

# NEREA NEWS

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Fellow Retirees:

It's finally spring even though the temperature isn't very high. You can tell by all the yellow pollen on your cars and your sudden increase in Kleenex usage. It is also the most intensive time for sports. Baseball has finally started and our optimism is the greatest. I know this as a fact because I'm a Cubs fan and we had to wait 108 years for a championship. Do you know how you can tell its spring in Chicago? It is when the

first newspaper declares "this will be the year the Cubs win". It is also March Madness in Men's and Women's college basketball. Soon to start are the NBA playoffs and the NHL playoffs and the Frozen Four college Hockey. Also Formula 1 and NASCAR racing is in full swing. Whew!

It is also time for our Scholarship Awards. We will be giving out 4 awards this year. You can go to [NEREA.org](http://NEREA.org) on the internet to find out how to apply. If you look below the photos at the top of the page, you will see several tabs. If you hover over the "news" tab with your mouse, another tab opens up called "scholarships". Click on that and all the info is there. You have to have all your paperwork postmarked no later than 1 May. Please follow all the rules.....

We also would like to add additional chapters to our NEREA family. A couple of locations that we know have a lot of retirees are Las Vegas and San Diego. Are you interested? You can contact us at: [nereanational@gmail.com](mailto:nereanational@gmail.com)

If you would like to join a Chapter, please contact the Presidents on our "Directory" page either by email or by phone. They can help you.

I would like to thank Naomi Thompson who has served on our Board of Directors for several years. She has always put our retirees first. She will still be a member of the Tidewater/Hampton Roads Chapter.

Cheers,  
Tom Williams

# CHAPTER CHATTER

## TIDEWATER

Spring is in the air along with all the beautiful blooming flowers, trees, bugs and all of that pollen. Everyone has red eyes, sneezing and wish they had stock in kleenex.

We are still averaging 50 to 65 members every month in our meetings and I'm amazed at the kind giving hearts of our members. At our meeting on 7 March we passed around the room our Food Bank Jar (which is a decorated peanut butter jar) and we collected \$545.00 which fed 1,094 people. Big "thank you" to our members for their donations and to Barbara Divjak and Barbara Willis for their effort and dedication to the Food Bank Drives. We had a raffle drawing to win a basket for St Patty/ Bunny basket and it was won by Brian Thomas. Lunch ticket was won by Kathy Perazzo and the 50/50's were won by Amy Schwartz & Tom Cunningham, each getting \$60 each.

We have two retirees who shared their ages with us and they are both very much on their feet and living life; Joan Stogner turned 90 in February and Jewel Robinson turned 99 in March. Happy Happy Birthday Ladies, you Rock! Keep adding those numbers.

You might be tired of reading this but I am always trying to increase memberships, \$5.00 a year dues and it all goes to the scholarship fund, your \$5.00 will help. If you are not a Chapter member, call me, 757 340-2935 and I will give you all the information you need to join.

Joan Stogner, a member of the NEREA Tidewater Chapter recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Joan was hired in Brooklyn, NY as an Invoice Clerk in 1955. She worked at Naval Base Norfolk, VA in retail & inventory. She says her favorite job was in

Payroll where Sharon Burke was her supervisor. Joannie retired in 1994 and is doing great. She loved being able to celebrate her 90th birthday with her family and friends. Raye Eaton and



Sharon Freyer, who are dear friends from the Tidewater Chapter, attended the birthday celebration.

Stay well, safe and happy.  
Raye Eaton - President

## OAKLAND

It's Good Friday and a rainy day in the SF Bay Area. The baseball season is about to begin as the Golden State Warriors struggle to make the NBA playoffs.

I often read about Naval history in the Bay Area. While not as well known as Alameda Naval Air Station or Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Treasure Island Naval Station is rich in naval history. It was the last Navy Base to close in the Bay as part of the BRAC closures.

Treasure Island a man made island was built for the Golden Gate Int'l Expo, 1939 - 1940, to celebrate the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge in 1937 and San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge in 1936. After the Expo, the plan was to convert TI to an airport.

At the beginning of WWII, Naval Training on Yerba Buena Island (a contiguous island) was transferred to Treasure Island.

Treasure Island was a headquarter's base, a receiving station and a training station. At the height of the Pacific War, TI processed 12,000 military personnel a day. During the war 4.5 million service members passed through Treasure Island.

After WWII, TI provided support for military action in Korea & Vietnam. Treasure Island continued to be a training center for electronics, fire control and radar & chemical warfare.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, end of post WWII Cold War and downsizing of the Navy's presence on the West Coast, Treasure Island closed on May 8 1997.

CAPT Lynne Hanel, the base's last Commanding Officer, passed the baton to SF Mayor Willie Brown. Today Treasure Island is in the midst of a construction boom.

In closing, enjoy the spring season to refresh and renew.

Take care & stay well,  
Lucky Fung

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Pacific Northwest Picnic

All NEX Retirees and former employees are invited to join us for a picnic with other Retirees and former employees.

Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Time: 11:30 am to ??

Location: Cranberry Lake Shelter at Deception Pass State Park  
Bring your favorite dish to share!

