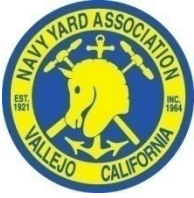


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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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 Museum Whitthorne Room
Last Monday of each month at 10:00am
POC: Mark Hutchings, (925) 609-9188

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 the September 2017 edition of our NYA Newsletter! I hope you enjoy reading it, and share it with your friends and former MI co-workers.

The Navy Yard Association has been a strong supporter of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) since its inception. We are both supported by volunteers who are passionate about keeping alive the legacy of the place where so many of us (and our families before us) spent our work lives. That both organizations are still in existence more than 20 years after the Shipyard closed up shop is a testament to those passionate individuals—and you, the members who support these organizations. As of the printing of our last newsletter, some changes were occurring at the MIHPF, but they hadn't been finalized. It's my pleasure to share with you some of those changes.

Most importantly, the MIHPF has named a new President: former Mare Island firefighter and union leader Mark Hutchings. I've known Mark for many years, and he's very hard-working, caring, and unselfish. Please join me in wishing him every success in his new role with the MIHPF. Also, the MIHPF has added a new position, Museum Executive Director. Ken Doublyou is taking on this role—handling the operation, care, and maintenance of the MIHPF's aging and fragile facilities and artifacts.

Other board members include a variety of both new and familiar faces: the Vice President, Bruce Christensen—former head of the nuclear

engineering department at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, current part-time nuclear engineer for Weston Solutions, and Board member, Officer, and Trustee for the NYA; the Treasurer, Joanne Schively—former Vallejo Councilwoman and advocate for Mare Island; and the Recording Secretary, Bill Linne—retired Navy Master Chief and former crew member of the Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN 658). Other Navy and Shipyard retirees who serve on the Board include: the head of the Construction Committee, John Chamberlin; Tour Director Bill Dornik, Event and Museum Manager Joyce Giles; Sonny Hanson; Tom Watson; Wallace Whatley, Tim Baskerville, and me, Ralph McComb. Rounding out the list, Annette Taylor serves in an ex-Officio role, representing the City of Vallejo as the City’s liaison to the MIHPF.

The mission and resolve of the MIHPF remains the same, and the energy level is higher than ever. Now that you know the names of all the volunteers on the Board, I hope you’ll take the time to stop by the Mare Island Museum, say hi, and give them an opportunity to answer any questions or concerns you might have about preserving the history of what was once a thriving community in itself—Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

It wouldn’t be right to note all the changes going on at the MIHPF without taking a moment to recognize and thank the founder of the MIHPF, Ken Zadwick. Without his vision and hard work, the MIHPF might have been just another idea that never materialized. Thanks, Ken!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Job Numbers Hit Highest Level Since Base Closure

In August 2017, Lennar Mare Island reported that with more than 100 new full-time jobs added this year, there are now more than 2,500 jobs on Mare Island—the highest level of employment

since the Shipyard closed in 1996. These jobs are held by employees working for the more than 110 businesses now occupying real estate on the former shipyard. The following articles about Factory_OS and Film Mare Island provide a description of some of the new businesses and jobs recently added.

Factory OS Moves into Nimitz Avenue “Industrial Cathedral”

In July 2017, the Vallejo Times-Herald indicated that the recently vacated historic Building 680 (former Mare Island Naval Shipyard’s Inside Machine Shop 31) is now occupied by Factory_OS. The new company will focus on construction of apartments and other multi-family dwellings. These structures will be prefabricated utilizing the 250,000 square foot indoor work area in Building 680 and then transported in sections by truck or shipped to the building site where they will be assembled and installed for use.

Currently, Factory_OS has a contract with Google to provide 300 affordable housing units for Google’s workforce in the Bay Area. Factory_OS plans to offer as many as 300 well-paying jobs using a labor force comprised of primarily of residents living close by.



