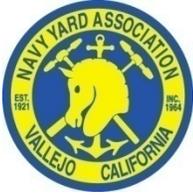


# The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Vice President.....Jim Porter  
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Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong  
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## NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 400 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 Breakfast

Denny's, 1701 E. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville  
Second Monday of even months at 9am  
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)

## 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 odd months at 9:00am  
POC: Ken Wright (707) 557-4646

## 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: John Watson, [retirednuke94590@gmail.com](mailto:retirednuke94590@gmail.com)

## President's Corner

Ralph McComb

This year's Navy Yard Association membership drive newsletter starts with a little history, covers a few changes, and ends with a heart-felt thank you to all who have kept us going towards our 100th year of existence.

First the history: like any organization, we were born of a need. Back in 1920, our founding president, Nate Hansen, and other founding members played a significant role in the creation of the Civil Service Retirement System, a program that filled a huge void **at the time**. While other retirement plans mainly began within union organizations, we—as Federal Employees—were not eligible to participate. Later, the NYA Directors, Officers, and **members** would fill other voids with great benefits, such as Quick-Cash Life Insurance, a variety of dental coverage **options**, Notary Public services, and many more.

Historically, membership in the NYA has included a significant percentage of the civilian work force, with the number of members reaching a peak of more than 20,000 employees during the World War 2 years. Even in the late 1980s when the Shipyard employment fell to approximately 10,000, there were more than 5,300 NYA members. In addition, it is conservatively estimated that the NYA has had more than 100,000 members over its 100-year history.

Now, in the many years since the closure of Mare Island Naval Shipyard, our membership numbers and the Association's ability to offer benefits has slowly but consistently declined.

However, that is not due to a lack of effort or care. That we are still here to produce this newsletter for our caring and interested membership is a testament to the continuing interest in Mare Island and her former glory days. Thanks to every one of *you* for keeping us going

Please join us for another year of news and sharing, and renew your membership for Centennial year of the Navy Yard Association!

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

Bruce Christensen

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

### **Vallejo Rotary Holds Fundraiser at Mare Island Savage and Cooke Distillery**

On Wednesday, January 22, 2020, Rotarians enjoyed a wine and spirit tasting while attending a repeat of the USS VALLEJO sail dedication that occurred in Mare Island's Shipbuilding Ways Number 2 in October 2019. During the January ceremony, former USS VALLEJO crewmember and retired Master Chief Bill Linné provided the history of the submarine from the time it launched in 1965 until decommissioning in 1995. Later, the ship's sail was brought back to Mare Island for public display. Today the sail is located in the same building ways in which the VALLEJO was built. The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) Executive Director, Ken Wright, described the challenges faced by the Foundation during the construction of the VALLEJO Sail monument.

Kim Phinney, the wife of the owner of the Savage and Cooke (S&C) Distillery, Dave Phinney, was a featured speaker during the program. S&C Distillery is located in historic brick Building 45 on Nimitz Avenue next to the Mare Island Museum. Mrs. Phinney described S&C's journey through Napa Valley looking for a site for their distillery, where they faced many obstacles. With the warm welcome from the City of Vallejo and Mare Island,

they discovered what they considered an ideal setting for their business. S&C opened in 2019; and, in January 2020, they gained the necessary license and permits to begin food service. The next big step will be to open a restaurant in the S&C Distillery.



S&C Distillery (Building 45) East Entrance  
The tasting room windows reflect the shipbuilding ways

### **Characters Saloon to Host 24-Year Anniversary of Mare Island Naval Shipyard Closure**

On Friday, April 3, 2020, at 3:00 P.M., Characters Saloon will once again host the Annual Reunion for all former Mare Island employees. As in the past, Characters will host beer on tap and food between 3:00 and 6:00 P.M. Of course, the bar will also be open for those who prefer wine or hard liquor. Characters Saloon is located at 315 Tennessee Street, just a few blocks east of the main entrance to Mare Island. Plan to come out and join your fellow retired Yardbirds at this popular watering hole, and share some good stories with old friends.



Front entrance to Characters Saloon

### **Mare Island Museum is Seeking Tour Guides and Docents**

Former Mare Islanders and friends who can spare four to six hours during the week are invited to visit the Mare Island Museum on any weekday

between 10 am and 2 pm, to become a tour guide and/or docent. Please consider joining others who have been trained to lead tours at the Museum in Building 46, at historic St. Peter's Chapel and/or Quarters A (the Admiral's Mansion) on Mare Island.



