

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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MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MAY 21, 2008 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

MAY 21 REGULAR MEETING - SPEAKER FROM LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
JUN 18 REGULAR MEETING - PROGRAM TBA
JUL 16 SUMMER LUNCHEON AT SINBADS RESTAURANT, PIER 2 - EMBARCADERO AT MISSION
SEP 7-11 NATIONAL CONVENTION IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
MAY 1-3-2009 2nd CSFC BIENNIAL CONVENTION CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

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 MAY.... There have been some important changes at NARFE Headquarters: The new service officer is David Snell, retired from OPM. And our long time lobbyist, Judy Park, has retired and is replaced by Dan Adcock, who has been a great asset to NARFE's legislative goals.

Our speaker at the May meeting will be from the League of Women Voters! On the June ballot, there will be 2 State propositions and 8 San Francisco propositions. The State propositions, 98 and 99, concern "eminent domain" and rent control. Our speaker will help to sort out the meaning of these two issues, as they can be very confusing. These issues are of great concern to many of our Chapter members.

And please mark your calendars now for the July 16 luncheon at Sinbad's Restaurant on the Embarcadero. We'll have a very pleasant day there -- the restaurant has a terrific view of the bay, and our keynote speaker will be none other than our California State Federation of Chapters President, H. Ray Harrington. Information on this is elsewhere in this bulletin.

Finally, if you want to attend the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky as a delegate of Chapter 65, please let me know before May 5. Our Chapter 65, with almost 800 members, can send about 15 delegates. We already have 6 committed members and would welcome more. You'd be providing a valuable service to your Chapter and to NARFE. Call me for more details and check your January 08 NARFE magazine as well. The convention is from September 7 - 11, 2008.

Besides the AD Chapter 65 has placed, the 2008 National Convention Program Book offers individuals a chance to help the convention by placing their names on the Booster Lists. The Booster List names are printed in the Convention Program book by Chapters. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$1.00 per name. We ask you to send a check for \$1.00 to our Treasurer, Jess Ramos before May 15, 2008; in memo section write Booster List. Also, please let me know if you'd like to have a round table discussion of health plans. None of us are experts on this but we could develop a list of questions that we can research, and it also might be helpful to hear from others what they like or dislike about their health plans. Rather than waiting until "Open Season" to think about this, it would make sense to begin now. This is your Chapter -- let us know what you want.

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

The Chapter wishes to publicly thank and acknowledge the generous donations from chapter member Miyoko Lee to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research and from chapter member Mary Taylor to the Alzheimer's Association. Their contributions will support further research into finding a cure for this disease as well as support for people with Alzheimer's disease, their families and caregivers. Last year I included a quote from Maureen Reagan, the daughter of the late President Ronald Reagan who suffered from Alzheimer's disease during his final years: "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".

If you wish your contribution to support programs and services to individuals and families coping with Alzheimer's disease as well as supporting research efforts, please make your check payable to the Alzheimer's Association. On the other hand, if you wish your donation to be used solely to support research toward finding a cure, please make your check payable to "NARFE-Alzheimer's Research". To be sure that your contribution is correctly acknowledged as coming from a chapter 65 member, write "NARFE -Chapter 65" in the memo section of your check. Mail your contribution to me at the above address; I'll then forward it to the Alzheimer's Association

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.

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL; 650-754-9962

On March 26th Martha Raup, Dianne Joseph, and I had a meeting with Mark Herbert, Field Representative/Caseworker in Pelosi's office. We discussed with him our support for NARFE legislation covering Premium Conversion, the Government Pension Offset, and the Windfall Elimination Provision. Martha mentioned there were several members in our chapter that she knew, in particular, who were affected by GOP/WEP. We talked about the problems caused by HSA's, Health Savings Accounts, a new type of health plan that the Administration is promoting. HSA's allot an employee a certain amount of money to spend on health care in any way he or she chooses. Whatever monies that person does not spend on health care he or she gets to keep. HSA's tend to siphon off younger, healthier, wealthier people from comprehensive plans, increasing premiums for everyone else. Martha invited Mark and the rest of Pelosi's staff to join our chapter and asked him if he would like to come speak to us at one of our meetings. Mark, who was very cordial to us, seemed agreeable to both suggestions.

Also, in the latest Hotline Message, I saw that on April 8th, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-NY, and 21 cosponsors introduced H.R. 5718, legislation to improve family and medical leave for Federal employees. The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study the feasibility of offering disability insurance to Federal workers. It's about time. This bipartisan legislation has been referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the Education and Labor Committee. The Oversight and Government Reform Committee Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce was scheduled to mark up the bill yesterday.

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

Balance forward	\$5,379.25
Income	403.10
Expenses	411.98
Balance on 4/30/08	\$5,370.37

SUNSHINE:

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of *Emmett J Watkins*.

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

We extend a warm welcome to *Margaret Santiago and Karen Wing*.

Certainly, most of our members are aware our nation is in the gripe of difficult financial times given the weakening dollar, escalating mortgage foreclosures, and ever higher fuel cost. Needless to say our membership is not immune to these events and is suffering along with other citizens of the land. More than likely, unless something happens in the interim, we can expect a cost of living adjustment (COLA) in January to offset some of the inflationary pressures we are experiencing. NARFE negotiated the first automatic cost of living adjustment in 1962 and while some retirees around us have lost benefits after the fact, we have not lost a single benefit in over a decade. We need each of you to stay the course and reach out to other federal retirees and employees that you know to help build up our clout.

Let me throw out a few statistics on our membership for you: at 3/11, Chapter 65 had 798 voting members and 119 non-voting members, there were 98 members on dues withholding, 58 honorary members, and 122 life members. We need more of you to consider coming on down and joining us at one of our monthly meetings.

We are currently in the process of looking for members to become back up for all our filled chapter positions as a way of training/preparing for the future. Most positions take only two to three hours a month and are pretty straight forward. So, if you have any computer skills you might consider being my back up as Newsletter Editor. Most of our meetings are informative and we have fun and enjoy one another's company.

NARFE-PAC: HERMAN BRACEY; 668-2337; hermtaps@sbcglobal.net

I wish to thank those of you who responded to my earlier request for NARFE-PAC contributions, but we still have a ways to go. We now have 21 members who have contributed \$1095. For those of our members who have not yet made a contribution to NARFE-PAC this year, we are going to press before I know on which page the contributor's coupon is on in May's NARFE Magazine. Our goal is still to have 10% of our members become contributors; with around 800 members, that means we need at least 80 of you to come through for Chapter 65. I'm sure we can do it! Remember, it's up to each of us to do all we can to protect our earned benefits.

SPECIAL DISTRICT 12 ELECTION: Former State Senator Jackie Speier won the special election for District 12 to complete the term of deceased Congressman Tom Lantos on April 8, 2008 with over 70% of the vote so there will be no need for a run off election. However, she will have to run for reelection in November.

OUR ANNUAL SUMMER LUNCHEON is scheduled for **Wednesday July 16, 2008 at Sinbad's Restaurant Pier 2 Embarcadero at Mission**. There will be No Host Cocktails at 11:30 AM with lunch at 12:00 PM. **The cost is \$25.00 for members and \$27.00 for guests. The choices of Entrees are Salmon Florentine, Breast of Chicken Piccata, or London Broil. Luncheon includes Chef Choice of Potatoes or Rice, Vegetable, Bread and Butter, Ice Cream, and Coffee, Tea or Milk. Valet Parking is \$4.00, and Public Transportation is readily available. You will find more information on the subject in this space next month.**