

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

**HERMAN BRACEY, EDITOR**

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

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**MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER  
ON MARCH 19, 2008 WE WILL MEET AT JOHNNY FOLEY'S  
IRISH HOUSE; 243 O'FARRELL STREET, SF  
THERE WILL BE NO MEETING AT ODD FELLOWS HALL**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

APR 16 REGULAR MEETING/OPM SPEAKER  
SEP 7-11 NATIONAL CONVENTION IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  
MAY 1-3-2009 2<sup>nd</sup> CSFC BIENNIAL CONVENTION CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

**PRESIDENT: JANE RAMOS, 875 SANCHEZ ST., SF, CA. 94114; 826-3337 [chilberg@ix.netcom.com](mailto:chilberg@ix.netcom.com)**

**GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS AND/OR ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH....**Mark your calendars now for our next meeting - March 19 - (Wednesday). Instead of our regular meeting at the Odd Fellows Building, we'll meet for lunch at Johnny Foley's Irish House to properly celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The location is easy to get to, 243 O'Farrell near Powell, and the establishment is very typically "Irish Pub". We'll have a very short "meeting" just to bring you up to date on NARFE happenings. Bring a friend if you like - but be sure to let DorisMarie Hagopian know by March 17th that you're coming. You can check the menu on the internet -- it looks terrific. Lunch is in the \$20 or less range.

And on April 16 at our regular meeting - we'll hope to have a speaker from OPM to answer your retirement questions - and more!

Your Chapter has many very competent members who are working to recruit new NARFE'ers and also are working to keep you informed about legislation. But we can use more volunteers for any and all of our activities -- recruiting, public relations, contacting our members to assist in influencing our congressional representatives, and providing service to our members. Please step forward to assist if you can. NARFE has training conferences that you are eligible to attend. Call us anytime for more information. You'll be glad you did! You'll be helping us and yourself as well.

The February issue NARFE has an article by Margaret Baptiste (NARFE national president) about our coalition partners. President Baptiste suggests checking [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) - the legislative page - which lists our coalition partners. There are many! In particular this page lists: FAIR - the Fund to Assure an Independent Retirement - which has member groups representing 6 million public service employees. Another is CARE - Coalition to Assure Retirement Equity - which has 49 national, state and local organizations also working on our mutual interests. If you can, check these lists to see if you know anyone who is a member. We'd be glad to have them attend our meetings to provide input, and to see where we can work together to achieve our common goals. ***We're looking forward to meeting you!***

**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 member Herman Bracey. His gift will help the Alzheimer's Association to fund more critical research and provide more urgently needed programs and services to families in Northern California living with this terrible disease.

If you wish your donation to be used to help families and individuals coping with this dreaded disease, as well as to support research efforts to find a cure, please make your check payable to the "Alzheimer's Association". On the other hand, if you wish your contribution 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. Mail your contributions to me at the above address; I'll then forward your donation to the Alzheimer's Association.

**NARFE-PAC: HERMAN BRACEY; 668-2337; [hermtaps@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hermtaps@sbcglobal.net)**

On Friday, February 22, six Chapter 65 members, (President Jane Ramos, Herman Bracey, Dianne Joseph, Charles Minster, Jesse Ramos, and Martha Raup), made their way to San Jose for the annual District V meeting. As always, it was informative and well attended (lots of familiar faces).

One of the items discussed was **NARFE-PAC** and we were presented a report that showed the contributions made to NARFE-PAC by the ten chapters in the district for the year 2007. And while Chapter 65 is one of the larger chapters in the district, only 14 chapter members donated to NARFE-PAC for a grand total of \$595. I was very embarrassed because I am the NARFE-PAC Coordinator for our chapter and I know we can do better. I confess I have done very little to promote NARFE-PAC; my thinking was that everyone knows how important it is and every month there is a *donation coupon in NARFE Magazine* (for March it's on page 20), (*continued on page 2*)

**DO NOT DELAY**

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL**

March 2008

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....**

**(NARFE-PAC continued)** but the results prove other wise. However I won't despair, for Ken Boffin our CSFC NARFE-PAC Coordinator suggest with an election year upon us, now is the time to maximize the influence we can have towards achieving our legislative goals. We are suggesting that all members donate to NARFE-PAC this cycle. For a \$20 donation they will even send you a NARFE-PAC pin. Your dollars affords NARFE the change to get our voices heard and our position given consideration. Here an exurb from a speech our Legislation Director Judy Park gave in Costa Mesa last May. "I think the simplest way to realize that NARFE has been legislatively active over the years is to recognize the fact that in more than a decade now, no federal retiree and no federal employee has lost a benefit. That's due to diligent work on the behalf of all federal employees and retirees, from people like you and NARFE members across the country. It is not simply because we have a grateful government. Time and time again someone has come forward from both political parties with proposals to reduce the benefits you currently have. And time and time again, with the help of our membership across the country, we have staved off those efforts. So when people say we haven't done anything legislatively, ask them what they've lost. And then tell them, that is what we've done. I can tell you they won't be able to tell you anything they've lost in the past 13 years. That's the reality for you to carry forward when you're doing your recruitment efforts, and when you're calling members who might be thinking about dropping out. We have lots of people--far too many who have worked for and now benefit from federal service--who are riding on the backs of your efforts, putting forth none of their own. But let's not let our current membership drop without knowing the facts of what NARFE is doing for them, and what of those in NARFE who have gone before have done."

**LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL; 650-754-9962**

Sadly, one of NARFE's biggest supporters and one of the Congressional Representatives for our area, Tom Lantos, just passed away at the age of 80. I called the San Mateo County Registrar's office, and they said that the special election to replace him would be held on April 8th, but so far no one has filed to run for that office. I assume I'll know who has filed by the next meeting.

On February 13th, the President signed the economic stimulus, or tax rebate, legislation, H.R. 5140. This package was first negotiated by House leaders of both parties and President Bush in late January. The Senate adopted an amended version (81-16) on February 7th. The Senate version (380-34) then passed the House the same day. This law will provide tax rebate payments to most taxpayers, and Federal retirees will be entitled to these rebates on the same basis as everyone else.

The Administration's final budget message, released February 4th, contains no major changes in programs directly affecting the income or health care security of Federal retirees. The President's budget does propose pay disparity, with a 3.4 percent pay raise for military and a 2.9 percent raise for civilian workers. The budget also includes a plan to expand Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). As in recent years, the Administration's budget would allow Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS), the largest and most popular plan in the FEHBP, to offer Health Savings Accounts coupled with a high deductible health plan.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: JESSE RAMOS; 875 SANCHEZ ST. SF. CA 94114; 826-3337**

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance forward           | \$6,771.97        |
| Income                    | 520.12            |
| Expenses                  | 1,760.59          |
| <b>Balance on 1/31/08</b> | <b>\$5,531.50</b> |

**SUNSHINE:**

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of *Harriet M Sauders, Stamo D Thomas, and Mary F Yerman.*

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

Here's a warm welcome to *Visitacion C Rodriguez, and Dale Sexton!*