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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*"The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind, If Winter comes,  
can Spring be far behind?"*

- Percy Shelley

Dear Fellow Retirees and Friends,

NEREA held its annual one day business meeting at NEXCOM on Saturday 19 October 2019. The speakers at the meeting were NEXCOM's Master Chief Shannon Howe and Mr. Charley Vaughan, Chairman of the NEXCOM Retirement Trust. Mr. Douglas Freeman, VP NEXCOM HR, was unable to

attend the meeting due to illness.

CMC Howe represented Admiral Bianchi who was traveling. CMC Howe's briefing update on NEX operations is available on the NEREA web site: [nerea.org](http://nerea.org). Some of the highlights of CMC Howe's update are: customer satisfaction scores are maintaining their 90% plus level each year; new clothing items and household items were introduced during the year; new food operations were opened in both CONUS and OCONUS, and many of our current facilities in CONUS and OCONUS were enhanced this year. Along with these encouraging developments there are some downsides. For example, overall sales are declining due to many changes in the retail world and Navy world. The number of Navy families have declined through the years, but there are signs that the numbers will increase and the change in the number of e-commerce retailers and the convenience they afford shoppers is ever increasing.

The issue of exchange/commissary consolidation is still evolving. The two congressional committees charged with overseeing military exchanges, the House and Senate Armed Services Committee have asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review the business case analysis that was developed by an outside contractor. They are in the process of this review. With the issues now facing the Congress this year, and 2020 being an election year there is only slight movement to resolving this matter.

Mr. Vaughan's presentation covered two matters: the NEXCOM Retirement Trust and Finding a Replacement for John Hancock (JH). There are four trustees selected by NEXCOM: (1) Retiree: Mr. Charles Vaughan; one from outside NEXCOM, Mr. James Whittaker; two from NEXCOM: Mr. Michael Good and Ms. Susan Box; and (1) selected by the Coast Guard Mr. Bill Bennett. Some of the key events since 2018 reflect that the market has fully recovered while market volatility continues. John Hancock advised that they were terminating business with NEXCOM except for existing annuity holders. The Retirement Trust returns come from strategic asset allocation and not market timing. Accordingly, the Retirement Trust is over-funded where assets exceed pension requirements.

In June 2019 JH advised they were exiting the retirement payment business. Consequently, a Request for Proposal solicited potential vendors to replace JH. The Bank of New York/Mellon was awarded the contract to replace JH as the servicing agent for monthly retirement payments. The last payment issued by JH will be the February 2020 check, and the first payment by Mellon will be the March 2020 check.

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# CHAPTER CHATTER

## NEW ENGLAND

The New England Chapter of NEREA held their Halloween meeting on 21 October at Gregg's with 26 retirees and guests attending. Pat Taylor and Barbara Dingwall brought several items which were auctioned off and brought approximately \$50.00 for the kitty. Connie Flanagan bid and won a crocheted lap afghan. Kathy Pridgen outbid me for two sets of Thanksgiving salt & pepper shakers. She has quite a collection of S/P shakers. Juanita Chambers won a pair of candlesticks. I out bid Art for a bottle of wine dressed as a turkey. Real cute. No more news on the consolidation of the NEX and the Commissary. Just gossip that it looks like it may go through.

Not much to report from this meeting. We all just like to get together and eat, kid and gossip. Just have a good old time

Our next meeting is 27 January 2020 at Gregg's.

Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Ann O'Connor

## OAKLAND

The Navy Exchange is a great organization. It has enabled me to work in many places, to see the world, to earn a good living and to meet people who have become life long friends.

In November 2019, I made a trip to Italy to spend time with Pompeo Fraioli and visit Naples, Gaeta and Rome. I visited the European District Office in Naples, Italy to catch

up with Eugenio Gialanella, Financial Manager, and see their newly renovated NEX Naples main store.

Naples is home office for the European District. They operate Navy Exchanges in 8 countries: from Lisbon in Europe to Dubai in the Persian Gulf to Djibouti in the Horn of Africa and they generate funds for service member recreation activities in each local MWR activity.

NEX Naples.....Thank you for the outstanding service you provide every day. You are indispensable!

Best wishes for continued success. Ciao.

Happy Holidays NEREA,  
Lucky Fung

## ORLANDO

We are approaching the Holidays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, the new year.. so many reasons to celebrate and thank God for all our blessings ..

All our members have had medical set backs at one time or another, but we still meet once a month and enjoy visiting and sharing bits and pieces from our daily lives .. I want to wish everyone connected to NEREA, a blessed Holiday season..

