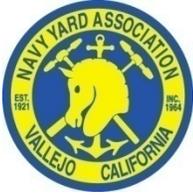


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 849, Vallejo, CA 94590-0084
Street Address: Bldg. 535, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592
Voice Mail and Fax: (707) 562-1812
Website Address: www.mareislandnva.com

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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
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

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 our summer 2018 newsletter!
I hope you find interesting what we have to share in this issue.

I am sending out a call to action to all NYA members for a very important cause. Here is the background: The Mare Island Naval Cemetery (MINC) is the oldest military cemetery on the West Coast. It is the final resting place for more than 800 of our country's heroes who served since the War of 1812. It is a designated National Historic Landmark; and three Congressional Medal of Honor recipients—James Cooney, William Halford, and Alexander Parker—are buried there.

Public Law 93-43, dated June 18, 1973, mandated that jurisdiction over naval cemeteries—including MINC—were to be transferred immediately from the Navy to the Veterans Affairs (VA). For some reason, however, the Navy and the Veterans Affairs ignored that law in both 1973 and during the Base Realignment and Closure process in 1993. The federal government left MINC behind and did not provide any funding to restore it to honorable conditions nor any support for its ongoing maintenance.

On April 18, 2018, the City of Vallejo stated its willingness to relinquish control of MINC to the federal government. This letter cleared a "critical path" for our Representative Mike Thompson (CA-05) to introduce H.R. 5588 on April 23, 2018, and for our Senator Dianne Feinstein to introduce S.2881 on May 17, 2018. Their bills direct the Veterans Affairs to seek an agreement with and for the City of Vallejo to transfer control of MINC to

the Veterans Affairs. MINC would be under the Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration, whose mission is to maintain our Veterans' cemeteries as national shrines.

We still need 67 Senators and 291 Representatives to co-sponsor S.2881 and H.R.5588, respectively.

If you feel motivated to help this worthy effort, below is one way you can contribute.

Go to this website:
<http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?2&engagementId=476893>

When prompted, enter your zip code to identify the correct recipients. Cut and paste "Please Co-Sponsor H.R.5588 and/or S.2881 Today So They can be Hot-lined and Passed in 2018" into the Subject line of the message: "The body of the message has pre-populated text.

Let us hope our efforts help restore Mare Island Naval Cemetery as a national shrine.

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It is with great sadness that I note the loss of longtime friend, Shipyard co-worker, and fellow NYA Director Rudy Balli, who recently passed. If you knew Rudy, you know it was very easy to respect and like him. His dedication to his work was beyond compare, and I will forever remember the inspiring way he approached each day.

Rudolph "Rudy" H. Balli, and his wife, Patricia Balli, lived in Petaluma their entire lives. They had two children, a son Rudolph H. Balli Jr., and a daughter, Debbie Balli, who gave them 3 grandchildren Danielle, Brian, and Jordan. We all will miss Rudy at our meetings and events.

**Around Mare Island...**

Bruce Christensen

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

**Savage & Cooke Distillery Gala Grand Opening on Mare Island**

On Saturday, May 5, Bay Area wine entrepreneur Dave Phinney held the grand opening of his recently completed whiskey distillery on Mare Island, utilizing historic Shipyard Buildings 45 and 65. More than 1,000 people attended the opening that featured food and drink for an afternoon and early evening reception. The venue for the event included two recently renovated historic buildings and the head of Shipbuilding Ways Number 1—where a huge tent spanning the width of the Ways provided decoration for the event. The seven former Shipyard buildings leased by Savage and Cooke and will eventually serve the public as a distillery, a winery offering wine tasting, and a restaurant.

During the annual luncheon in May of Visit Vallejo (formerly the Vallejo Convention and Visitors Bureau), Mr. Phinney stated, "Vallejo and Mare Island. It's a great story, and it just so happens to be true." The Visit Vallejo President and CEO, Mike Brown, made the announcement that, "2017 was a record year on several fronts and this year is expected to be better."

**Historic Mare Island Coal Sheds are Brewing Beer**

In March 2018, the Mare Island Brewing Company began production with its new, 15-barrel brewery located on the waterfront in Mare Island's northern-most Coal Sheds. Because the Brewing Company has their eye on the historical significance of the Coal Sheds, they carefully restored their buildings with historically accurate details. The Brewing Company co-founder and Mare Island resident, Kent Fortner, said, "It was hard work—but extremely gratifying work—with constant reminders of our responsibilities as stewards of history as we forge a new future for the Island."

The company's expansion into these Coal Sheds allowed them to hire neighboring artisans to perform some of the construction, fabrication, and detailed artisanship that went into the project.

Opening this new facility has significantly increased the company's brewing capacity and allowed them to nearly double their current workforce.

### **Mare Island Dry Dock Lands Submarine Tender Contract**

In April 2018, Mare Island Dry Dock was awarded a \$16 million contract to repair the Navy's submarine tender, USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39).