## **THE MARE ISLAND MUSEUM NEEDS YOU!**

**Tour Guides:** The training for tour guides at the Museum includes learning the history of the many military artifacts that are on display inside the museum. Tour guides normally help to lead small groups (5-10 people) through interesting exhibits representing Navy history from as early as the 1700s.

**Docents:** If you prefer docent duties (mainly for an evening or weekend event), training consists mainly of familiarization with the facility (St. Peter's Chapel or Admiral's Mansion) and a briefing prior to the event (wedding, memorial ceremony, reception, etc.).

**Those interested in becoming a tour guide and/or docent can obtain additional information by calling 707-557-4646.**

### **Southern Land Company Selected to Develop Mare Island**

On February 6, 2020, the Vallejo Times Herald reported that Tennessee-based Southern Land Company would provide long-term planning, management, and development of Mare Island. Southern Land Company has one of the best reputations for creating unique, walkable communities that promote the well-being of residents and the surrounding areas. Vallejo has now entered into a public-private agreement with

the developer for future development plans on Mare Island. Vallejo City Manager Greg Nyhoff stated, "Bringing in Southern Land Company's experience and resources will help to build a resilient and equitable future for the community." Southern Land Company brings more than 30 years of experience in development, design, construction, and property management.

## **Membership update**

James Porter

Current NYA membership stands at 411. I hope you will renew your membership for 2020-2021—the 100<sup>th</sup> year for the NYA. As always, we only exist because of our loyal members, so I am grateful for your continued support!

Welcome to new member Bill Linné (recruited by Bruce Christensen, Dennis Kelly, and Ralph McComb).

We offer sincere condolences to the friends and families of members Dale Blackburn and Bryant Burleigh, both of whom passed in late 2019.

## **Benefit Officer's Column**

Robin Leong

### **NAONE Dental Plans Ending**

As many of our pre-paid dental plan members already knew, last year, Parkside Dental's new owner notified the NAONE Trust that they would no longer participate in the pre-paid plan. Despite much negotiation, Parkside Dental terminated their relationship with the NAONE Trust. Because Parkside Dental had the vast majority of plan members—and many of them elected to quit the pre-paid plan altogether, we simply do not have enough dental members to make it financially feasible to continue providing dental plan service. Although we were very sad to do so, the decision was made to shut down operation of the NAONE Trust and its associated dental plans. Thank you to our very loyal dental members for your many years with us!

While I hope that some of our affected members signed up for Federal dental plans during the recent open season, what can those of you who stayed to the bitter end do? You can still sign up for a Federal dental plan outside the open season; and here is how to do it: Go to the BENEFEDS website at <https://www.benefeds.com>, and perform the following steps:

1. Click on Enrolling outside of open season;
2. Click on “I experienced a qualifying life event that allows me to enroll in FEDVIP;”
3. Click on Check “Eligibility;” Select “Federal Civilian;”
4. Click on “Select your eligibility type;”
5. Click on “Retiree (annuitant);”
6. Click on what kind of annuitant you are;
7. Click on Continue to verify your FEHB eligibility; and
8. Click on Continue, and then create an account (if you have not already done so).

This will give you access to information about the various dental (and vision) plans you are allowed to join. I believe there are seven national dental plans from which to choose. Go ahead and comparison-shop; look at the benefits you get for what you pay. Some allow pre-conditions, and others allow dental implants, if that is what you might need.

You have 60 days after March 31, 2020, to do this. If you need a certificate from Integrity Administrators Inc., to verify that you did indeed lose your dental benefits due to the NAONE Trust closing down, you can get it. Just write to Kathleen Franklin at [kfranklin@integrityadmin.com](mailto:kfranklin@integrityadmin.com) or send a letter requesting the certificate to Integrity Administrators, Inc., 1787 Tribute Road, Suite E, Sacramento, CA 95815.

### **Notary Public**

Remember that we still have **FREE** notary service generously provided by NYA member Penny Hicks. You need an appointment, so please reach her by cell phone at (707) 337-0077, or send

an e-mail to [PenLHicks@aol.com](mailto:PenLHicks@aol.com). I have used her services, and it is so nice to have this wonderful benefit.

I hope you will renew your membership with the Navy Yard Association. It is the same easy process as in previous years. As you see in the instructions in the box below, 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. Thank you for being loyal NYA members!

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

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.