Factory_OS Has Replaced Blu Homes in Building 680

Film Mare Island Movie Company is Moving In

In June 2017, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that a 37-year old independent film company will become the Bay Area's go-to site for creating video commercials, TV shows, music videos and a host of other film related productions.

The owner of Film Mare Island, Mark Walter, plans to set-up a one-stop studio, utilizing the more than a million square feet of building space available on Mare Island. The film company has been operating on Mare Island for about one year and currently has leased five buildings. Company representatives say that at most other filming locations finding enough space to work comfortably is a major problem. But, space hasn't been a concern on Mare Island.

The company currently has 20 permanent employees; however, when a project is in production, there can be as many as 500 workers. In September 2017, Film Mare Island participated with Paramount Pictures for a 10-night filming at historic Dry Dock 1 involving low flying helicopters and pyrotechnics.

St. Peters Chapel's New Roof Installation In Progress

The City of Vallejo is overseeing the installation of the roof being replaced on historic St. Peter's Chapel. Work started on August 20, 2017, and it is expected to complete in late September. As scheduled, the work is being performed after the wedding season and the new roof will replicate the original roof installed on the chapel more than 100 years ago. The following photos were taken approximately half-way through the reroofing project:



Old Shingles Gone from St. Peter's Chapel Roof



Plywood Covers Protecting Stained Glass Windows

Mare Island Dry Dock Company Workload Remains Healthy

In July 2017, in addition to a Coast Guard Ice Breaker vessel being repaired in Dry Dock 3, two Maritime Administration Ships were transferred from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet to Mare Island where they followed one another into (and out of) Dry Dock 2 for hull cleaning and tow preparations prior to being towed through the Panama Canal for dismantling in Texas.

Cape Breton was the first to arrive in mid-July. The ship was built in 1968 at Avondale Shipyard in Louisiana as a cargo ship originally christened as the SS Dolly Turman. In 1985, it was renamed Cape Breton and placed in ready reserve by the Maritime Administration at Alameda, CA. In August 1990, it was activated to support Operations

Desert Shield/Desert Storm under operational control of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command.



MARAD Ship Cape Breton in Dry Dock 2 – July 2017

Cape Borda entered Dry Dock 2 in late July, immediately following the undocking of Cape Breton. The ship was built in 1967 at Avondale Shipyard in Louisiana and was initially christened as the SS Howell Lykes. The Maritime Administration acquired the ship in 1985 and renamed it Cape Borda. In December 1990, it was placed under operational control of the US Navy's Military Sealift Command and supported Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Cape Borda is the last of the MARAD Ships to depart from Suisun Bay for dismantling.



MARAD Ship Cape Borda in Dry Dock 2 – July 2017

Lennar Home Building Continues at a Steady Pace

By August 2017, more than two dozen private homes were nearing completion along Flagship Drive near Touro University. Two model homes are currently available for inspection.

The Lennar Real Estate office is located adjacent to the two model homes located at 1530 and 1534 Flagship Drive.



Lennar Model Home at 1530 Flagship Drive



Lennar Model Home at 1534 Flagship Drive

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Bruce Christensen
Dennis Kelly

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 send an email to JIG313@aol.com.

New Book Available About the Cemetery on Mare Island

Peggy O'Drain and Joyce Giles have written a book about Sections B-F of the Mare Island Cemetery. Quotes on the back of the book state, "The author (Margaret O'Drain) brings to life the stories beneath the tombstones of one of the oldest naval cemeteries in the United States." "Discovery of the aging, neglected cemetery at Mare Island offered the perfect opportunity to combine a life-long interest in all things historical with an undeniable attraction to old burial grounds. Her goal is to preserve a place in history for Mare Island, with stories of those who will forever remain on Mare Island."

The book costs \$25 plus tax and is available at the Mare Island Museum. There also is for sale a booklet about the upper western portion of cemetery, aka, Section A. Sold separately, the

booklet is \$18. However, if you wish to purchase both books, the cost is \$35 plus tax.

Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 473, of which 199 are dental plan members. Please pass the word that the NYA is still here!