For more information, contact Connie Punch at [punchbunch22@gmail.com](mailto:punchbunch22@gmail.com) or Yvonne Musgrove at [ysmusgrove@gmail.com](mailto:ysmusgrove@gmail.com)  
Hope to see you all there!"

## PENSACOLA

Greetings from Pensacola/Milton !

Our March meeting Guest Speaker was Jason Deyell with Nautilus Financial Strategies who educated us on Medicare supplement and advantage plans. He also spoke on military programs and how they work with Medicare. We also played Easter Trivia games and made Bunny ornaments. One trivia question is:

What was the first Easter basket supposed to resemble?

- a. Flower pot
- b. Fruit basket
- c. Bird Nest

Ding Ding its Bird Nest

It's Spring Break in sunny Pensacola. I hope to see you here.

Please join us on Facebook @ Pensacola Chapter Navy Exchange Retired Employees Association.

Our next holiday meeting will be at Sonny's on Navy Blvd. on June 20 at 2:00.

Charlene Gilbert  
Pensacola President  
cmgilbert2@hotmail.com

## NEW ENGLAND

Greetings from New England!

I confess I have been remiss in reporting our NE Chapter meetings. Will catch up and do better in the future.

A meeting was held on 24 July 23 at our favorite restaurant, Greggs North Kingstown. There were 16 attending members with Elsa Crozet being our newest membership. WELCOME! Linda Howard won the 50/50 raffle and seeing it was her birthday, she donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund. Our theme for this meeting was Christmas in

July. New London constituents donated the gifts. Everyone went home with a gift.

A meeting was again held on 23 Oct 23 with 17 attending. Darlene Crow won the 50/50 raffle and donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund.

Last but not least, again a meeting was held on 5 Feb 24 with 15 attending. Erlinda Foley was our new attendee, WELCOME! Kathy Martin won the 50/50 raffle and graciously donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund. An auction was held with Judy Gaw and Nancy DuBreuil being the highest bidders. More \$'s for the Scholarship Fund.

We discussed the recent change regarding base access. The Newport Base only requires a DBIDS issued by the Pass & Id Office after a DD2574 issued by the NEX Personnel Department is presented to show proof of retirement. The problem here is that both forms are only good for a year. Two years would be good but three even better. Guess because we are retired we must be figured old and won't last three years. GOT NEWS FOR THEM! Personally, I am looking to still be kicking at 90. (Maybe not to high)

Our Chapter has lost a few members due to death or ill health but seem to be holding around 15/16 members. That's a comfortable number.

As I sit here writing this, I can see the trees starting to bud and my daffodils are coming up. We have had a lot of rain so things are growing. Very little snow this year. 3 inches at most. Spring is coming!

Until next time, stay safe, healthy and happy

Ann O'Connor

**If the year 2023 is next to your name on your newsletter, you owe \$10 for 2024 dues. Why not send \$20 and take care of 2025 too? Mail with attached coupon at the end of the newsletter to our PO Box. Thanks!**

# NEW RETIREES / NOVEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024

FELIZA AGNO  
MELVIN AH YO  
ANNABELLE ALLON  
MARIVIC ALONZO  
SONIA ALVAREZ  
YOLANDA ANICIETE  
BARBARA APELLIDO  
REYNALDO ARQUERO  
KAMALJIT BAINS  
FELIPA BASTON  
DAVID BERRY  
LAWRENCE BLIGH  
LUDIVINA BORBE  
TIMOTHY BREIDENSTEIN  
REYNOLD BRILL  
FELY BROWN  
GAIL BROWN  
ASHLEY BRYANT  
LINDA BUSH  
RICHARD CANTILLO  
FITZROY CARNEY  
MARBEL CASTANEDA  
NELIA CASTILLO  
THERESA CHAMBERLAIN  
STEPHEN CHIKAGWA  
DAPHNE CIEGO  
MARLYN CINTRON  
SARAH CLARK  
MAYER HILLEL COHEN  
THERESA COMIA  
MARY COOPER  
CHRISTINE CORMIER  
AMARILYS CORTEZ  
VIRGINIA CROSS  
JOSEPHINE DE VEGA  
WENDY DECKNER  
ZENAIDA DILLAVOU  
KIMBERLY DONNELL  
CLAIRE DORSEY  
DESIREE EMMONS  
EMMIE ESPINOSA  
LAURA FICKLE  
ARLENE FIELDS  
EVELYN FLORES  
GERALD FONTANILLA  
ROSA GOWEN  
SANDRA GREENWELL  
ANDREA HANINGER  
RAYMUNDO HARINA  
MILAGROS HARWELL  
RICHARD HEIRAKUJI  
DIXIE HERNANDEZ  
DELMA HERZOG  
BARBARA HOILMAN  
WANNARA HOWARD  
MARIA HUTCHENS  
MICHELLE JOHNSON  
CYNTHIA JONES  
GERALDINE JONES  
TAMIKA JOSEPH  
EARLEEN KANEAKALAU  
GREGORY KELLEMS  
MICHAEL KING  
DONNA LAURICIO

