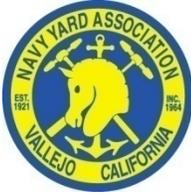


# The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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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 200 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 has come with true challenges and hardships—between the civil unrest and resulting protests and demonstrations across the country, the damage caused by criminal destruction and looting, the COVID-19 pandemic, the record-breaking levels of unemployment, and the loss of so many small businesses. Our hearts go out to everyone in this time of change.

With the closing of our dental plans at the end of March, we have seen a decline in membership. However, the Navy Yard Association still exists, and that is due to caring and interested members like you. Thank you, every one of you, for keeping us going. Quite literally, we only exist because of you.

We have started planning for the Navy Yard Association's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2021. Watch for more news in upcoming issues!

## Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

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

### Memorial Day Ceremony at Mare Island Cemetery

On Monday, May 25, 2020, the 149<sup>th</sup> consecutive Memorial Day was celebrated at the oldest Navy Cemetery west of the Mississippi River. From 1871 through 1995, the Navy held Memorial Day ceremonies at the Mare Island Cemetery. After

the Shipyard closed in 1996, the Navy League of the United States, Council #1, hosted Memorial Day until 2019. This year, largely due to the COVID-19 virus restrictions, the City of Vallejo and the Navy League co-hosted the event. Attendance to the event was limited to 50 persons, who registered with the City beforehand and were required to wear facemasks. Seating, spaced six feet apart, was provided on the old tennis court site adjacent to the north boundary of the Mare Island Cemetery. Local networks, including Fox, CBS, and ABC, televised the event.



Ceremony attendees—masked and seated six feet apart



RADM O’Kane Sea Caded Color Guard

Vallejo Mayor, Bob Sampayan, welcomed the guests and, as in the past, the RADM O’Kane Sea Cadets provided the color guard. The keynote speaker was US Navy Captain Rich Wiley, Commanding Officer of the Naval Support Activity in Monterey. One of the guests in attendance was Ralph Halford, the great grandson, of William Halford, a crewmember and Medal of Honor

recipient while serving on the first ship built at Mare Island, the USS Saginaw.



Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampayan welcomes the crowd

### Mare Island Sports Complex Closes

On May 1, 2020 the popular Mare Island Sports Complex (aka; the “Round House”) closed. This large (61,586 square foot) building was built in 1939 for the Golden Gate International Exposition and World’s Fair on Treasure Island. In 1941, it was disassembled and barged to Mare Island where it was reconstructed and served as a Shipyard warehouse until 1983 when the U.S. Navy converted the building to a sports complex. After the Shipyard closed in 1996, the facility was re-opened as the Pacific Sports Arena. In 2014, when the Sports Arena operator fell behind in his rent, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) took over the facility and re-named it the Mare Island Sports Complex.



Mare Island Sports Complex – north entrance

In February 2020, the building’s new landlord, the Nimitz Group, issued the following: “The safety of the community is the Nimitz Group’s number one priority. The prior owner had

engineering reports prepared which found deficiencies with the building that do not support continuing its long-term use as a recreational facility.” The Nimitz Group is now working cooperatively with the GVRD and the Vallejo Unified School District to evaluate alternatives.



Massive sports complex – south entrance

**Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (MIHPF) Impacted by COVID-19**

On March 15, 2020, the Mare Island Museum, St. Peters Chapel, and Quarters A and B closed due to COVID-19. All scheduled events scheduled—through June 2020—were canceled, with the hope of being able to open and reschedule events starting in July 2020.

During this downtime, several volunteers were able to perform some necessary maintenance and gardening work at the facilities. Among the needed repairs was a fresh water leak in the supply line to Quarters A and the rebuilding of a back porch at Quarters A. Mare Island Dry Dock (MIDD) workers Robert Gonzales, Yudith Gonzales, Francisco Rivera-Perez, and Mike Rivie completed this work. MIDD Vice President, Christina Snyder, who is also a MIHPF Director, volunteered the services of these MIDD employees during limited ship work due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Fresh water leak repair



Qtrts A porch re-build

The MIHPF Gardening Committee, under the direction of Museum Manager, Joyce Giles, worked tirelessly on the mansion grounds mowing, trimming, planting, and overall grooming. Members of the gardening crew assisting Joyce were; Don and Carol Sterkel, Kathleen McGhee, Dick & Doug Benne, and Sal & Trish Gonzales.



Qtrts A flower garden



Geraniums and roses in bloom

**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 during 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 may obtain additional information by calling 707-557-4646.**

## **Membership update**

James Porter

Current NYA membership stands at 257. I really hope you 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!

Sincere thanks go out to Patricia and Ronald Brosio, James O. Carpenter, Ray Lingerfelt, Judy Scheer, and John Osborne, Jr., for their donations in support of the NYA!

We offer sincere condolences to the friends and families on the passing of Mildred Hockin and N. Glenn Stanphill.

## **Benefit Officer's Column**

Robin Leong

This year has been one of massive change with COVID-19, George Floyd's death resulting in demonstrations and riots, and the ending of the National Association of Naval Employees (NAONE) Trust's dental plan. Your NAONE trustees hope those who were—at one time or another—dental plan members were satisfied with their dental care insurance while being able to save monies for other things in life. We hope everyone who was in the plan to the end wound up with what they needed; and I hope I helped those who called me by explaining their options; and I may have made it easier to switch to a Federal plan. Right now, the Trust is undergoing closure procedures with the excellent help of its dental administrator Integrity Administrators, Inc. I wish I could tell you of all of the procedures and audits that must be

done in a timely fashion for the Trust to close (some will last for a couple more years), but that would be TMI (too much information).

Moving forward, as a repeat, here are the NYA benefits mentioned in the 2020 March Newsletter:

### **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. I have used her services (occasionally, she comes into Vallejo), and it is so nice to have this wonderful benefit.

### **Living Trusts**

Jean Gifford, our former longtime trust lawyer, recommends the following resource: Law Office of Yvonne F. Thrasher 78 Cernon Street, Suite A, Vacaville, CA 95688. Phone: (707) 447-1200; Fax: (707) 447-1326; Website: <http://www.thrasherlawoffice.com>; e-mail: [yvonne@thrasherlawoffice.com](mailto:yvonne@thrasherlawoffice.com); Bar Number: 256336 (2008)

Jean says if Ms. Thrasher cannot help (or you do not want to go to Vacaville), a great way to find a good attorney (or any professional) is to ask friends/neighbors/relatives, etc., if they have worked with someone locally and how they liked them.

### **Vehicle Smog Service**

No one has recommended a smog company yet. It looks like I need to go and solicit one myself.

Stay tuned for news about our 100-year anniversary bash in 2021! Tell your fellow MINS friends!

Stay safe to enjoy your retirement another day!