Francine Adams  
President

## TIDEWATER

Well Tidewater chums Fall finally arrived after a blistering summer. Seventy members (Yes I said 70) attended our September meeting at our

new watering hole, Gus and George's Spaghetti and Steak House restaurant on Virginia Beach Boulevard. The meeting was fun and informative.

Speaking of informative, Mr. Doug Freeman, Senior VP, Human Resources, briefed on changes in the Aetna Medical Plan effective January 1, 2020. He also gave an update on the new vendor replacing John Hancock. Thanks Doug for taking time out of your busy schedule.

Our busy Treasurer, Harvey Kislow, finally will be able to spend more time with family and leisurely pursuits. Two of our new members, Ms. Barb Divjak, (formerly with Code M, NEXCOM) and Ms. Marian Nelson, (formerly with Code U, NEXCOM) graciously agreed to replace Harvey as co-Treasurers. Thank you ladies. We know you both will do a great job. Harvey, merci, gracias, domo arigato, grazie, toda and thank you for 15 years of exceptional service.

Finally in keeping with the Tidewater chapter's long standing service to our community, we will give to the Food Bank in November and December. What an easy way to perform a random act of kindness to those in need during the Holiday season. Fill a bag, Feed the Hungry, Feel good.

That's all the new that's fit to print.

Peggy Vitola, guest reporter  
Raye Eaton  
President

# DID YOU KNOW

- 1939 - 070-030 Navy Exchange Naval Air Station Banana River, Florida. Construction of the Banana River Naval Air Station began in December 1939 and the station was commissioned on 1 October 1940. The station supported seaplane patrol operations during World War II, a blimp squadron which conducted search and rescue along Florida's east coast, a PBM seaplane pilot training program, and an advanced navigation school. The Navy transferred the station to the Air Force on 1 September 1948 and it was renamed the Joint Long Range Proving Ground (JLRPG). On 1 August 1950, it was renamed Patrick Air Force Base.
- 1940's -Merchandise carried in ships stores ashore was categorized as mandatory, permissive and prohibited. Writing tablets for 15 cents were mandatory, radios, wholesale cost not over \$35 were permissive and vacuum cleaners were prohibited.
- 1955 – Of every dollar spent in a Navy Resale activity, 19.5 cents is spent at soda fountains, snack bars and enlisted club's, 11.7 cents is spent on tobacco and smoking accessories, 11.2 cents is spent on clothing and 11 cents is spent at service stations.
- 1957 - Naval Air Station Lincoln Nebraska and it's NEX disestablished the 30th of December.
- 1967 – NEX Naval Support Activity, Naples Italy added a new tri-service uniform shop, the first in the European area to meet the clothing and tailoring needs of Army, Navy and Air Force personnel.
- 1968 – A monetary educational assistance program was implemented for NEX associates.
- 1974 – Lead-free fuel was introduced to meet the requirements of 1975 automobiles equipped with anti-pollution devices.
- 1977 – NEX Great Lakes opened The Top Two club, a club reserved exclusively for E-5's and E-6's, their dependents and guests.
- 1980 – NEX Adak Alaska opened their new "Ice Cream Shoppe" with first day sales exceeding \$1,400.
- 1985 – NAVRESSO was given command and control of commissaries and Navy Exchanges. Until this time the office had command and control over personnel only, and exercised technical control over all other operations. This shift in management responsibility caused great controversy at the base level, and in 1986 command and control was returned to base commanding officers.
- 1992 – Brand loyalty to the NEX's private label products grew rapidly during the year. 378 consumable, 500 soft-line and 33 hardline selections generated \$35 million in sales.
- 1995 – The We'll Match It program was introduced, making it possible for NEX's to match other stores' advertised prices on identical items.
- 2010 – NEX North Island introduced a Welcome Desk with full time coverage to create a climate where customers would feel welcome and have their general needs met in an efficient and courteous manner.
- 2015 – NEXCOM's Ships Stores Program and associates from NEX Meridian MS completed a reset of the new Naval Technical Training Center's SH A-School's model store.
- 2017 – NEX Little Creek completed it's 18 month cyclical main store renovation. Both transactions and sales on opening day were up nearly 30%.
- 2018 – NEX Panama City supplied 17 pallets of water as well as tarps, grills, charcoal, generators, batteries and other supplies to assist with the cleanup of the aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

