

**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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**DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER
NO MEETING THIS MONTH. SEE YOU AT CAESAR'S
"HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND ALL"**

NOV 12 - DEC 10 FEHBP OPEN SEASON
DEC 11 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON CAESAR'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT / INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
JAN 16 REGULAR MEETING PROGRAM TBA

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 DECEMBER.... We in Chapter 65 hope to see you at Caesar's Restaurant on the 11th for our annual Holiday Luncheon. Helen Zajac, the Past President of the California State Federation of Chapters, will be our speaker. Caesar's is an old style San Francisco Italian restaurant and is conveniently located near the Embarcadero. Bring a friend, a person who is considering joining NARFE or a member who has never attended before. If you like, bring a door prize (wrapped) to add to the fun. It's easy to get there, and the \$6 valet parking is very convenient. Please don't forget to send your check to DorisMarie Hagopian soon! We always have a great time and enjoy seeing old friends.

Four of us in the Chapter participated in the Health Fair at the Federal Office Building at 450 Golden Gate on November 13. Our table was staffed by DorisMarie Hagopian, Herman Bracey, Martha Raup and Jane Ramos. Some of the health plans represented were PacifiCare, Healthnet, Blue Cross, Blue Shield, and Kaiser. We were able to talk with many federal workers about NARFE and as usual, we got a very good reception from most. And we also offered a year's free membership in NARFE to one of the federal workers who stopped by and showed some interest by completing the drawing form. We use the drawing as a recruiting tool, and at a later date, will send letters to the federal workers whose names we collected asking if, after reading the NARFE literature, they'd like to join our organization. The winner of the drawing was Jackie Sharpe of the U.S. Probation Office. Congratulations to her!

Next year, September 7 - 11, 2008, NARFE's Biannual National Convention will be in Louisville, Kentucky. All NARFE members are invited and eligible to attend. The January 2008 Retirement Life Magazine will provide the necessary registration forms and convention/banquet information. If you're interested in attending and representing our Chapter, please come to one of our meetings so that we can provide you with more information about the convention. You would be very welcome! We need the input of all our members and you would be sure to gain from the experience of attending the convention.

Your membership in NARFE provides you with a voice in how decisions on your earned benefits are made. This is so important, because it's easy to feel that there is little we can do to control events. Stay involved by supporting NARFE, and better yet, helps your Chapter 65 officers represent your views by joining us at one of our meetings and letting us know how you feel!! We need your input.

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL; 650-754-9962

Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Chair of the Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy panel of the Senate Finance Committee, held a press conference on November 6th to set the stage for a subcommittee hearing later the same day on the impact of the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) joined him at the press conference along with NARFE National President Margaret L. Baptiste, a top official of the National Education Association (NEA), and retired Massachusetts school teacher Peggy Kane. President Baptiste was the only participant representing the views of the Federal sector. President Baptiste's comments noted the impact the GPO (lost spousal benefit) has on Mrs. Jean Rapose, a member of NARFE's Lower Cape Cod Chapter. Senator Collins, the first witness, testified in support of S. 206, legislation to repeal the GPO and WEP, which she is cosponsoring with Senator Dianne Feinstein. NEA member Kane reiterated her personal situation as did a CALPERS board member, an expert from the Government Accountability Office, and a senior fellow from the Urban Institute, a Washington think tank. Because of NARFE advocacy on behalf of Federal and postal retirees, who reside in all 50 states, the inequity of the GPO and the WEP, which otherwise might appear to affect only state and local government retirees in 15 states, is on the public record as a national issue. More on the press conference and the hearing will appear in the January issue of NARFE magazine.

In this instance, the committee was accepting written submissions on how the GPO/WEP affects individuals. However, we were unable to get this information to you in time to meet their deadline of November 20. Since our newsletter continues to be our primary means of communicating with the membership, there is little we can do in emergencies. This is why it's important for all members with email to sign up to receive notices from NARFE-NET by email. You can do this by emailing Carl Bailey at narfenet@comdak.com. We should not miss these opportunities to make our voices heard.

NARFE – CHAPTER 65
651 COLE STREET APT 2
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

December 2007

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

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....

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: JOSEPH SMITH, HERMAN BRACEY

The nominating Committee put the names of these members in nomination for our 2008 officers: **President Jane Ramos, 1st Vice President Fran Chan, 2nd Vice President Beatrice Bertwell, Secretary Martha Raup, and Treasurer Jesse Ramos.** There being no further nominations, the nominees were all unanimously elected.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JESSE RAMOS 826-3337

Balance forward	\$4,754.52
Income	\$ 502.36
Expenses	\$ 215.41
Balance at 10/31/07	\$5,041.47

SUNSHINE: MARY TAYLOR, 661-1476

Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of **Claire A Dyer.**

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

A warm welcome to **Paula Bisson, Leslie J Ching, Judith S Clarke, Tranquilino T Del Rosario, Beverly M Phillips, and Margaret Y Wong.**

WEBMASTERS: MARTHA RAUP, DIANNE JOSEPH, 334-6380,

Were you one of the 29 visitors to the NARFE 65 website in July? If so, it's time to view us again! If not, check us out online at www.narfe65.org. The chapter website now includes 5 photo slideshows for 2007. The March 1 meeting at Nancy Pelosi's office, the March 16 District V meeting in San Jose, the June 20 meeting with a speaker from the GGNRA, the July 19 banquet at Caesar's Restaurant, and the September 19 Bay Cruise and lunch at Tony Roma's in Jack London Square are all available for viewing at <http://narfe65.org/photos/2007/index.html>. Our aim with these photos is the encourage participation in a wonderful chapter of a worthy organization. Won't you join us? If you have photos of any NARFE events or members that you want to share online, please email them to webmaster@narfe65.org.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON is scheduled for **Tuesday December 11, 2007 at Caesar's Restaurant 2299 Powell Streets at Bay.** There will be No Host Cocktails at 11:30 AM with lunch at 12:30 PM. **The cost is \$26.00 and the choices of Entrees are Veal Parmigiana, Roast Beef Au Jus, Combination Seafood Plate (Scallops, Prawns, and Filet of Sole).** **Valet Parking** is available for **\$6.00.** **Public Transportation:** **the 15-Third, the F-Market, the 47-Loop and the 30-Stockton all stop nearby. Your door prize donations are invited and welcomed.**

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY AND USE THE COUPON BELOW!

==== HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ===== PLEASE RESPOND BY DECEMBER 7, 2007 MAIL RESERVATIONS TO: DORISMARIE HAGOPIAN; 1895 Jackson St. Apt 502; SF, CA. 94109-2882

NAME _____ TEL NO. _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

NUMBER IN PARTY _____ \$26.00 EACH TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

ATTACH NAMES OF GUESTS. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NARFE CHAPTER 65