KILLEEN, TX  
AIEA, HI  
AGAT, GU  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
OXNARD, CA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
DEDEDO, GU  
FPO, AP  
ROUND LAKE BEACH, IL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
STATEN ISLAND, NY  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
RAMONA, CA  
OXNARD, CA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
GULF BREEZE, FL  
JAY, FL  
GUADALAJARA SPAIN,  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
CHULA VISTA, CA  
WAIPAHU, HI  
SAINT MARYS, GA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
LILLIAN, AL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
LAKEWOOD, NJ  
MILILANI, HI  
SUFFOLK, VA  
SUMMERVILLE, SC  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
NORFOLK, VA  
OAK HARBOR, WA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
YORK, ME  
PENSACOLA, FL  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
PACE, FL  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
ZAMBALES PHILIPPINES,  
SPRING VALLEY, CA  
ST JOHNS, FL  
GREAT MILLS, MD  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
KAILUA, HI  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
LOXLEY, AL  
NORFOLK, VA  
BREMERTON, WA  
KENT, WA  
CHESAPEAKE, VA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
LAUDERDALE, MS  
PHOENIX, AZ  
EWA BEACH, HI  
OXNARD, CA  
JOHNSON CITY, TN  
MIDWAY, FL

MICHELLE LEE  
PAZ LIMON  
TANCY MALDONADO  
MARIA LUISA MANAS  
ELOIDA MARTIN  
OK CHA MATSUOKA  
LISA MATTHEWS  
MARIA CASANDRA MAYFIELD  
ADELAIDA MCDANIEL  
DOROTHY MCEWAN  
HERNAN MONTOYA  
KYONG MOSES  
WESTLEY MOW  
ANGELINA MUNOZ  
DONNALYNN NG  
JOSEPH NICOARA  
ANICETA O'BRIEN  
KATHLEEN O'HORA  
MARIA VICTORIA  
GENERAL PARKER  
JAMES PRUNER  
LOURDES PUGAY  
MARY QUINTANILLA  
JOSEPH REEDY  
SCOTT REESE  
ARNALDO REYES  
DIONISIO ROMAN  
TRICIA SABLAN  
RODRIGO SANCHEZ  
ROMEO SASIS  
INDARDAYE SATNARINE  
FE SCHOLL  
CYNTHIA SELMON  
SHARON SHELL  
EVANGELINE SHINE  
MALERIE SHIPE-MEYERS  
ANNA MARIA SHOULTZ  
ALICE SIMMONS  
ERROL SIMPSON  
JAMES SMITHERS  
CLARITA SOMERA  
FAAMASINO SOPI  
DANELLE SPARKMAN  
DEREK STEPHENS  
LEONARD STOHR  
GERALDINE STUTTS  
VIRGINIA TAIJERON  
JOHN TAITAGUE  
ZENAIDA TANDOC  
SHEREE TAYLOR  
TASHA TODD  
MARIA TORRES  
MARCIA TOZZOLI  
GILBERT URAP  
SUMANA VALLE  
DAWN WALLFRED  
LILIANA WASHINGTON  
TERRI WEAVER  
ANITA WEBBER  
YUK WONG  
TONY YA  
TRACEY YATES  
SHEILA YOUNG

YIGO, GU  
WAIPAHU, HI  
FPO, AP  
AIEA, HI  
WAUKEGAN, IL  
HONOLULU, HI  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
CHULA VISTA, CA  
CHULA VISTA, CA  
PORTSMOUTH, VA  
NORFOLK, VA  
PENSACOLA, FL  
HONOLULU, HI  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
FALLON, NV  
MONTCLAIR, CA  
MAYPORT, FL  
KENOSHA, WI  
PARADIS KATY, TX  
NEWPORT NEWS, VA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
EWA BEACH, HI  
AGAT, GU  
TINTON FALLS, NJ  
PENSACOLA, FL  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
NORFOLK, VA  
SANTA RITA, GU  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
HONOLULU, HI  
GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL  
EWA BEACH, HI  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
NORFOLK, VA  
SUMMERVILLE, SC  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM  
PENSACOLA, FL  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
HONOLULU, HI  
MARYSVILLE, WA  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
PEARL CITY, HI  
YIGO, GU  
BROOKLYN, NY  
SANTA RITA, GU  
INARAJAN, GU  
GAITHERSBURG, MD  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
SAN DIEGO, CA  
MENIFEE, CA  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
PENSACOLA, FL  
WAIPAHU, HI  
PENSACOLA, FL  
CHULA VISTA, CA  
SUFFOLK, VA  
HARVEY, LA  
PENSACOLA, FL  
HAGATNA, GU  
BELLINGHAM, WA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

# NEREA OFFICIAL BALLOT

Election of NEREA Executive Board Officers and Directors. This selection is in accordance with NEREA Constitution and By-Laws. NEREA members in good standing for calendar year 2024 may cast their ballots for the Nominating Committee recommendations, or provide a write-in candidate of their choice.