# NEW RETIREES / JULY - OCTOBER 2019

GINA ADLER  
ROSALINA AGAGAS  
ROSA AMAYA  
GLORIA ARCE  
EARNESTINE ARMSTRONG  
RUSTIN ARNOLD  
DONNA BALDWIN  
WILLIAM BARKER  
ALICE BARRO  
WILLIAM BAXTER  
BERNARD BISHOP  
ROBERT BISHOP  
BILLY JOE BODDIE  
EULA BRANCH  
HAROLD BRAUCH  
SANDRA BRAVO-BARNES  
DWAIN BRADSHAW  
JESUS CABEZUELA  
LESLIE CAFFEY  
JAMES CAIN  
CARMEN CALDERON  
JUTTA CARNOBAS  
CHRISTOPHER CHAN  
ROBIN COLEMAN  
STEPHEN CONDON  
JOSEPH CORSAIR  
ROBIN DALE  
HOLLON DALY  
IRENE DAPONTE  
JOSEPH DEMARTINO  
GREGORY DETERMAN  
BETTY DIETRICH  
ROSEMARIE DOMINGUEZ  
RONALD DOTSON  
SANDRA DOWLING  
SUZANNE ELLIS  
CRAIG FAUBION  
RHODA FILHIOL  
BENJAMIN FORT  
JOANN GATTIS  
TERESITA GIECKO  
GENE GLOVER  
LISSETTE GONZALEZ  
KIMBERLEY GORDON  
YEHUDAH GRIFFIN  
LEVY HALE  
IONA HARGRAVE  
JENNIFER HENLEY  
PAULA HENNESSEY  
CECILE HOFFLER  
LINDA HOFFMAN  
CONCORDIA HOHNER  
DARLENE HUNT  
IGOAMATUA IEREMEIA  
WILLIAM IGLESIAS  
REGINALD JENKINS  
MACRINA KIRBY  
HARRIETT KNOLL

APO AE  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
NORFOLK, VA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
MEMPHIS, TN  
GULFPORT, MS  
MCKENZIE, AL  
IMPERIAL BEACH, CA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
SUFFOLK, VA  
OAKLAND, CA  
FLOYD, VA  
MILLINGTON, TN  
HAMPTON, VA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
CHULA VISTA, CA  
PENSACOLA, FL  
LAS VEGAS, NV  
BELIN, MD  
PENSACOLA, FL  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
MELBOURNE BEACH, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
NORFOLK, VA  
PORTSMOUTH, RI  
PENSACOLA, FL  
EVERETT, WA  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC  
NEWPORT, RI  
PENSACOLA, FL  
O'FALLON, IL  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
EDMOND, OK  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
LAWRENCEVILLE, VA  
NORFOLK, VA  
FONTANA, CA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
FT MYERS, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
SOUTH LAKE LAND, FL  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
NORFOLK, VA  
PENSACOLA, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
VASS, NC  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
NORFOLK, VA  
NORTH BEND, WA  
LAKEWOOD, CA  
KAPOLEI, HI  
HESPERIA, CA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
MIDDLEBURG, FL  
LOTHIAN, MD

ABRAHAM LIM  
JOSEPHINE LUCAS  
SUSAN LUSANE  
VICENCIO MARGALLO  
SU KYONG MCATEE  
MICHAEL MCGRIF  
GERALD MCMAHAN  
RANDY MEADOWS  
MICHELLE MELUS  
DELLILAH MENA  
HILDA MENDOZA  
ENRILE MILANO  
BELINDA MILLER  
PABLO MIRANDA  
JUSTINA NE  
KENNETH NELSON  
PHUONG NGUYEN  
HARRY OLMO  
MICHAEL OWYEN  
MERELY PAJE  
DANIEL PEREZ  
MICHAEL PIERCE  
ALBA PLEITEZ  
JOHN PSHAK  
GLEN RALSTON  
LYNDON REMIAS  
CHRISTINE REYES  
ROCHELLE RICHARDSON  
LAURIE ROSADO  
LEONORA RUGE  
MARTHA SALCIDO  
VINCENTE SANTOS  
GLADYS SILVELA  
CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS  
DEBORAH SMITH  
ROBERT STANLEY  
MICHA STEPHENS  
LINDA STOUT  
ROSELLE SUMILE  
KATHERINE SUTHERLAND  
FRANCISCA TENGASANTOS  
BRIAN THOMAS  
EVELYN TRAEGER-KOSIEK  
CHARLIE VANDIVER  
LAURA VANZANDT  
LAURA VAZQUEZ  
HSIU WAGGONER  
LAURA WANGLER  
LOUISE WARREN  
JESSE WARRICK  
ERIC WATTS  
NECITAS WEAVER  
MARY WHITE  
MAURICE WILKINS  
WAYNE YARA  
JEFFERY YOUNG  
TERESA ZIMMER

