

CALENDAR

☑ The Apprentice School men's basketball team will play Averett University at 7 p.m. **Wednesday** and West Virginia State University at 1 p.m. **Saturday**. The women's team will play at the Millikin Tournament in Decatur, Ill., on **Saturday** and **Sunday**. For more information, visit: <http://www.gobuilders.com/>.

☑ The Spear and Gear Toastmasters Club will meet on **Thursday** at the VAS-CIC auditorium. For more information, call 8-9609.

☑ The Mariners' Museum will host "Holidays At Sea," a corporate appreciation day, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Dec. 29**. Newport News employees and members of their immediate families will receive free admission; single employees may invite up to three guests. For more information, call 591-7757.

☑ The address for Northrop Grumman's online store listed in last week's edition of *Currents* has been updated. Please use <http://store.northropgrumman.com> or link to the site from <http://home.northgrum.com/>.



Currents is a weekly publication for employees of Northrop Grumman Newport News.

Submissions may be sent to Jim Roberts at jim.roberts@ngc.com

🔑 **Key Message:** "We Must Perform Well On Our Contracts."

❖ **Newport News Awarded \$215M Contract For Prep Work On Vinson**

The U.S. Navy has awarded Northrop Grumman a planning contract valued at approximately \$215.3 million for continued preparations for the overhaul and refueling of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *USS Carl Vinson* (CVN 70).

The ship is scheduled for arrival at Newport News in November 2005. This will be the vessel's only refueling during a service life expected to span approximately 50 years.

This contract is a modification to the original contract awarded in May 2001 and brings the total contract value to date to approximately \$544 million. Newport News is the prime contractor for this program. Work to be performed under the contract



includes advance planning, design, documentation, engineering, material procurement, shipboard inspections, fabrication and preliminary shipyard support facility work.

❖ **Employees In 'Navy Christmas'**

Eight Newport News employees will be featured in "Navy Christmas," an annual holiday show which will air at 8 p.m. Dec. 24, 5 a.m. Dec. 25 and 3 p.m. Dec. 26 on WVEC-TV (channel 13).

Employees **Sarah Garcia** (O42),

Elizabeth Johnsen (O51), **Tawanna "TK" Kingsberry** (E23), **Marvin Pyatt** (X32), **John Ralls** (E26), **Wayne Tawney** (X31), **Troy Williams** (X43) and Sector President **Mike Petters** will introduce the show. More employees are featured in commercials which are airing on WVEC throughout the holiday season. The commercials feature Texas shipbuilders; second-shift Facilities employees; military veteran employees; and employees in the Steel Production Facility (SPF), the CVN 77 Program and the Radcon Training Dept. (O67). The commercials can be viewed on Yardnet at http://wwwis/divisions/o29_new/Navy_Christmas_04.stm.



❖ **SSN 779 Named *New Mexico***

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England (second from right) joins Newport News employees (left to right) **C.J. Ihrig**, **Becky Stewart** and **Chris Vitarelli** at the naming ceremony for the *USS New Mexico* (SSN 779) on Dec. 6. Ihrig is manager of Newport News' Navy Liaison and Business Development Office (K01); Stewart is vice president of the Submarine Program; and Vitarelli is director of the Submarine Construction Program (O62). *New Mexico*, the sixth *Virginia*-class submarine, is scheduled for delivery in April 2010.

❖ Three ISO Audits Successful

Newport News successfully completed three ISO audits by ABS Quality Evaluations between Nov. 22 and Dec. 3.

The ISO 14001 Surveillance Audit of the Environmental Management System returned one minor finding on availability of records and three opportunities for improvement. The auditors recommended continuation of ISO 14001 certification.



The ISO 9001 Surveillance Audit of Quality Management System returned two minor findings. The auditors recommended continuation of ISO 9001 certification. (The audit report is posted on Yardnet with links on the QA web page and the QID web page under ISO 9000.)

The ISO 9001 Scope Extension Audit of the Washington Engineering Office (E05) returned one minor finding. The audit report is posted on Yardnet with a link on the QA Webpage under ISO 9000. This was the first time E05 had been independently audited for ISO 9001.

Dayton Ward of the Quality Assurance Dept. (O04) said, "Everyone who supported these audits is to be congratulated for the fine job they did in answering questions and providing the auditors with the information they needed to complete the audit."

❖ Employees Honored By Manufacturing Society

Two Newport News employees have been honored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). Master Shipbuilder **William A. Badgett** (left, pictured with Charles D. Cox of SME International) recently was sworn in as a member of the board of directors of SME

International. Badgett, who works in the Facilities Maintenance Dept. (O43), has been an active leader with SME locally and regionally for more than 20 years.