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	YES	NO	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
President	Tom Williams			
Vice President	Peter Bratke			
Treasurer	Tom Burke			
Secretary	Eileen Andrews			
Director	Glenna Skinner			
Director	Raye Eaton			
Director	Gerard Fantano			
Director	Craig Sinclair			
Director	Peggy Vitola			
Director	Milton Bailey			
Director	Brian Thomas			
Director	Ellen Bennett			

The above candidates for the NEREA Executive Board and Directors are the recommendations as submitted by the current NEREA Executive Board. Please mark your ballots “Yes” or “No” for each candidate, or submit a write-in candidate. Return your ballot no later than 31 May 2024 to: NEREA, P.O. Box 62189, Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2189. Election results will be tallied at the Fall 2024 NEREA business meeting and will be announced in the Fall 2024 newsletter.



# NEX TRIVIA - CHALLENGE YOUR BRAIN

1. There is a NEX on a NAS in Tennessee. This facility dates back to WWI when the U.S Army created Park Field as a training ground. The navy's presence began in 1942 when Park Field first became a Reserve Naval Air Base before becoming a Naval Air Station. If you were shopping at the NEX on the NAS in Memphis today, what city would you actually be in?

2. True or False: In 2010 the NEX worldwide began giving customers a five cent credit toward their purchases for each eco-friendly reusable bag used to bag their purchase?

3. What was the name of the hotel on 28th street in Manhattan that NAVRESSO used during the 70's and 80's for exchange personnel attending classes and for management trainees during their headquarter assignments. I'm guessing if you stayed at this hotel, you'll remember the name and that per diem rates at the time were around \$11 a day.

4. NEX Norfolk VA opened a new state-of-the-art car wash in 2022. The car wash has the ability to recycle

what percentage (%) of the water it uses? Is it 60%, 70%, 80% or 90%?

5. NEXCOM's ASI survey measures overall attitudes on culture and work environment and is used to help address associate concerns. What do the letters ASI stand for?

6. Navy Exchange 010-020 was located on a large naval base on a small peninsula in Narragansett Bay. What was this Naval Air Station know as?

7. A full line of private-label eyewear was offered at most NEX Optical shops in the US by 1992. The Harbor View line gave customers their choice of 122 different frames. How many pairs of Harbor View frames would you guess were sold in 1992? Was it 9,670, 11,600 or 13,612?

8. NEREA awarded nine (9) \$2,000 scholarships in 2019. Who is eligible for a scholarship, and who provides the funds?

## Trivia Answers from above

1. Millington, TN

2. True: Between 21 April and 22 May of that year, 22,466 reusable bags were presented and used at checkout.

3. Find the answer on page 13. If you stayed at this hotel, and have a story to relate, email that story to [nereanational@gmail.com](mailto:nereanational@gmail.com) and we'll share the experiences in the next newsletter.

4. 90 %. This car wash is designed to last 30 years due to corrosion resistant components, including the fasteners, which are stainless steel.

5. Associate Satisfaction Index. In 2018 10,508 associates around the enterprise took the survey.

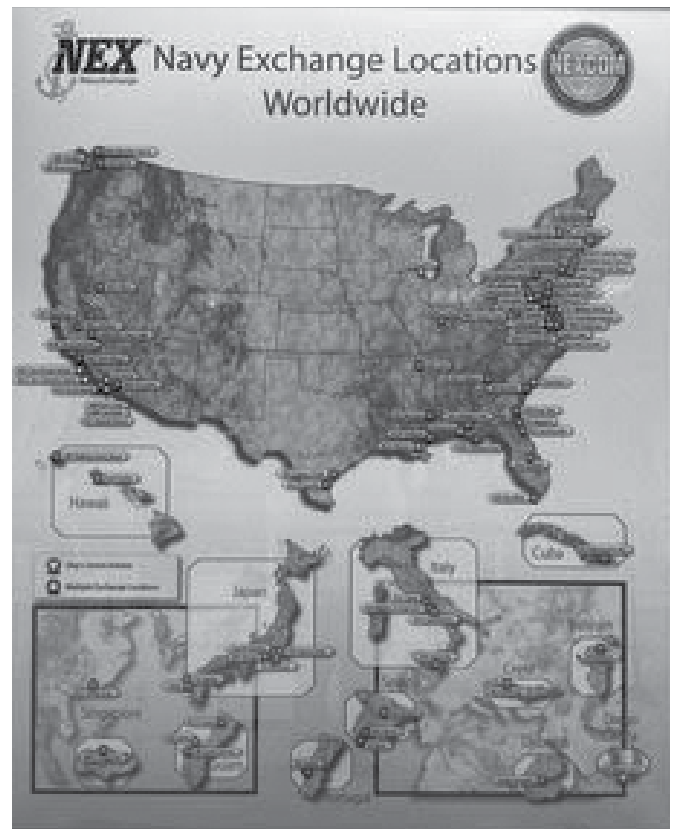
6. Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, RI

7. 11,600. Top-selling designer brands were also available, regularly priced at 20 to 35% savings.

8. Grandchildren of NEREA members and children of active NEX employees are eligible. The funds are provided thru the generosity of NEREA members and chapters. A scholarship donation coupon is available on the last page of this newsletter. We hope you will use it.