SAN DIEGO, CA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
PENSACOLA, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
RIVERSIDE, CA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
COCOA, FL  
NORFOLK, VA  
HIGHLAND, CA  
NATIONAL CITY, CA  
SUFFOLK, VA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
HONOLULU, HI  
CHESAPEAKE, VA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
GRAND PRAIRIE, TX  
PORT ORCHARD, WA  
BONITA, CA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
YOKOLUKA, JAPAN  
SOUTH GATE, CA  
WINSTON SALEM, NC  
HONOLULU, HI  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX  
HAGATNA, GU  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
ATLANTIC BEACH, FL  
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
PEARL CITY, HI  
MENIFEE, CA  
WAIPAHU, HI  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
FLEMING ISLAND, FL  
ATOKA, TN  
ARLINGTON, TN  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
PEARL CITY, HI  
VAIL, AZ  
PENSACOLA, FL  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
LEICESTER, NC  
OXNARD, CA  
GOOSE CREEK, SC  
PENSACOLA, FL  
KAPOLEI, HI  
HONOLULU, HI  
CHULA VISTA, CA

# DECEASED / JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019

MARTHA BAIN  
ESTHER BALLANGAO  
SHEILA BROXTON  
CAROLANA BURNS  
VICTORIA CABAL  
PETER CALCAGNO  
TRINO CANO  
JAMES CARR  
LONA CHAMBERS  
VIRGINIA CHING  
ISAAC COAXUM  
SYMBOL COFFEY  
KEVIN COLLINS  
CAROLYN COOK-MARCANTONIO.  
EMILY DELCASTILLO  
DAVID DOWD  
PATRICIO DULLA  
BARBARA EDELBROCK  
BARBARA EVARTS  
LULA FAWCETT  
GERALD GORDON  
EILEEN GREV  
CHARLES HEW LEN  
IRENE HOMAN  
GLADYS HOWARD  
JEROME HUFF  
THADDEUS JOHNSON

ACKSONVILLE, FL  
WAHIAWA, HI  
PENSACOLA, FL  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
BEAVERTON, OR  
CLIFTON, NJ  
BEEVILLE, TX  
PHILADELPHIA, PA  
EDMOND, OK  
MILILANI, HI  
NORFOLK, VA  
EUGENE, OR  
PORTSMOUTH, VA  
DENVER, CO  
NATIONAL CITY, CA  
MECHANICSVILLE, MD  
HAGATNA, GU  
HENDERSON, NV  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
HAMILTON, AL  
BUFFALO, NY  
MERRIMACK, NH  
HONOLULU, HI  
GALES FERRY, CT  
GREENVILLE, IL  
SUFFOLK, VA  
CLEARWATER, FL

HELEN KELLISH  
MOLLIE KING  
CHERYL KRUKOWSKI  
LUCY LUM  
MICHAEL MARCHESANI  
ALONZO MCFADDEN  
WILLIAM MACK  
ANN MCGOVERN  
SARAH MILLER  
ANNETTE PALKA  
NATALIE PERLSTEIN  
GERALD QUADRINO  
RALPH RAHN  
VIRGINIA RAMOS  
JOHN REED  
OLGA RIVERA DE SANDOZ  
MERLIN SIMPSON  
DAVID SURO  
IAKOPO UNAITE  
VINAL VAN WART  
PABLO VAZQUEZ-RIVERA  
HAROLD WANDVIK  
WILLIAM WATTS  
SHEILA WHITE  
MAURICE WILKINS  
LEYVONNE WYATT

CHULA VISTA, CA  
CHESAPEAKE, VA  
HONOLULU, HI  
EWA BEACH, HI  
LONDON, ENG  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
KENOSHA, WI  
SOUTH GLASTONBURY, CT  
WINTER PARK, FL  
VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD, IL  
FORT PIERCE, FL  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
NEWPORT, RI  
OAK HARBOR, WA  
CANTONMENT, FL  
CEIBA, PR  
SPARKS, NV  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
WAIANEE, HI  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
SAN JUAN, PR  
FALLON, NV  
WASHINGTON DC  
GRETNA, LA  
PENSACOLA, FL  
PORTSMOUTH, VA

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER *Continued from page 1*

The 2020 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for eligible members in the NEXCOM Retirement Plan is 1.6% payable 1 December 2019 and the 2020 COLA for Social Security recipients is the same 1.6% payable 1 January 2020.

Members should have received their copy of "Your Health Benefits Program: News, Facts, and Reminders for 2020. There is a new option available under the NEXCOM Medical Plan called the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP). The HDHP has much higher deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums but lower premiums than the Aetna Choice POS II Medical Plan for retirees under age 65 and the Aetna Traditional Choice Indemnity Plan for retirees over age 65. Visit [nafhealthplans.com/retiree](http://nafhealthplans.com/retiree) to determine which option is best for you. If you decide to remain in your current plan, you do not have to do anything.

