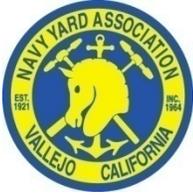


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Vice President.....Jim Porter
Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
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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 March 2018 Mare Island Navy Yard Association Newsletter and Membership Drive! Please take a few moments to renew your membership? The materials and instructions are included in this issue.

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 2019 with all of you!

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

Is Mare Island's Golf Course Closing for Good?

The Mare Island Golf Course, established in 1892, is the oldest military golf course west of the Mississippi River. During the heavy rain experienced in early 2019, the golf course closed—supposedly until the rain cleared. After the rain stopped, though, the golf course remained shuttered. On February 27, 2019, the Vallejo Times-Herald headlines said, "Future Uncertain for Golf Course."

Earlier in February, the City of Vallejo turned off the water supply to the golf course for non-payment of past due utility bills. The Times Herald also reported that the Milbrae-based owner, Konmer Venture, LLC, is more than \$600,000 in arrears on their property taxes, which have accumulated over the past five years. The county

tax collector's office indicated that failure to pay taxes could result in the golf course winding up on the auction block and available to the highest bidder.



A sunny day in February; an empty parking lot at the Mare Island Golf Course

Two New Exhibits Now on Display at the Mare Island Museum

On December 7, 2018 (Pearl Harbor Day), the Mare Island Museum held a ceremony at the Mare Island Brewing Company's Tap Room to unveil a new display showing the actual U.S. Navy radio equipment used to receive the first mainland notification of the early morning bombing of the military base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. About 80 people were on hand to listen to former Mare Island nuclear engineer Dennis Kelly, former City Councilwoman, Joanne Schively, and Mare Island Brewing Company owner, Kent Fortner, describe the events that occurred on the "date which will live in infamy."

On February 2, 2019, the Mare Island Museum held another unveiling ceremony led by Mel Orpilla, a senior staffer for Congressman Mike Thompson. Orpilla used historic photographs, as well as his own family's experiences, to describe the significant impact of the Filipino Community on Mare Island, the City of Vallejo and Solano County. During the ceremony, at which about 150 members of the public attended, Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampayan described his own personal recollections as a Filipino growing up in California.



Telegraph/radio equipment used to receive the first mainland report of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941



First Filipinos on Mare Island Filipinos in Vallejo

Both of these new exhibits (Pearl Harbor Day and Filipinos at Mare Island/Vallejo) may be seen at the Mare Island Museum—located at 1100 Railroad Avenue on Mare Island—Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm, and on Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation Adopts "Vision 2025"

In March 2019, the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) Board of Directors adopted a five-year plan, titled Vision 2025, which lays out the path to strengthening the Foundation, its image, and its overall engagement with surrounding entities. A major focus will include working cooperatively with other businesses, organizations, and the public in the community—

increasing awareness of the global impact achieved by Mare Island Naval Shipyard. In order to help drive this five-year effort, additional community members have recently been welcomed onto the MIHPF Board of Directors, including representatives from Visit Vallejo (formerly Vallejo Convention and Visitors Bureau), Mare Island Brewing Company, The Nimitz Group, and several Mare Island residents. A team of dedicated Vision 2025 directors is preparing to present the plan to various entities in surrounding areas including the City of Vallejo, Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, etc.

January 2019 Storms Raise Havoc at Mare Island Cemetery

As if age had not taken enough of a toll on the 170-year old Mare Island Cemetery, in January, Mother Nature struck another devastating blow. Much of the recent damage occurred when high winds toppled a 50-foot Monterey pine, damaging several grave markers. This comes at a time when the City of Vallejo is working with retired Navy Captain Ralph Parrott to obtain Federal assistance to save the historic cemetery.

In 2018, Congressman Mike Thompson introduced legislation to transfer the cemetery to the Veteran's Administration, but it was not voted on before that session of Congress adjourned on January 3, 2019. Current plans are to re-introduce the legislation in the House and the Senate early enough this year to have it pass in 2019.

Mare Island's "Old 84" Was the U.S. Navy's First Prison

On January 6, 2019, the Vallejo Times-Herald contained an article by local author and columnist, Brendan Riley, which provided an interesting history pertaining to Mare Island's Building 84. The one-story brick building was built in 1868 as the Navy's first land-based prison. After operating for 78 years, the prison shut down in 1946 following World War II. There were other land-based prisons built by the Navy during that time, but none operated as long as "Old 84." At its

peak, the Mare Island prison was large enough to house 650 inmates. The Mare Island Prison still stands, located just north of the old Marine Barracks.

After the Shipyard closed in 1996, there were plans to demolish the prison building due to PCB contamination. Because a new developer on Mare Island has shown an interest in preserving Mare Island's history, "Old 84" is currently off the chopping block.

Update on New Pipelines from Vallejo to Mare Island

The Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District recently reported that the horizontal borings for two pipelines located about 95 feet north of the Mare Island causeway bridge and 75 feet underneath the Mare Island Strait were completed. After those bores were enlarged, the actual sewer pipe and fresh water line were pulled through from Vallejo to Mare Island. Traffic entering and leaving Mare Island via the Tennessee Street gate continue to notice that much of this work, scheduled to complete by February 1, 2019, is still in progress.



Diagram showing horizontal drilling beneath the Mare Island Strait

Membership update

James Porter

Current membership stands at 437, of which 183 are dental plan members. I hope you will renew your membership for 2019-2020. The

NYA only exists because of our loyal members, so I am grateful for your continued support!

Welcome to new member Harlan C. McCann (recruited by Mark Beckham); and welcome back to former member Leslie Whitney (from 2012).

Benefit Officer's Column

Robin Leong

Here are a few words from your Benefits Officer.

Penny Hicks has been busy lately providing NYA members with free Notary Public service. Notary service is one of our few remaining benefits, and Penny is very popular with our membership. If you would like to schedule some time with Penny, please call her cell phone at (707) 337-0077.

Our NYA Facebook page is seeing more traffic these days, and I send my thanks out to Dennis Kelly for posting the most interesting stories and pictures! Consider joining our NYA Facebook page to see all the great stories and memories. Remember that you will need to request permission to join the group, and answer three simple questions that can be answered easily by NYA members. This helps keep out those annoying ad-robots.

Copy and paste this link into your browser:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1010509199018933/>

Membership Renewal – Additional Tips

Please, won't you take a moment to renew your membership with the Navy Yard Association? It is the same easy process as previous years. As you see in the instructions on the right, 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. Thanks for being loyal NYA members!

As always, if you have any potential member's benefits to share, please do not hesitate to let me know

2019 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.