# DID YOU KNOW

- 1950's Exchange dry cleaners installed monorail systems and reduced turnaround time from four days to 48 hours.
- 1964 The Navy Guest House Program was formed, consisting of guest houses and hotels/motels.
- 1966 The first industrial relations workshop was held at the Navy Ships Store Office. The workshop focused on manager/associate relations and allowed staff representative to engage in round-table discussions about problem areas.
- 1975 A minimum wage increase to \$2.30 an hour added approximately \$1.9 million to the annual payroll for hourly associates.
- 1977 The Price Breaker program, which sold certain items at cost to compete with “loss leaders” offered by other retailers, and the X-tra Value program, which concentrated on the sale of quality clothing and soft lines with less-known brand names, were established.
- 1986 New Navy Lodges at Gulfport MS, Moffett Field CA and Atsugi, Japan were constructed and opened.
- 1987 The House Armed Services Committee permitted the addition of new concessionaire fast-food facilities such as fried chicken, pizza and Mexican food chains.
- 1991 NEXCEN Europe was established in Naples to consolidate merchandise procurement and improve management assistance to exchanges in Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.
- 1994 The Kings Bay private label line of clothing for men, women and children, sold exclusively in Navy Exchanges, hit the shelves.
- 2000 The Military Star credit program replaces NEXCARD.
- 2003 The first “Mobile Ship’s Store in a Box” is established in Diego Garcia. This 40-ft tractor trailer was converted into a walk-in store.
- 2011 NEREA awarded nine (9) \$2,000 scholarships.
- 2014 The Navy Lodge program renovated several lodges, including lodges in Annapolis, Pensacola, Jacksonville, Monterey and Staten Island.
- 2020 NEX and Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) online retail and uniform stores transitioned to a new unified online e-commerce portal.
- 2023 The U.S. Navy celebrates birthday number 248 on 13 October.



# IT WAS A GOOD YEAR

By Charles Vaughan, Chairperson, NEXCOM Retirement Trust

If you drink wine, you would know that 2023 was one of the best years on record for wine makers. Likewise, if you follow the financial markets, you would know that 2023 was one of the best years on record for financial results. As a result, your pension fund had an outstanding year!

Looking at the chart you will see that the fund in every area did very well with most of the funds in double digits. The total return of 13.21% was particularly satisfying as the Fund has a target interest rate return of 7%. If the fund's return is lower than that, Trustees have frowns on their faces and any excess funding erodes. If the fund's return is higher than 7%, Trustees smile and any excess funding (that amount greater than stated liabilities) grows. In 2023, the trust had an overall return of 13.21% beating the actuarial assumption of 7% and was a 100% turnaround from last year. Two of the seven portfolios were below their targets but even so were in double digit returns: Stocks at 21.74% vs policy return of 26.14 and real estate at

12.81 vs 12.91. Most notable, the value of all assets improved moving the fund to over \$1.6 Billion in asset value.

As a fellow retiree, I am grateful to be part of a Pension Fund that is one of the best in the country. When this Fund was established in the 1970's, dedicated associates such as Art LeValle, Peggy Vitola, and Craig Sinclair, to name just a few, ensured that the framework that was established gave NEXCOM associates a Pension Fund that provided two main benefits: 1) the pension amount you retired with was guaranteed for life and that it has a survivor benefit and 2) unlike many pension plans, your plan keeps even with inflation with additions each year reflecting cost of living. Thank you all who came before us and of course you can thank your current Trustee Board for working tirelessly to ensure that this fund is vibrant, reflects current trends and will last long into the future. Savor that glass of wine as well as your secure NEXCOM economic future. Happy New Year.

## NEXCOM RETIREMENT TRUST FUND

The following data summarizes portfolio investment returns YTD DEC 2023:

Total Fund Return	13.21%	Same period last year	-12.51%				
Policy Index return	13.09%						
	0.12%						
Asset Class Return							
Domestic Equities: -16.21%	21.74%	Internat. Equities	18.98%	Domestic Fixed Income	8.39%	Real Estate:	12.81%
Index Return	26.14%	Index Return	15.62%	Index Return	7.74%	Index Return	12.91%
	-4.40%		15.62%		0.65%		-0.10%
Master Limited Partnership	18.70%	Alternative Strategy	2.76%	Global Low Volatility Eq.	7.97%	Cash	5.17%
Index Return	14.02%	Index Return	-3.86%	Index Return	7.12%	91 Day Tres	5.17%
	4.68%		6.62%		0.85%		0.00%

Notes. 1. YTD the Total Fund performance is above the policy return 2. 5 of the 7 portfolios exceeded or were equal with their policy benchmarks. 3. Total portfolio YTD asset value slightly increased in value to \$1.6B