Do you miss seeing and talking to your friends at our annual Conventions? Do you miss visiting the sites in our Convention city with your friends? Would you come to a weekend meeting or would want to revive our five day Conventions to renew your friendships? Send us your opinion on this matter. The email addresses of the officers and directors are included on the next to last page of this Newsletter.

We thank all members who contributed to our Scholarship Fund during 2019 and through the years. Your financial support of the Scholarship Fund is crucial if we are to continue the level of dollar support to students as you have provided in the past. We rely totally on membership support to fund our Scholarship Fund.

During the past year we have lost three NEREA Chapters: San Diego, South Florida and Tri-State. NEREA Board of Directors would like to thank and appreciate the work of the officers and members of each Chapter. We are aware of the time and effort it takes to get the word out to your members, hold meetings, and work with local food banks and groups that feed the needy. We thank you for your good works and the energy you put into Chapters.

We wish you and your family a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season

Sincerely,  
Bill Harper



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CHARLES MEYER

My 93-year-old foster father retired from the Navy Exchange in 1976. He has been a member of NEREA and supporter of the NEREA scholarship program for years. Charles Roderick Meyer's devoted service to this country dates to WWII. Born in the US to British parents, Charles has dual citizenship. His family moved back to Britain when he was just three months old. His father was commissioned in the British Army soon after Britain declared war on Germany. Charles was a student at Manchester school of art and a British Army cadet in a three-year officer training program when he learned that he could enlist in the US Army. He followed his father's example and signed up immediately. He was sworn in at age 18 in General Eisenhower's office at Grosvenor Square in London in January 1945. Charles was assigned to 7th Army in France and his unit was tasked with rounding up German deserters after the Battle of the Bulge. He tells a story of being terrified to the point of tears when he was separated from his unit and alone in the Camdyn Forrest for hours and the great joy he had at being reunited with his boys. After the war ended in Europe, he was sent to Germany where he worked in the officer sales store run by the post exchange. He was eventually sent to the states and was discharged from Ft Dix, New Jersey. His first civilian job was as an artist at Leif department store in Santa Cruz, CA



Charles moved back to England for a few years until he accepted a position as display manager at NEX Jacksonville Florida in 1958. He received first place two years in a row in the base-wide Christmas display contests. In 1965, he was asked to redesign the restaurant attached to the Officers Club. He wrote up a proposal, and received permission from the Admiral in Norfolk, to turn it into an all hands, fine dining establishment. His "Candlelight Club" was a huge success on base for many years. He also redesigned the Admiral's guest house to make it a more suitable retreat for visiting dignitaries. Charles was promoted to NEX Complex Facilities Manager in 1966 and was tasked with refurbishing the NAS Jax enlisted quarters and the EM club. He received permission to change the pre-WWII Bluejacket Inn to the new Anchor Inn. He re-did everything in an HMS Bounty motif with tropical plants, an aquarium and even a live, talking parrot. It was a big hit with the enlisted sailors. Charles was twice awarded "Civilian of the Month" for his work on these projects – quite an achievement for an NEX employee on a base of 28,000 civilians.

In 1969, the CO NAS Jax became concerned that the clubs and exchanges at outlying facilities in Barbados, Bahamas, and Grand Turk had fallen into disrepair. He sent Charles to investigate. Charles prepared a detailed report of what needed to be done and personally briefed the Admiral at Norfolk as to why the clubs and exchanges should be moved from under the control of NEX Charleston to NEX Jax. The move was made, and Charles was put in charge of upgrading the isolated facilities. The CO NAS Jax had so much confidence in Charles that he assigned him his own C-3 and personal pilot, LCDR Reynolds, to transport him and his crew to the islands. Charles was awarded the Department of the Navy Outstanding Service Award for his work on these facilities and his many other accomplishments as NEX Complex Facility Manager.

Charles took early retirement from NEX in 1971 to invest in restoring a castle outside of St Andrews, Scotland, and turning it into a resort. When that fell through, he moved back to Jacksonville to start his own remodeling business. He remodeled all the Goodwill stores in the Jacksonville area and Woodies Barbecue restaurants.

Charles was always interested in sports and youth activities. He was founder of the British/US soccer league in Jacksonville and played center forward for many years. He was never too busy to help with youth soccer or tennis activities. I first met Charles when my mother worked for NEX. She was a single parent of three and it was Charles who always remembered our birthdays, made sure that we never went without a turkey dinner at Thanksgiving or presents at Christmas. That is when I grew to love Charles and call him my foster father to this day. At Charles' 90th birthday party three years ago, I learned that I was not alone in my admiration for him. Many attendees, my age and

younger, shared stories of how he helped their families financially, doted on them as kids and mentored them into adulthood. I am certain that my success in the Navy was due in part to his love and encouragement.

