “Pay Pal” w/Tom Watson:

Tom Chulick
425 Keats Dr.
Vallejo, CA 94591
Phone: 707-642-8712
Email: Bldg742@gmail.com

OR

Tom Watson
111 Springhill Dr.
Rio Vista, CA 94571
Phone: 707-507-5249
Email: mareislandlabor@gmail.com