# RECENTLY DECEASED

MILAGROS P ACOSTA	ORANGE PARK FL	RICHARD MANTON	JACKSONVILLE FL
MARY AMATO	ITALY	ANITA R MINAS	BOERNETX
HELEN S BAKER	KAPOLEI HI	MARCELINO B NAZARENO	SAN DIEGO CA
LUZVIMINDA E BELL	STATESBORO GA	MARY S OGO	GUAM
ANTHONY O BLACKBURN	VIRGINIA BEACH VA	KUNIKO K PHILLIPS	PENSACOLA FL
ROBERT A BOUCHER	SAN DIEGO CA	SADIE M RACKLEY	SAN DIEGO CA
GARRETT M BOYD	PENSACOLA FL	RUSSELL H RAY	BARTLETT TN
RAYBURN L BROCK	AULANDER NC	MOYNA J RICHARDSON	GROTON CT
JULIA E BUSH	MILTON FL	MAURINE RIPPER	ORLANDO FL
BENJAMIN D CANADA	PENSACOLA FL	KATIE M ROBBINS	PENSACOLA FL
BARBARA B CHAPPELL	SUFFOLK VA	OLIVIA ROBERTS	VIRGINIA BEACH VA
LAURA B CHAPPELL	VIRGINIA BEACH VA	MARTHA J ROLAND	IMPERIAL BEACH CA
FRANCES E CLARK	BRUNSWICK ME	ERLINDA SABADISTO	PHILIPPINES
RAY S COCJIN	PORT HUENEME CA	KATHERINE SABOG	WAIPAHU HI
PATRICIA J CUTLIP	SAN DIEGO CA	FLORENCIA G SALVADOR	WAIPAHU HI
JUDY P DALTON	MILTON FL	CAROLYN M SANCHEZ	SAN DIEGO CA
CARMELA DECICCO	BROOKLYN NY	VINCENTE M SANTOS	GUAM
EVELYN A DEOCAMPO	CHULA VISTA CA	KENNETH R SIMMS SR	NORFOLK VA
JAMES F DIXON JR	SANTEE CA	ARISTINE F SMALL	HAMPTON VA
PETE A FARALA SR	OXNARD CA	WALTER T SMELTZER	SAN DIEGO CA
VIRGINIA C FLORES	PORT HUENEME CA	WOO KYU SONG	GLENVIEW IL
POMPEO FRAIOLI	ITALY	IRENE R SPROTT	NORTH CHICAGO IL
SAMUEL D GALLAHER	NORFOLK VA	JOANNE D STOVALL	CHESAPEAKE VA
JOVITA GARCIA	ROBSTOWN TX	GERALDINE L TANNER	PENSACOLA FL
PATRICIA C GERJOL	NORTH CHICAGO IL	MERCELY TAPIA	BREMERTON WA
KATHLEEN J GOMES	LOS GASTOS CA	ANNA TOCCI	BROOKLYN NY
KAZUKO GUERTIN	SAN JOSE CA	SHARON M TOMLINSON	CHESAPEAKE VA
EARLINE R HILL	NORFOLK VA	JAN J VAN HEININGEN	VIRGINIA BEACH VA
MARILYN V HINIKER	ORMOND BEACH FL	TERESITA VITUG	VIRGINIA BEACH VA
GEORGE M HOREY	VIRGINIA BEACH VA	EIKO WARREN	SAN DIEGO CA
CARLOS A LATAPIE	DELRAY BEACH FL	VERLON S WHITFIELD	MILTON FL
WILLIAM A LAWSON	BLAIRSVILLE GA	LESLIE E WILSON	SAN DIEGO CA
HIROKO K LOVINS	ALTAMONTE SPRINGS FL		

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: THOM SPEEDLING



I started with “NRSO” after spending time in the commercial sector, where I was the Regional Display Manager for a retail department store chain, headquartered in New York, with divisions in New York State, Connecticut and New Jersey. I was hired as a Display Specialist, then became a Sales Coordination Specialist, followed by the title of Senior Sales Coordination Specialist. My position description included writing NEX display



and merchandising publications and manuals, writing articles for the Navy Exchange News Digest and many commercial sector magazines, providing field guidance and training trips as requested, and teaching field managers and future NEO’s visual merchandising, signing and the “visual” aspects of the NEX.

My early travels from headquarters to overseas stops in the Philippines and Japan generally took two days with a stopover in Honolulu, HI. The plane of the day was a Boeing 707. Travel started in New York,

with refueling stops in Seattle, Guam and Honolulu, then onto Japan, the Philippines, etc.

One of my favorite assignments was teaching the NEX Visual Merchandising Program at both headquarters and at the Navy Supply Corps School

in Athens, Georgia. We had a mockup store at our Brooklyn Headquarters location where attendees were given “hands on” practice of working with the programs various merchandising programs and standard fixturing.

Many of my remembrances include a trip to Keflavik, Iceland. My hotel room was totally illuminated



for several evenings by an active volcano on an island opposite the coast. During a day off while working in the Philippines, I was able to work in a round of golf. The game was suddenly interrupted when we had to stop our round because of a big python that was sunbathing in the center of the fairway. Needless to say, that was the end of golf for the day.

One of my greatest “thrills” was when I was assigned to set up the new ship’s store aboard the recent reactivation of the battleship USS New Jersey. To be part of Naval History was something I will never forget. A second greatest “thrill” was being able to work on the development and setup of the Navy Exchanges prototype for pilot “Store Of The Future Project”, that was setup in the existing Navy Exchange at NTC Orlando.