Charles' pride in working for the Navy Exchange is surpassed only by his pride in serving in the Army in WWII. He has many stories of exchange officers, CDR Ransdale, CDR Shantz and CAPT Ott. He became a life-long friend to his boss, CDR Don Springer, until his passing a few years back.

Charles is the devoted husband of Grace Mills Meyer, founder of the Woody's Barbecue chain. Until just recently, they were frequent figures on the golf course, tennis court, and the dance floor. They have slowed down a bit but are still the social butterflies on the Jacksonville scene.

Submitted By  
Denise Parker  
Command Master Chief  
US Navy Retired

## 2020 BALLOT

Nominations are offered for filling "A List" positions on the NEREA Board of Directors. The following incumbent Directors have agreed to continue serving for another two year term in their current positions: Raye Eaton, Gerard Fantano, Craig Sinclair, Glenna Skinner, and Peggy Vitola.

The following Officer has agreed to continue serving for another two year term: Secretary Nancy Collette. The position of President is an "A List" position however in September 2017 the position of President was filled subject to a special consideration when by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors the presidency of Bill Harper was extended initially for a period of one year in accordance with Article IV Section 7 of the NEREA Constitution. On August 28, 2018 the Board authorized the additional extension of Bill Harper's service as President until 2022 or until the issues at stake regarding the consolidation of DoD retail entities have been settled, including the future of the Pension Plan and health benefits for current retirees.

### CATEGORY "A" (Two year term)

OFFICE CANDIDATE	YES	NO	WRITE-CANDIDATE
President Bill Harper	_____	_____	_____
Secretary Nancy Collette	_____	_____	_____
Director Raye Eaton	_____	_____	_____
Director Gerard Fantano	_____	_____	_____
Director Craig Sinclair	_____	_____	_____
Director Glenna Skinner	_____	_____	_____
Director Peggy Vitola	_____	_____	_____

Mark your ballot for a listed candidate or write-in a name. Return your ballot no later than January 2020 to NEREA, P. O. Box 62189, Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2189. Election results will be published in Spring 2020 NEREA Newsletter. You can also visit [www.NEREA.org](http://www.NEREA.org) to fill out your ballot electronically. Please only submit one vote per member. The above recommendations are submitted by the Nominating Committee which consists of: Peter Peugeot, Patricia Byrne and Glenna Skinner

# NAVY EXCHANGE RETIREMENT TRUST

## CHANGES BENEFIT PAYMENTS PROVIDER

By Charles Vaughan, CHAIRPERSON, NEXCOM RETIREMENT TRUST

Due to the exit of John Hancock Insurance Company from pension fund payment services, the Trust and NEXCOM have been in the process of changing benefit payment services to Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon. Effective March 1, 2020, BNY Mellon will be working with NEXCOM on the administration and payment of your monthly benefit.

With this change, you will not have to take any action. The following information provides key points about the conversion based on information available at this time.

- BNY Mellon will mail checks and direct deposit advices in an envelope to each retiree starting 1 March 2020.
- BNY Mellon will honor existing direct deposit authorizations. BNY Mellon will send each retiree a confirmation notice, referred to as an "advice of deposit" to the address of record when the direct deposit is sent to the financial institution.
- BNY Mellon will determine federal and state taxes to be withheld from monthly payments based on state and federal laws when they assume payment responsibilities just as John Hancock has been doing.
- Payments will continue to be issued on the same schedule as before, either deposited electronically, or mailed in advance of the payment date.
- The BNY Mellon check format will be slightly different from the current John Hancock check.
- In 2021, you will receive two tax forms for your 2020 tax preparation: one from John Hancock for the January and February payments and one from Mellon for March through December.

It is still early in the conversion process and NEXCOM Benefits Branch will provide additional communication to you early next year.

### TREASURER'S TIDBIT

Please submit separate checks for NEREA Dues and NEREA Scholarships since they are deposited into separate banks and accounts. You are welcome to mail both checks in the same envelope addressed to: NEREA, PO Box 62189, Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2189

## MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

NEREA is a strong force for you. Strength in numbers

We have 3 retirees living in Greece, 215 in Guam, 566 in Hawaii and 13 in Idaho.

Keep your membership active. It's only \$10.00 a year. Membership helps insure you stay informed on numerous issues that affect our retired community and receive your NEREA News Newsletter. Strength in Numbers.

289 of our current retirees retired in 1996, 151 in 1997 and 204 in 1998.

