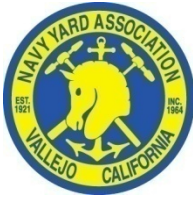


# The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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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](mailto: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  
 Second Monday of each month  
 POC: Bill Cruz, (916) 716-4661

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:aalgreen@napanet.net)

## President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Welcome to our March 2018 Mare Island Navy Yard Association Newsletter and Membership Drive! We have been around unofficially for 98 years and fully accredited for 97 years, and we still exist because of your membership. Please take a few moments to renew your membership? The materials and instructions are included in this issue.

Over the years, there have been many great people who served in our organization (and still do to this day!). People like our Officers—Bruce Christensen, Robin Leong, Lloyd Mahan, James Porter, and Veronica Laird; and people like our Directors—Carmen Merriman, Howard and Maryanne Fitzpatrick, Gordon and Jan Triemert, Mary Rutland, Rich Wright., and many others—all volunteer their personal time to keeping the Navy Yard Association going, year after year. Many are still working full-time jobs; many volunteer their time to several worthwhile organizations. The Navy Yard Association exists because of the efforts of some truly special people. We couldn't do this without them. That's why it's really sad to say goodbye to one of our strongest supporters: in January 2018, Sonya Domingo resigned her position with the Navy Yard Association.

Sonya Domingo served the NYA as Recording Secretary, Officer, Director, and Trustee for nearly 20 years. Her attention to detail and excellent recordkeeping skills contributed to the organization's consistently clean audit opinions; her exceptional culinary skills are the reason we've had such great attendance at our reunions; and her endless creativity and ingenuity are the inspiration

for nearly every event we've held. In addition to all that, she provided free Notary Public service to Navy Yard Association members for many years. She did all this while working a full-time job and raising two children with her husband. She will be sorely missed by everyone, and we offer our very best wishes and sincere thanks to a true friend.

I hope you'll take the few minutes (and \$15) it takes to renew your membership in the Navy Yard Association, and I look forward to 2018 with all of you!



Dear Friends:

The Mare Island Naval Cemetery (MINC) is a national shrine, but its deplorable condition is a shocking disgrace to the honorable service, uncommon valor, and selfless sacrifice of our courageous Veterans buried there and, even worse, to the dignity of our great Nation.

Please support our petition, and ask President Trump and VA Secretary Shulkin to repossess (and assume ownership of) the Mare Island Naval Cemetery by 2020.

Sign the Petition

<http://chn.ge/2BUHBji>

## **Around Mare Island...**

Bruce Christensen

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

### **Book Signing at Mare Island Museum**

On Saturday April 14, 2018, at 1:00pm, the author of *The Wreck of the SAGINAW*, Cornelia Sray, will host a book signing at the Mare Island Museum (Building 46), 1100 Railroad Avenue. The SAGINAW, built in 1859, was the first ship constructed at Mare Island Navy Yard. After serving in the Civil War, while on assignment in the Pacific for the Navy, it hit a shoal and sank near Midway Island in 1870. The ship was recently discovered by divers near what was originally called Ocean Island, the furthest west island in the Hawaiian chain. The historical events captured in the book are particularly compelling in that they are related by the SAGINAW Captain's cousin's great granddaughter. Utilizing manuscripts written by SAGINAW's Captain Montgomery Sicard about his personal experience while stranded on this desert island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Cornelia Sray composed *The Wreck of the SAGINAW*.

Also present at the book signing will be the great grandson, Ralph Halford, of SAGINAW crew member, and Medal of Honor recipient, William Halford. The public is invited to attend this book signing event and copies of the book will be for sale at \$15 each.

### **Savage & Cooke Distillery Set to Open on Mare Island Spring of 2018**

Bay Area wine entrepreneur Dave Phinney plans to open a whiskey distillery on Mare Island utilizing several historic Shipyard buildings. The main buildings to be featured in this venture are the brick structures located across from the Shipbuilding Ways 1 and 2; Building 45 (Navy Publishing and Printing Offices) and Building 65 (Administrative Department, Industrial Watch Office, and Quality Assurance Offices). The company has leased seven shipyard buildings and

will eventually operate a winery, as well as offer wine tasting and provide restaurant services.