Another Newport News employee, **Kyle**



Harrington, received the President's Award at the SME Hampton Roads Chapter 217 awards banquet. Harrington, who works in the Crane Engineering and Quality Dept. (O48), was recognized for being the top contributing member of the year.

Two more employees have been elected to serve on Chapter 217's executive board for 2005: **Ray Sperle** (X10) will serve as secretary, and **Ron Gorman** (E43) will serve as treasurer. Since it was formed in 1932, SME has worked to make engineers, companies, educators and others successful in their quest to advance the manufacturing industries. For more information about SME, visit the Chapter 217 web site: <http://chapters.sme.org/217/homepage.html>



Kimberly McCord (center) accepts the first-place award from **Kathy Thomas** (left) and **John Russell** (right). Thomas is Newport News' Business Conduct Officer (O12), and Russell is a senior counsel in Newport News' Law Dept. (O16). *Photo by Chris Oxley*

❖ Employee Wins \$1,000 In Poster Contest

Newport News' Business Conduct Committee announced the winners of the "Taking the High Road" poster contest on Dec. 2. The winners of the contest were: **Kimberly McCord** (O42), first place (\$1,000); **Paul LaRoche** (E82), second place (\$500); **Dan Harrington** (O27), third place (\$350); and **Lori Robinson** (O27), fourth place (\$250). **Tabitha Boone** (E65) and **Clifford Perry** (CMT) received honorable mention awards (\$100).

More than 50 employees submitted posters in the contest, designed to increase awareness about proper business conduct and to provide employees an opportunity to participate in creating future business conduct communication and training materials.

 **Key Message:** "We Must Drive Costs Out Of Our Processes And Improve Efficiency."

❖ Quarterly And Annual Awards Presented At OFI Luncheon; 2004 Savings Totaled \$35 Million

Newport News presented reserved parking spaces and thousands of dollars in cash awards, gift certificates and holiday shopping sprees at the year-end Opportunity For Improvement (OFI) awards luncheon on Dec. 8.

Fourth quarter awards included the following:

■ 16 employees representing five programs received "Level III Awards" for OFIs that were approved and implemented and realized savings in excess of \$100,000 within a 12-month period. The Submarine Program had a verified savings of \$109,226; the Human Resources and Trades Administration, \$244,000; the Carrier Program, \$532,600; the CVN 21 Program, \$1,077,188; and the Waterfront Nuclear Engineering and Test Dept., \$5,298,670.



Mulligan

■ **Jack Mulligan**, an employee in the Sheet Metal Manufacturing Dept. (M32), received the Level II award -- a reserved parking space for one year -- and **Craig Dunaway** (M32), was the \$1,000 Visa gift card winner.



Dunaway

■ Waterfront Nuclear Engineering and Test received three Crystal Awards: the Top Per Capita Participation Award, the Top Number of OFIs Submitted Award and Top Verified Savings Award. The Radiological Control Dept. (E85) was named the Top Department

of the Quarter.

Annual awards included the following:

- E85 received the Department of the Year Award.
- Waterfront Nuclear Engineering and Test received the Per Capita Participation Award.
- The Operations Division received the Participation Award and the Verified Savings Award.
- **Tim Bean** (M30), **James Brandair** (O31), **Ivory Ellison** (E85), **Gene Garris** (X43), **Glenn Hunter** (O39), **Neal Jones** (O39), **Steve Kocurek** (X73), **Leonard**



Nine of Newport News' "Top 10 OFI Initiators" for 2004 attended the awards luncheon. *Photos by Stu Gilman*



Brubaker

Leyden (E85), **Stephen Ovide** (E85) and **Kevin Woodman** (X72) each received a "2004 Top 10 Initiator" Award.

■ **Scott Brubaker** (041) received the Top Dollar OFI Award for an OFI resulting in a savings of \$7 million.

All told, employees submitted more than 5,200 OFIs in 2004. More than 2,800 were implemented, resulting in savings of more than \$35 million.

Sector President **Mike Petters** was on-hand to congratulate the award-winners and thank the 150 OFI coordinators who work behind the scenes to keep the program running. "Our OFI program is so solid that it's being noticed throughout Northrop Grumman as the best in its class," he said. "We must meet our customers' expectations on budget and schedule, and the OFI program is a critical part of that."



❖ 2005 Calendar Posters Available

Members of the Newport News Employee Communications Advisory Board (ECAB) will hand out 2005 calendar posters during shift changes on Friday. A detailed list of times and locations will be posted on Yardnet and distributed by newsfax on Wednesday. Posters also will be available at many *Yardlines* distribution points, outside the Communications office in Bldg. 520-1 and from ECAB members. For a listing of ECAB members, visit: <http://yardnet/ecab/index.html>. For more information on where to get a calendar, call 8-4962.