NEREA members are encouraged to contribute to the NEREA Scholarship Fund? By so doing the fund will thrive and

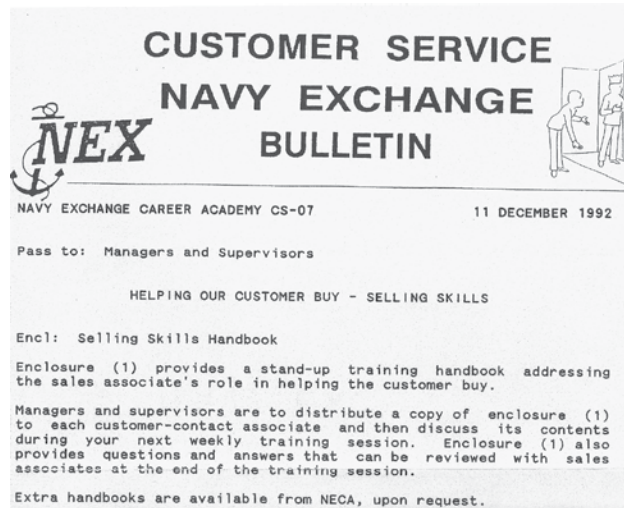
our grandkids can get help with school tuition. There is a Scholarship Donation coupon on the last page of this newsletter. Please submit separate checks for NEREA Dues and Scholarship Donations.

Take a look at the date printed after your name on the hard copy address label of this newsletter. If you see 2019, your 2020 dues will be due next year. If you see 2021, dues are paid through 2021. For those reading the newsletter on our website, you will receive an email during the year alerting you to when your dues are due.

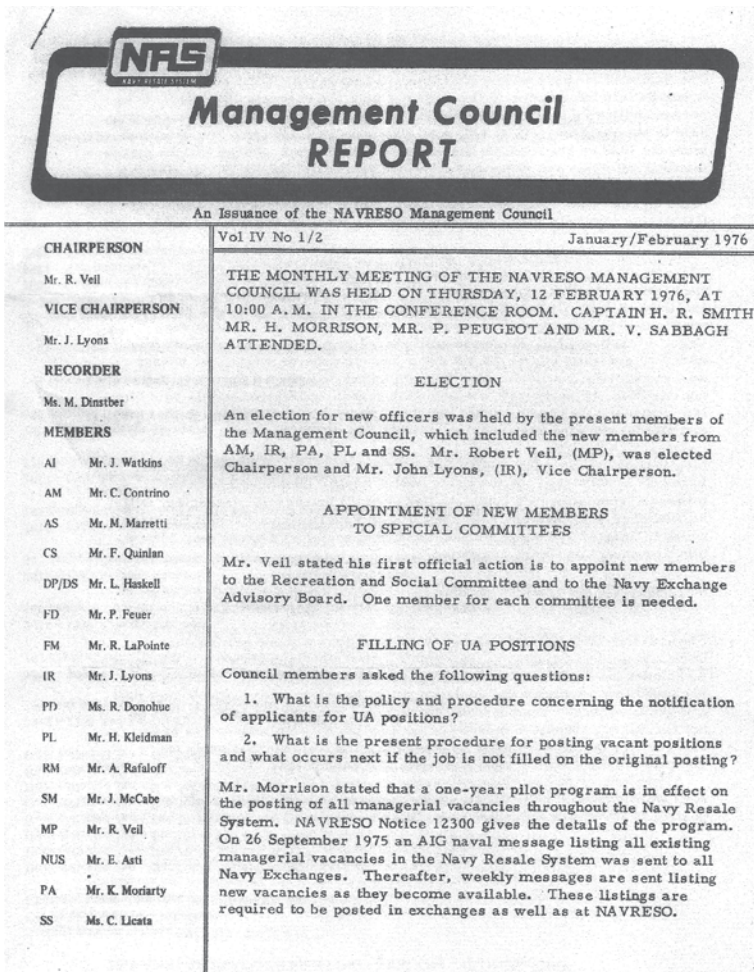
We have retirees living in Florence AL and SC, Franklin MA and PA, Fremont NC and CA and Fresno TX and CA.

We continue to solicit NEREA members who have a NEX or Coast Guard story they would like to share to forward a brief article for a future newsletter. Many thanks to Charles Meyer and Denise Parker for submitting the Members Spotlight article which is contained in this newsletter. Please mail your input and a picture or two to NEREA, PO Box 62189, Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2189. Email submissions can be sent to tomvcunningham@gmail.com. You forward us the details; we'll help you formulate them into an article. Copies of pictures will work. Brag a bit on your exchange story.





November 1976 - Ray Eaton at the New England Complex building, Davisville, RI



NAS Dallas was located on Mount Creek Lake in southwest Dallas. Decommissioned December 1998.