While maintaining the facade of these historic shipyard buildings, Mr. Phinney has spent the last several years renovating the interiors of these structures so that they can be comfortably used by the Savage & Cooke employees and customers

### **Annual Memorial Day Event to be held at Mare Island Cemetery**

On Monday, May 28, 2018, at 9:00am, the 22nd annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Mare Island Cemetery will be open to the public. This ceremony 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. Plan to join with former Mare Islanders, their guests, and the general public at this popular event.

### **Purple Heart Trail Sign Erected at Mare Island Causeway Entrance**

On the 76th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2017, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that a sign identifying Mare Island as a Purple Heart entity had been installed at the west end of Tennessee Street as you drive onto the Wichels Causeway. Mare Island joins with several other local entities as part of the Purple Heart Trail, including California State University Maritime Academy, Touro University California, Vallejo Unified School District, and the Greater Vallejo Recreation District. Of the approximately 10,000 veterans living in the Vallejo area, 125 are believed to be Purple Heart recipients.

### **Alstom Mare Island Develops New System for Canadian Subways**

In December 2017, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that the France-based Alstom,

located in Mare Island’s Building 599, had created a new signaling system that is now being used in the Toronto, Canada subway lines. Company officials say that this system is a first for the Canadian transportation system. Alstom’s Urbalis solution will aid in permitting about 25 percent more capacity on the transit lines, as well as improving operational performance and reliability.

According to the Toronto Transit Commission’s Chairman, Josh Cole, the ribbon cutting ceremony for this new system was attended by the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, the Ontario Minister of Transportation, Steven Del Duca, and the Mayor of Toronto, John Tory.

### **Mare Island Loses Out on Amazon Offer**

In January, 2018, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that Amazon’s short list of 20 cities across the U.S. being considered for Amazon’s Headquarters #2 contained only one California City; namely Los Angeles. All of the cities on the list were larger and more urban than Vallejo, and, except for Los Angeles, were located east of the Rocky Mountains. Although Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampayan voiced disappointment in not having the 157-acre north end of Mare Island considered for the Amazon project, he said “...it wasn’t in the stars, and I’m feeling the fact that they looked at us at all says a lot about who we are, and it opens up opportunities we probably [otherwise would] have never seen.”

### **Vallejo to Request Veterans Administration to Take Ownership of Mare Island Naval Cemetery**

In January 2018, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that retired Navy Captain Ralph Parrott is now working with American Legion Manual L. Quezon Post 603 representative and former Mare Island Naval Shipyard employee Nestor Aliga regarding the care and maintenance of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery.

The City of Vallejo will formally request that the Veterans Administration assume ownership

of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery. As a follow-up to Vallejo's request that the Federal government take responsibility for the cemetery, in February 2018, Mr. Aliga prepared a petition to be sent to President Trump, for which signatures are currently being gathered (see the box on Page 2 for the petition website).

### **Large Crowds Attend 22nd Flyway Festival on Mare Island**

On February 9-11, 2018, Mare Island again played host to the annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival. As in the past, Shoreline Heritage Preserve Director Myrna Hayes, along with many volunteers, organized the event. The large former Naval Shipyard warehouse located at 880 Walnut Avenue was the focal point for visitors attending the event. The Festival included walking and bike tours on Mare Island, as well as off-island guided tours at Skaggs Island, Cullinan Ranch, and Lynch Canyon.

### **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 e-mail to 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.

## **2018 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS**

If your newsletter includes an envelope 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.

### **Membership update**

James Porter

Current membership stands at 476, of which 190 are dental plan members.

We offer our sincere condolences to family and friends on the loss of Rose Utterback (longtime

supporter of the NYA and Docent at the Mare Island Museum).

## **Benefit Officer's Column**

Robin Leong

I hope you had a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, a Happy Valentine's Day; and I hope you have a very Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Penny Hicks, who is now offering our members free Notary Public service, tells me that several members have been taking advantage of her voluntary service to NYA members. Penny lives in Napa, so you will have to travel there to get your paperwork notarized. To make an appointment, call her landline at (707) 224-5494 or her cell phone at (707) 337-0077.