Welcome back to returning NYA member Daniel Delwiche (from 2013)!

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of William Eastwood.

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Just a gentle reminder that we have a new old benefit—especially for those in the Vallejo environs. While NYA member Bruce Balbin's smog shop closed this year, I found a new company that will offer NYA members a discount on getting your State of California Approved Smog Test. Thanks go out to Morri's Automotive Services, located at 1300 Sonoma Boulevard (at Curtola Parkway) in Vallejo. Call (707) 644-0442 to make an appointment, and tell David Martin you are an NYA member. If he asks for your membership card and you misplaced it, let me know and I'll print you out another one. The rate he quoted me was \$38 for cars 1999 and newer and \$48 for trucks.

Sadly, we are losing one of our benefits. As of October 2017, the NYA will no longer offer free notary service. NYA Director and Recording Secretary Sonya Domingo's commission expires in October. With the high cost of the commission and the low usage of the service, we've decided to discontinue this service.

The NAONE Trust's dental administrators, Integrity Administrators, Inc., have updated their website to include detailed information on all of the available plan options. I urge you to take a look at it.

Remember, there is never a need to wait for open season to enroll in one of the dental plans offered by the NYA. If you are a current or retired Federal employee, you can join anytime.

NYA members can see the brochure information in two ways. Either go to www.integrityadmin.com/NAONE or may visit the Integrity Administrators, Inc., website at: www.integrityadmin.com. Then, click on “Enrollment Forms” in the upper left corner. It will take you to a page where NAONE is in the center of the page. From there, click on “Dental Brochures.” Either route will take to the same introduction page where you can elect to go on to the one page summary of plans; brochures for: DentAssure, Blue Shield, or Pre-Paid; or enrollment forms for: DentAssure, Blue Shield, or Pre-Paid. Tell your federal active and retired friends about our plans!

By the way, I might add that most of our dental members who have Pre-Paid Dental have Parkside Dental Team as their dentist. I have had very few complaints from our members in this plan and more than a few compliments. Integrity Administrators really likes working with this dental office, too. Yes, it is in Fairfield, but look at the savings! It is way better than Kaiser’s Delta Dental low option, especially if you look at the co-pays.

For those who get their newsletter via the postal service, you will note that you got it with an envelope, stamp, and a printed newsletter. We do it this way because it was not administratively or cost effective to send it via bulk mail. We know that some of you would prefer to read your newsletter on paper rather than a computer monitor. If you have an e-mail address, and you would like to save storage space in your home, trees in our environment, and monies from our NYA treasury, please consider opting to receive your newsletter via e-mail. Just send an e-mail to me at robin_leong@netzero.net, with “I want my NYA Newsletter by e-mail” in the subject line. And, remember to add me to your safe senders list.

For Federal retirees who are NOT members of the National Active and Retired Federal

Employees (NARFE), there is a special first-time membership discount from September through December. Instead of costing you \$40, the membership will cost only \$30. This discount is only for new members (it doesn’t apply if you are former member who quit). You can save even more if you have your annual membership deducted from your annuity (membership is just \$34). Remember—if your significant other is your beneficiary, then that person should be a member, too. How about giving them a gift membership? Our California Federation will match National’s \$10 so you can effectively get a membership during this period for just \$20.

If you have been paying attention to the news and President Trump’s proposed budget, you should have noted that our Federal annuity yet again is under attack, as is our health plan. The President has proposed to do away with the COLA (cost of living increase). I think you would be wise to have NARFE in your corner—fighting to retain your earned benefits, as well as those of active Federal employees who have been giving up even more in recent years. Please check www.narfe.org for more information on his and Congress’ budget proposals. I know that I have your back as I am a lifetime member of NARFE. But, it would be really nice to have more members. There is strength in numbers. NARFE once had 500,000 members, but membership is just below 250,000 members out of a possible 5,000,000 current and retired Federal employees.

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.

Enjoy the fall season (once we get past this crazy hot weather!).

**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 - 2016

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**