Ray Eaton's License Plate

## 1980 Happy Anniversary

### 20 YEARS

NEX Great Lakes  
William Guyot

NEX Seattle  
Geneva Cairns

### 10 YEARS

NEX Great Lakes  
Henry Hannum

NAVRESSO  
Theresa Mallon

NEX Jacksonville  
Irene Jenkins  
Betty West

### 5 YEARS

NAVRESSO  
Curtis Rock

NEX Great Lakes  
Helen DeLapp

NEX Seattle  
Carolyn Rottluff

New London  
Merle Smith

### SARA's

### 1977

NEX Memphis  
Emma Chandler

NEX Naples  
Phyllis Shoewalter

### 1987

NEX Yokoluka  
Samuel Forrest

NEX Little Creek  
Sherry Gorman  
Sylvia Huey  
Betty Meekings  
Rachel Maupin  
Annette Cutler

NEX Newport  
Virginia Newton  
Clarice Boiani

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The letters A and B indicate the election cycle for the positions held by each board member. Each person on the board is elected for a two year tour and one half of the group is considered for election each year to insure continuity on the board.

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Sal Grasso - President  
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E-mail: salgra36@gmail.com

## **NEXCOM HUMAN RESOURCES CONTACT**

Toll free: 1-888-639-2363

Routine requests for information about your retirement benefits or medical coverage, can usually be handled by calling the following person at the toll free number.

Ms. Emi Zoppy –  
Benefits Insurance Examiner

Technical questions or requests for information and/or specific actions are more effective if they are submitted in writing to:

NAVY EXCHANGE SERVICE  
COMMAND RETIREMENT  
SECTION  
3280 VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD.VA.  
BEACH,VA 23452-5724

It is suggested that you retain copies of all your benefits correspondence for your records. You may also contact your nearest Navy Exchange for additional assistance person at the toll free number noted above.

### **ADDRESS CHANGES**

If your mailing address changes, be sure to notify NEREA so that you will continue to receive our Newsletter. Please send your change of address – old and new – to the NEREA POST OFFICE BOX.

Also, if you are currently receiving a Navy Exchange System Annuity, be sure to notify the John Hancock Insurance Company, the paying agent for the retirement trust.

Please note that you must advise NEREA, NEXCOM and JOHN HANCOCK separately of any address changes.

Questions concerning direct deposit of your John Hancock retirement check please call 1-800-624-5155 or you can write:

John Hancock Life Insurance Co.  
P. O. Box 9512, Portsmouth, NH  
03802-9512

## **NEREA IS ON FACEBOOK!**

We want to remind you that a Facebook page has been created to assist in connecting our many Navy Exchange Retirees. The page is NEREA - Navy Exchange Retired Employees Association:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/NEREA-Navy-Exchange-Retired-Employee-Association/100611363318049>.

In addition, if you have any pictures or information that you would like to post please send to [nexretired@yahoo.com](mailto:nexretired@yahoo.com). Contacts are: / Keith Spradlin: [vettdriver@yahoo.com](mailto:vettdriver@yahoo.com) / Tom Cunningham: [donnaandtom@juno.com](mailto:donnaandtom@juno.com)

## **NEREA NEWSLETTER NOW ON WEBSITE**

The NEREA Newsletter is now available on our website: <http://www.nerea.org/>.

We are currently paying over \$2,300 to publish and distribute printed copies of each newsletter. We can reduce these costs by eliminating distribution of printed copies to those NEREA members with internet access. You can now view the newsletter in color and, if you want, print a copy at home.

Please let us know if you want to help us save money by sending an email to Tom Cunningham at: [donnaandtom@juno.com](mailto:donnaandtom@juno.com), asking him to delete your name from our mailing list. This will both save us money and help with the environment.

NAVY EXCHANGE RETIRED  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NEREA)  
P. O. BOX 62189  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23466-2189

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
NORFOLK, VA  
PERMIT # 508

**NEREA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
P.O. Box 62189  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2189

Make checks or money orders payable to  
NEREA SCHOLARSHIP FUND and mail to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
Apt: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, I would like to support the NEREA  
Scholarship Fund by making a tax deductible  
donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)**

**NEREA SCHOLARSHIP DONATION**

**NEREA**  
PO Box 62189  
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2189

Make checks payable to NEREA and mail to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
Apt: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
NEX Retirement Date (Month/Year) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$ - \_\_\_\_\_ (PLEASE PRINT)**

**ANNUAL DUES - \$10.00**  
DUES FOR ADDITIONAL YEARS  
OF 20 \_\_\_\_\_ & 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ARE ALSO  
ENCLOSED

**NEREA DUES COUPON**