Here are a few words from your Benefits Officer:

A *Better Deal* for a Smog Check - NYA Director Carmen Merriman brought to my attention that the deal that I negotiated with Moogi's Smog is about \$6 *more* that you pay by simply cutting out the coupon in the Vallejo Times-Herald (which offers \$29.95 for cars and \$39.95 for trucks). Finally, I had the guts to go and ask David at Moogi's Smog for the same rate for our members. He said okay! Just present your NYA membership card to pay the rates mentioned above.

The Code 950 40th reunion is scheduled for September 7, 2018. Contact Tom Watson at [mareislandlabor@gmail.com](mailto:mareislandlabor@gmail.com) for more information.

Tom Watson and I are still hoping to get the Mare Island logo re-painted on the Wichels Causeway. If you have driven onto Mare Island recently, you'll see it really needs a fresh coat of paint. Please check out save the story at: <http://www.timesheraldonline.com/general-news/20171006/faded-mare-island-logo-to-be-restored-vallejo-officials-say>.

## **Membership Renewal – Additional Tips**

Please take a moment to renew your membership with the Navy Yard Association? It's the same easy process as previous years. As you see in the instructions on Page 4, just make any updates (if necessary) on the LEFT side of the card, cut it at the dotted line, and keep the RIGHT side as your membership card. Then, mail the LEFT side of the card with your \$15 check made payable to the "NYA of Mare Island" in the enclosed, addressed envelope. Dental plan members will get just the membership part of the card (RIGHT side) since their dues are paid through their dental plan deductions. So dental plan members DO NOT have to send any membership dues. However, if you are a dental plan member and changed your mailing address or your e-mail address, please let me know at [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net). Thanks for being loyal NYA members!

Please note! The membership form included with this issue is to help you recruit new or returning members to the NYA. You do not have to complete that form to renew your membership.

As always, if you have any potential member's benefits to share, please don't hesitate to let me know.

## **Benefits**

Don't forget that we still offer discount cards good for 25% off and the Vallejo Kelly Moore Paint Store. Just send me an e-mail ([robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net)) or call me at (707) 643-1287, and I'll send you a card.

## **Newsletter by E-Mail**

More than 100 members now receive this newsletter via e-mail! This is a true double benefit—it saves on printing fees, paper, postage, returned-mail fees, is an easy way to keep past issues, AND it reduces the impact to the environment. If you haven't thought about it before, why don't you consider going "green," too? Please send an e-mail to [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net) with "Yes, I want my

NYA Newsletter via E-Mail!" in the subject line.  
It's as simple as that!

Also, remember to add my e-mail address (robin\_leong@netzero.net) to your trusted sender list so that timely e-mail notices and newsletters can reach you. To protect your privacy, I send these notices via blind carbon copy. Unfortunately, some spam-blocker and e-mail settings block those types of messages. So, adding my address to your contact list will ensure speedy delivery to your in-box.

### **More Facebook Pages Featuring Mare Island**

Here's a tip for potential members of our Facebook Page, which is a restricted page. Our NYA of Mare Island private discussion group is located at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1010509199018933/>.

Users must ask to join the page by answering three questions. If users don't answer the questions, they will not be granted access. I wanted to keep out people that want to join the page in order to sell stuff to our group.

Dennis Kelly posts some really interesting stories to the NYA Facebook page; and I don't miss a single one because I learn so much!

Below are a couple of other Mare Island-related Facebook pages. If you know of others and want to share, just let me know and I'll include them in this newsletter.

#### **Mare Island Museum**

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

#### **Mare Island Ex-Riggers and Friends**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/102725206517854/>

Meanwhile, Happy Easter everyone!

**NAVY YARD ASSOCIATION OF MARE ISLAND  
2018 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

**Do your part to support the Association that was “Created for Those Who Served and Continued by Those Who Care.” The NYA keeps you informed about progress in the reuse of Mare Island and shares information regarding former employees of the Mare Island Complex. Join the NYA for the unbelievably low annual dues of \$15.00 and receive a quarterly newsletter providing updates about Mare Island and other interesting notes. Help us to preserve the legacy of this great military base and the history that surrounds it, while watching a new era unfold for Mare Island—with the promise of successful businesses, education, recreation, and jobs 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.**

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**NYA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2016**

**Name**

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**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 \$15.00 made payable to “NYA” to:  
**NYA, P.O. Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084.**