

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
SAN FRANCISCO
CHAPTER 65
SENTINEL**

HERMAN BRACEY, EDITOR

Meets 3rd Wednesday each month, Odd Fellows Hall, 26 – 7th Street, near Market, SF

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FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON FEBRUARY 21, 2007 AT THE ODD FELLOWS HALL, 26 7TH ST, SF
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1:00 PM 6th FLOOR
SOCIAL HOUR, DOUGHNUTS AND COFFEE, BINGO 11:30 AM
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

FEB 21 PROGRAM TBA/CHERRY PIE SOCIAL
MAR 16 DISTRICT V MEETING 3 FLAMES RESTAURANT SAN JOSE, CA
MAR 21 REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18-20 CSFC STATE CONVENTION COSTA MESA, CA.

PRESIDENT: JANE RAMOS, 875 SANCHEZ ST., SF, CA. 94114; 826-3337 chilberg@ix.netcom.com

GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS AND/OR ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY... The First Biennial California Federation Convention of NARFE will be held on May 18-20, 2007 at the Costa Mesa Hilton in Costa Mesa, Ca. All NARFE members are invited to attend. If you want to be a delegate for Chapter 65, please let me know. Or, better yet, come to our next chapter meeting in February for more details. Attending NARFE conventions is one of the best ways to learn how NARFE functions, and also is a wonderful way to contribute to the strength of our organization. You would be representing the Chapter and would be voting for new officers and proposed resolutions to effect changes in the CSFC. Registration of delegate must be received e by March 19, 2007 The Convention Committee is also looking for members to serve on the various committees. If you are interested, also let me know so that I can discuss it with you.

At our January 17 Chapter meeting, we decided to plan a visit to Congresswoman (Speaker) Nancy Pelosi's office to request her support on HR 82 (GPO/WEP repeal) which was recently reintroduced by Congressman Howard Berman, and to present her with a gift membership in NARFE Chapter 65. Remember, she, as well as all members of Congress, is a current federal employee and is eligible for NARFE membership.

A new Budget Committee was formed at the January meeting, the members are Herman Bracey, Fran Chan, Dianne Joseph, Jesse Ramos, and Martha Raup. They will begin work on preparing fiscal projections for the coming year. We will then have a better understanding of what we can afford to do as a Chapter. A report on the findings will follow.

This year we hope to explore the possibility of holding more meetings in restaurants in the city. Our members seem to like the idea of combining a more social atmosphere with business whenever possible! Since there is no shortage of great restaurants in San Francisco, this should be a good way to get to know each other better.

We sincerely hope that our members will step forward to offer their ideas, suggestions, and "complaints" to any of the officers of the Chapter so that we can be more effective in our mutual goal of improving and retaining our earned retirement benefits.

ALZHEIMER'S: JESSE RAMOS, 875 SANCHEZ ST., SF, CA. 94114; 826-3337

The Chapter wishes to publicly thank and acknowledge the generous donation to the Alzheimer's Association from Chapter 65 members Walter and Mitzie Slater. Their gift will enable the Alzheimer's Association to continue reaching out to individuals and families coping with the challenges of caring for someone with a progressive disease like dementia. The recent Alzheimer's Association newsletter included the following quote from Maureen Reagan, the daughter of the late President Ronald Reagan. "Whether it afflicts a neighbor who quietly fades behind the upstairs curtains, a relative who no longer comes to visit during the holidays, or a former president, the effects of Alzheimer's disease are drawing closer to each of us every day. We must be the last generation to face this disease without hope".

As I mention in every newsletter, if you wish your contribution to be used to support programs and services to individuals and families coping with Alzheimer's disease, please make your donation check payable to "Alzheimer's Association". On the other hand, if you wish your donation to be used solely to support Alzheimer's research, please make your check payable to "NARFE - Alzheimer's Research". To ensure that your contribution is correctly acknowledged as coming from a NARFE Chapter 65 member, write "NARFE Chapter 65" in the memo section of your check. Mail your contributions to me at the above address; I'll then forward you donations to the Alzheimer's Association.

