

**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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OCTOBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON OCTOBER 17, 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

OCT	06	ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK ON TREASURE ISLAND
OCT	17	REGULAR MEETING, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, NOMINATIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS FOR 2008
NOV	21	REGULAR MEETING, PROGRAM TBA. ELECTION OF 2008 OFFICERS
DEC	11	HOLIDAY LUNCHEON CAESAR'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

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

GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS AND/OR ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER...Our September Bay Cruise and ferry trip to Jack London Square was a great success! We had a good turnout, the day was clear, and the cruise over to the East Bay was smooth and fast. Thirteen of us took the dockside tour of FDR's yacht "Potomac" and got a little window into part of a former president's life. It was a small - by today's standards - comfortable converted Coast Guard Cutter and had been lovingly restored by volunteers of the Potomac Association. After our tour, we joined our group for lunch at Tony Roma's restaurant, and then had time for a stroll around Jack London Square and a return trip on the ferry at 2:30 pm. We hope to do something similar next year.. or if another interesting idea turns up -- we're ready for that too. **Jesse & Jane Ramos, Fran Chan, Dorismarie Hagopian, Dist V VP Judy Lynn, Helen Cope, Edie Higa, Nobuko Kamatani, Joe & Rosie Smith, Pat Del Carlo, Ruby Dale, Dick & Irene Denahan and Herman Bracey** were on hand for the 10:30 AM crossing; **Beatrice Bertwell**, took a later ferry, and **Dianne Joseph, Martha Raup, David Garcia, and Judy Lambert** chose to drive and joined us at Tony Roma's for lunch.

For our October meeting, we'll bring you up to date on NARFE's priorities in legislation. And, more than likely, we'll have a speaker from the League of Women Voters to bring you up to date on the issues before us on the November ballots. Come, and bring your questions.

We've been asked as a Chapter to provide a person who would be able to be a resource on the FEHBP to HICAP and to the Senior Action Network. Could you be that person? Please let me know if you can.

If you haven't seen the September NARFE magazine yet, be sure to read the article on scams which appears on pages 26-27. We need to be aware of the scams that are being run which particularly target seniors.

On October 18 and 19, Herman Bracey and I will again be participating in two pre-retirement seminars for federal employees at the Federal Building. We'll present information on NARFE and why it's a good idea for federal retirees (and current employees) to be members. Many thanks go to the Federal Executive Board for inviting us to participate.

We hope to see you all at our meeting on Wednesday, October 17 Come early as we hope to have some Octoberfest goodies. Bring any kind of dish to share if you can, or if not, just bring yourself. Call if you want information.

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL; 650-754-9962

On September 7th ,Judy L Lynn, District V Vice President, and Don Wallace, Legislative Chair of the San Mateo Chapter, met with Evelyn Szelenyi, an assistant in Representative Tom Lantos' office, to discuss NARFE's key focus bills. For this meeting Judy had prepared a folder containing printouts of NARFE's position papers on our issues. She also included a list of all the 242 Representatives who have cosponsored the House premium conversion bill, H.R. 1110. Representative Lantos has cosponsored H.R. 82, the House's bill to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provision but has failed to sign on to H.R. 1110, the House premium conversion legislation this year. Judy feels that this may be just an oversight on his part, as he cosponsored similar legislation in the last session. This meeting was mainly to ask Lantos to cosponsor this session's premium conversion legislation but also touched on the new House bill on WEP, H.R. 726, a bill that modifies the WEP in contrast to H.R. 82, which repeals the Government pension offset and windfall elimination. Evelyn was very pleasant and seemed eager to expedite Lantos' signing on to the premium conversion legislation this Congress.

After our meeting, Judy followed up with a special thank-you letter to Evelyn for taking the time to see us. She thinks Lantos will sign on to the premium conversion bill in a month or two. We must keep an eye on him. When he does so, we should send another thank-you letter.

NARFE – CHAPTER 65
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OCTOBER 2007

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NATIONAL WEB SITE: (<http://www.narfe.org>); CSFC WEB SITE: (<http://www.csfcnarfe.org>) CHAPTER 65 WEB SITE: (<http://www.narfe65.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... Prior to the upcoming "Open Season," November 12, 2007 through December 10, 2007, OPM will mail CSRS and FERS annuitants detailed information about costs and benefits in FEHBP and about the Dental and Vision plans, now in their second year. Availability of dental and vision plans, along with their premiums and benefits will vary, are not dependent upon enrollment in the FEHBP, and unlike the health insurance plans, enrollees will pay the full cost of any elected option.

LEGISLATION NEWS: On September 20, there was good news from a House committee about a long standing NARFE legislative priority, Premium Conversion. NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste praised the House Oversight & Government Reform Committee, especially Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Ranking Member Tom Davis (R-VA), for favorably reporting legislation (H.R. 1110) that would allow federal and military retirees and active duty personnel to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax earnings. However, due to the fact the bill would amend the tax code, H.R. 1110 must also be passed by the House Committee on Ways and Means. President Baptiste went on to note that because of the importance of this bill to retirees, NARFE is determined to keep pushing until we reach the finish line – enactment.

ALZHEIMER'S: JESSE RAMOS, 875 SANCHEZ ST., CA. 94114

The Chapter wishes to publicly thank and acknowledge generous donations from F. M. Palacios and Anne Nannery to the NARFE - Alzheimer's Research Fund. Their donations will be used to support research efforts toward finding a cure for this terrible disease that mostly affects individuals 65 and older. If you are able to make a donation and wish it to be used to support programs and services to help families and individuals in Northern California coping with the disease, please make your checks payable to the "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 donation is correctly acknowledged as coming from a NARFE Chapter 65 member, write "NARFE Chapter 65" in the memo section of your check. Please mail your contributions to me at the above address; I'll then forward the donation to the Alzheimer's Association

TREASURER'S REPORT: JESSE RAMOS 826-3337

Balance forward	\$4,217.92
Income	\$ 553.78
Expenses	\$ 267.14
Balance at 8/31/07	\$4,504.56

SUNSHINE: MARY TAYLOR, 661-1476

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of **John P Dunlevy**.

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

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER: **Michele M Cloutier**.

BAY MEADOWS TRIP: Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 21; we have been offered a Bay Meadows outing at a special rate (\$20.). This price includes free general parking, indoor buffet, carved roast beef included. The offer comes from SF/BANikkei Singles of JCCCNC, a senior group out of Japantown.

I would ask those who are interested to make their checks out to SF/BANS and I would back the checks.
(Call Fran Chan 415- 771-7892 for tickets & info ASAP)