As part of my background, I had the privilege of using the initials SVM following my name in recognition of having met the exacting criteria established by the SOCIETY OF VISUAL MERCHANDISING, an organization of the National Retail Merchants Association in June 1985. The NRMA is now named the National Retail Federation. I was also a member of the VISUAL MERCHANDISING BOARD OF DIRECTORS, NATIONAL RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION, where I represented the military exchange services.

One of my longest trips and shortest stays was a Ship’s Store Ashore location I did at Diego Garcia. It took nearly five days to reach the location in the middle of the Indian Ocean aboard an Air Force transport plane I picked up at the Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. I set the store up in about five days, and then made the reverse trip back to New York.

My 35 years with NEXCOM included twenty years of service at NEXCOM, in both Brooklyn and Staten Island, New York, and seven years each at the NEXCENs in

Jacksonville, FL and Yokosuka, Japan. My work included a total of assistance visits to 73 NEX locations in both CONUS and OVERSEAS activities at least one time each.

NS Rodman, Canal Zone, NS Roosevelt Roads, PR, NH Antigua, NS Bermuda, NF Diego Garcia, NS Subic Bay, NAS Cubi Point, and NAS Sangley Point, Philippines, FA Yokosuka, Japan, New Sanno Hotel (US Navy), Tokyo, Japan, NAS Atsugi, Japan, NHA Yokohama, Japan, NS Sasebo, Japan, NSA Taipei, Taiwan, NA, CCK, Taiwan, NS Naples, Italy, NAS Sigonella, Sicily, NF West Ruislip, United Kingdom, NS Holy Loch, Scotland, NS Edsel, Scotland, NSA Singapore, NS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, NAS Brunswick, Maine, NSY Portsmouth, New Hampshire, NCBC Davisville, Rhode Island, NTC Newport, Rhode Island, NSB New London, Connecticut, NEXCOM Staten Island, New York, NRSO Brooklyn, New York, US Army PX, Fort Hamilton, Long Island, New York, NS / Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, New York, NAS Lakehurst, New Jersey, NS Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, NAS Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, NSC Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, NS Norfolk, Virginia, NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia, NF Yorktown, Virginia, NH Bethesda, Maryland, NS Charleston, South Carolina, NWS Charleston, South Carolina, NSB Kings Bay, Georgia, NSCS Athens, Georgia, NAS Jacksonville, Florida, NH Jacksonville, Florida, NAS Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida, NTC Orlando, Florida, NTC Orlando Annex, Orlando, Florida, NAS Key West, Florida, NAS Pensacola, Florida, NAS Panama City, Florida, NSA New Orleans, Louisiana, NAS Meridian, Mississippi, NTC Great Lakes, Illinois, NAS Twin Cities,



Minneapolis / St. Paul, Minnesota, NAS Dallas, Texas, NAS Kingsville, Texas, NAS Beeville, Texas, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, NAS North Island and NS San Diego, California, NAS Miramar, San Diego, California, NTC Treasure Island, California, NAS Point Mugu, California, NPGS Monterey, California, NAS Alameda, California, NSY Vallejo, California, NSA Seattle, Washington, NS Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, NS Guam, Marinas Islands, Ships Store Ashore, Diego Garcia.

I attended and received a diploma from the Navy Resale Career Academy at NAS Jacksonville, FL, in November 1985 (picture attached), arriving home from the two week course on Thanksgiving eve. "What a plane ride home". Being the eve of a major holiday, the airport terminal in Jacksonville was filled to overflowing with travelers; every seat on the plane was filled. Luggage pickup was delayed, drive home was a mess. I would presume that all of the NRCA attendees had the same experience.

The wall of my home office contains the many memories I collected during my years with the program, including 5 Bingham Awards while in Japan and the support of many local organizations, both civilian and military.

There are many, many associates that I worked with over the years, but want to thank Bob McGinty and Dick Garza, who both gave me the opportunity to fully preform my job assignments and field support requirements.

After my retirement from the NEX I worked under an open agreement for several years assisting Coast Guard Exchange Headquarters buyers, specialists and field staff opening 11 new, renovated or reset projects at the following CGS locations - New London CT, New Orleans LA, Birmingham AL, Ponce Inlet, Jupiter, Miami Lakes, Fort Myers, Clearwater and Cape Canaveral FL, Chesapeake VA and San Juan PR.

I feel that my greatest contribution to the Navy Exchange Program was my two assignments at both NEXCEN Jacksonville, FL and NEXCEN Yokosuka, Japan. I was able not only to preform new store projects and resets, but support the day-to-day visual merchandising support and associate training at our retail stores and services activities under the two NEXCEN banners. The picture attached is from the NEX in Yokosuka. My special "thanks" and gratitude go out to coworkers Paul Sorensen and Russ Learn, VM Specialists for their work ethics, outstanding professionalism and support in Visual Merchandising/Sales Coordination and Tony Antonacci NEXCOM Store Planning Specialist.

I'm currently enjoying my retirement years at my home in Jacksonville, FL.

If you want to share your Member Highlight story in a future newsletter, email it to [nereantional@gmail.com](mailto:nereantional@gmail.com).