The company has been operating former Mare Island Naval Shipyard's Dry Docks 2 and 3 since 2013, and this is the largest single contract the company has been awarded. The ship's complement includes 250 Navy personnel and 150 Military Sealift Command personnel. Mare Island Dry Dock's Executive Vice President Christina Snyder indicates that the majority of the company's 150 employees live in Solano County. During the sub-tender's availability, workers will be performing a variety of overhauls and repairs, including work on the ship's decks, turbines, heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems.

On May 31, 2018, there was a huge gala welcoming of the ship's crew at the Mare Island Museum, where the Mayor of Vallejo very warmly welcomed crewmembers. The ship's captain, Commander Bradley, thanked those attending the ceremony and commented that this event was the biggest and best welcoming the ship had received in the three years that he had commanded the USS LAND.

### **Interest Rekindled for North End of Mare Island**

In May 2018, the Vallejo Times-Herald reported that the Vallejo City Council had unanimously approved an Exclusive Negotiating Rights Agreement with the Nimitz Group to transform the 157 acres at the north end of Mare Island into a business park.

The plan for the area includes a 56-acre media campus for Film Mare Island Film Studio and 15 acres for a wine producing facility. The

ultimate goal of the group is to bring about 1,500 jobs to the North Mare Island area. Dave Phinney (Savage & Cooke) recently formed the Nimitz Group and along with Gaylon Lawrence, Jr. (banker and owner of over 200,000 acres of farmland) developed one of the eight proposals received by the City of Vallejo in response to a Request for Qualifications for North Mare Island released in December 2017.

### **Factory OS Grand Opening in Building 680**

On May 16, 2018, a new Mare Island Company, Factory\_OS, hosted its formal grand opening in the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard Inside Machine Shop 31, recently vacated by Blu Homes. Approximately 300 people attended the opening ceremonies, where it the company announced it will use the 250,000 square-foot shop facility to build multi-family residential modular housing.

The company currently has 60 employees with plans to hire another 150 workers within the next 12 months.

One of Factory\_OS current contracts is the construction of modular housing for the homeless in Oakland. The company's motto is "Changing how we build," which will be accomplished by performing most of the actual building construction inside the factory on Mare Island.

### **Code 950 (Formerly Shop 51) Holding the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at the Mare Island Museum**

The Code 950 40th reunion will be held on Saturday, September 8, 2018, at the Mare Island Museum, Building 46, 1100 Railroad Avenue on Mare Island. The event starts at 10:00am and ends at 4:00pm; food will be served at noon.

The cost is \$25 per person and will be catered by 96H Brand Catering (<http://www.96hbrand.com/home.html>). The menu is 96H Original Tri-Tip, Sweet Whiskey Chicken, Hot Links, Potato Salad, Fruit Salad, Coleslaw, BBQ Beans, Dinner Rolls, Signature

BBQ Sauce, and Dessert, plus domestic beer, local wine, soda, water and fresh, hot coffee.

In order to ensure enough food for everyone, please RSVP and send in your payment by August 30, 2018.

You can send your check made payable to either Tom Chulick or Tom Watson by mail (or, you can remit by PayPal to Tom Watson) to the address(es) below.

|                                                                                               |    |                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tom Chulick<br>425 Keats Dr.<br>Vallejo, CA 94591<br>707-642-8712<br>Email: Bldg742@gmail.com | OR | Tom Watson<br>111 Springhill Dr.<br>Rio Vista, CA 94571<br>707-507-5249 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|

All ex-Code 950 employees, friends and any ex-M.I.ers are invited, so please share this invitation! If you have questions, contact Tom Watson at [mareislandlabor@gmail.com](mailto:mareislandlabor@gmail.com).

## Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 417, of which 187 are dental plan members.

We welcome new members Christine Dunn; Gary Floring (via the internet!); and Daniel A. Riedinger (recruited by Gordon Bennett). Welcome back to retuning member George M. Metras (from 2001, recruited by Helen Zajac)

We offer our sincere condolences to family and friends on the loss of NYA Director Rudy Balli Sr.; Harold Browning; Jerry "Chip" Carter; Marlin Forthun; Manny Griego Jr.; Michael G. Hansen; Ruth Kershner; and Tom Percy.

## Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Here are a few words from your Benefits Officer.

Recently, I had my first appointment with our newest Notary Public, Penny Hicks, and it was a great success! 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, her cell phone at (707) 337-0077, or send an e-mail to [PenLHicks@aol.com](mailto:PenLHicks@aol.com).

I am becoming disenchanted with the discount we have for smog checks at Morri's Automotive Services. It seems that the owner does not always answer the phone, does not have an answering machine, and his business is closed much of the time. You can still try, but make sure you call (707) 644-0442 to make an appointment. If any members know of a smog check business that can offer us a rate of \$30 for cars and \$40 for trucks in Vallejo and/or Napa, please let me know.

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.

## Membership Renewal – Additional Tips

If you have not already, please take a moment to renew your membership with the Navy Yard Association? It's the same easy process as previous years. Remember, 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 addressed envelope that was included with your March newsletter. 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!