SUNSHINE: MARY TAYLOR. 661-1476

We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of *Rocco Gulli, Arthur P Lee, and Harold I Silk.*

MEMBERSHIP: HERMAN BRACEY, 651 COLE ST APT 2, SF, CA. 94117; 668-2337

WELCOME: Norma Z Cancino, Merrill F Deskins, Laura Fremont, Naomi Hatkins, Jae Kim, Jerod Klein, Velma Kwan, Jack S Powelson, and Frank Troutman.

NARFE – CHAPTER 65
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FEBRUARY 2007

Remember....RECRUITING is everyone's job!!

NATIONAL WEB SITE: (<http://www.narfe.org>) CSFC WEB SITE: (<http://www.csfcnarfe.org>)

NARFE DUES: Currently National Dues are \$29.00 and Chapter 65 Dues are \$8.00 annually. Mail check for the full \$37.00, along with your DUES RENEWAL NOTICE, to NARFE, Membership Services, 606 Washington St, Alexandria, Va. 22314-1914.

SERVICE OFFICER: DAVID GARCIA 510 235-7750

Important numbers: OPM 1-888-767-6738 (Administrative Problems); NARFE 1-800-456-8410 (Membership Problems); SOCIAL SECURITY 1-800-772-1213 (Life Cycle Problems); LTC 1-800 582-3337 (For Applications and Information Kits); OPM Toll Number 1-724-794-5216.

As suggested by NARFE member Daisy Tate, I am providing the procedure for direct deposit change of annuity payments. Thanks for the call Mrs. Tate.

When you desire to have your direct deposit go to a different financial institution, complete a new SF 1199A at the new institution. The SF 1199A can be faxed by them to OPM at (724) 794-6633. When OPM receives the SF 1199A from the financial institution, monthly payments will be sent to the new financial institution for credit to the annuitant's account. Do not close account at the old institution until after the first payment is received at the new institution.

Note: OPM will now also accept changes of Direct Deposit by telephone, 888-767-6738. Be prepared to provide the annuity claim number with CSA or CSF prefix, the account number at the financial institution, and the institution's correct routing number

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL, 650 754-9962

As Democrats prepare to take control of Congress for the first time in 12 years, many federal workers and annuitants are asking what the political transition means to them. The short answer is that it provides organizations like NARFE a fresh opportunity to make the case for our legislative agenda with the majority party's new decision makers. While the political situation has changed, the challenges of a large federal budget deficit, anticipated shortfalls in Medicare and Social Security, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the needs of homeland security have not.

Moreover, those who focus exclusively on the Democratic Congress would be well advised to consider the Bush administration's role in forming and executing public policy during the next two years. Indeed, the new Democratic majorities fall well short of being able to override presidential vetoes without the votes of at least some of their Republican colleagues.

Although there are dozens of federal friendly lawmakers, a small number of them go to extraordinary lengths to support the interests of the federal community. One of those champions, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), will become House majority leader, second only in rank to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). "While NARFE has had no shortage of key allies in either party, we have never before had such a good friend so high in the congressional leadership," said NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste. "We are pleased that one of our staunchest advocates will be at the table when critical decisions are made about our earned economic and health security."

In a statement made in November to the Federal Times, Hoyer said, "I am hopeful that a wide range of issues affecting active and retired civilian federal employees will find a more friendly environment in a Democratic House next year [2007], among them ensuring competitive annual pay adjustments for civilian employees, defraying the rising cost of health insurance, and ensuring federal retirees have a fair retirement."

On January 4th, Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) Introduced H.R. 82, a House bill to completely repeal GPO/WEP, with 103 original cosponsors including Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), the lead sponsor during the 109th Congress (2005-2006). NARFE members and allied groups recruited 327 cosponsors during the 109th Congress. On January 9th Sen. Dianne Feinstein also introduced S. 206, a companion bill to H.R. 82 with three cosponsors, Sens. Collins (R-ME), Snowe (R-ME), and Lautenberg (D-NJ). There is as yet no premium conversion bill in either the House or the Senate.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JESSE RAMOS 826-3337

Balance	\$4,185.63
Income	\$ 1643.20
Expenses	<u>\$2,190.09</u>
Total on hand	\$3638.74

The Chapter is in need of a sandwich board for display outside the Odd Fellows Hall on meeting day. If you have one, can make one, or know where we can get one, please contact the President at 826-3337. Thanks