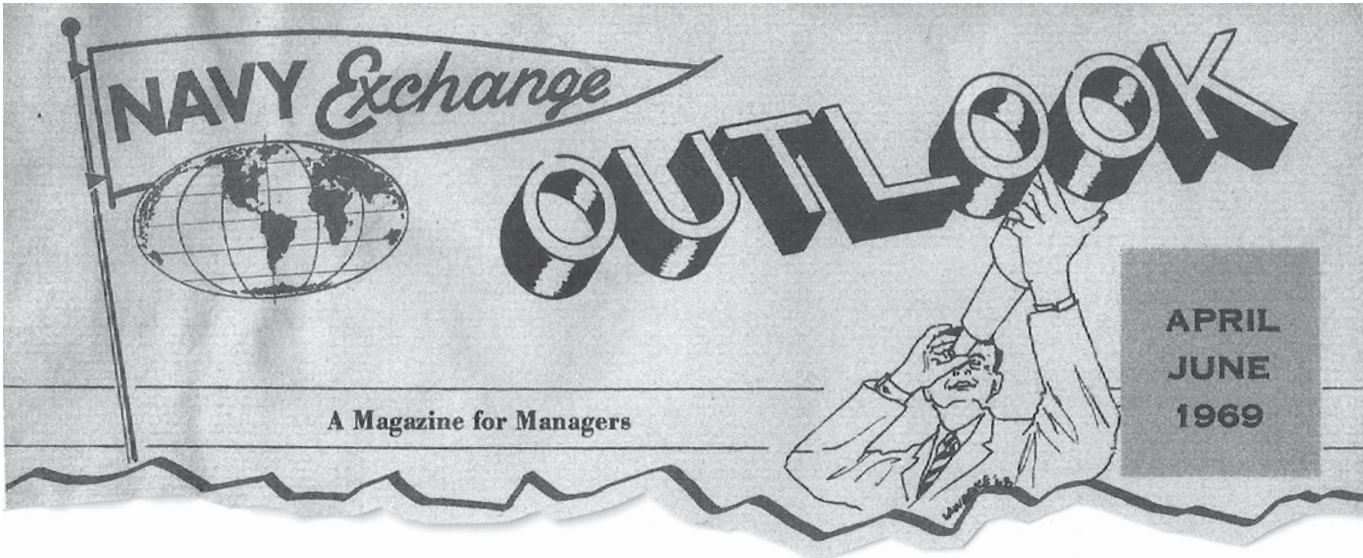
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The following NEREA members, Chapters and Associations, gave generous donations to the NEREA Scholarship Fund during 2023. On behalf of the students that received scholarships and the NEREA Scholarship Fund, we appreciate your generosity and support. Thank you.

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# MEMORIES



On April 3, NEX Memphis, Tenn., had an Easter Egg Hunt and the Easter bunny showed up to take pictures with the children. The Easter egg hunt was divided into two age categories, 2 - 4 and 5 - 7, to ensure everyone received an Easter egg filled with candy. The lucky recipients of the gold and silver Easter eggs received a stuffed Easter bunny. This is just one of the many events planned for the year at Memphis for the military families.



One Cup, all NEX logo's, created by our Member Spotlight Thom Speedling



ON A HAPPY NOTE, the Flight Line Exchange opened earlier this year at NAS Miramar. The 8,500-square-foot outlet houses a mini-exchange, barber shop, cafeteria and laundry/dry cleaning facility. With its opening, NEX customers at Miramar now enjoy greater shopping, dining and service convenience.

October, 1977



Trivia question #3:  
Lobby of Prince George Hotel

Please email Memory Section articles or pictures you would like to share to [nereanational@gmail.com](mailto:nereanational@gmail.com)

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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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Look at the back page of the newsletter next to your name. **If the year after your name is 2023, this will be the last newsletter you will receive until you pay your dues which is \$10.** The address is at the bottom of the **NEREA Dues Coupon** also on the back page.



# GOOD TO KNOW

## 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.

Mrs. Melissa Allen –  
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 Department  
3280 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia 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.

Please note that you must advise NEREA, NEXCOM and Bank of New York, Mellon separately of any address changes.

If you are currently receiving a Navy Exchange System Annuity, be sure to notify the John Hancock Insurance Company, the paying agent for the annuity. The address for John Hancock is:

John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company  
200 Berkeley Street  
Boston, MA. 02117  
Toll Free Number 1-800-624-5155

Questions concerning direct deposit of your Bank of New York Mellon retirement check please call 1-800-418-0273  
FAX 1-877-358-9729  
email:  
bdpensionphone@bnymellon.com

## NEREA IS ON FACEBOOK! @NEREA

We want to remind you that a Facebook page has been created to assist in connecting our many Navy Exchange Retirees.

If you have any pictures or information that you would like to post please send them to: [nereanational@gmail.com](mailto:nereanational@gmail.com)

## NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEREA

It is: [nereanational@gmail.com](mailto:nereanational@gmail.com)

This is for you if have questions or things to share. We care!

## NEREA NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE 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 us an email to: [nereanational@gmail.com](mailto:nereanational@gmail.com) and ask us to delete your name from our mailing list. And Thanks!

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