

**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 2008 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON OCTOBER 15, 2008 AT THE ODD FELLOWS HALL, 26 7TH ST,
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 11 ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK ON TREASURE ISLAND
- OCT 15 CINDY SHEEHAN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS, DISTRICT 8TH
- NOV 19 REGULAR MEETING PROGRAM TBA
- MAY 1-3-2009 2nd CSFC BIENNIAL NARFE CONVENTION IN CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

PRESIDENT; JANE RAMOS, 875 SANCHEZ ST., SF, CA. 94114; 826-3337 jecramos@sbcglobal.net

GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS AND/OR

ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER... In September, five Chapter 65 members, Martha Raup, Dianne Joseph, Fran Chan, Jess Ramos and I, attended the 30th Biennial NARFE National Convention in Louisville, Ky. Out of 1,454 Chapters in the country, 1,245 were represented - or 85%. Helen Zajac, past President of the California Federation was elected to be our new Region VIII National Field Vice President. We will be well served as she is an extremely dedicated and effective NARFE supporter. Your five attending members thought that the Convention was very well run, informative, and presented lots of strategies for making NARFE stronger than ever. Margaret Baptiste was reelected (unopposed) as the National President. Many members felt that she is the best president that NARFE has ever had. Nathaniel Brown was reelected Secretary, Richard Ostergren was reelected Treasurer and Joe Beaudoin was elected Vice President. Our National Legislative Director, Dan Adcock, warned us of an impending "perfect storm" in 2009. The country is facing a huge budget deficit which he called a "fiscal tsunami". The baby boomers are retiring and half of all federal employees will be eligible to retire in the next 5 years. We are seeing a decline of retirement and health benefits in the private sector, and we are waging two wars. He believes there will be congressional attempts to overhaul entitlement programs in 2009. Many federal employees erroneously believe that the government does not have the ability to change our retirement benefits.

So, we need to redouble our efforts to recruit and retain members. We need your email addresses so that we can mobilize quickly when bills are introduced. If you haven't done so yet, please sign up for GEMS alerts. The coming year is a very important one for NARFE. All Chapter members need to be involved in working to protect our earned retirement benefits!

CINDY SHEEHAN, candidate for the 8th Congressional District, has accepted our invitation to speak at our October meeting. Born in Inglewood California in 1957; married to Patrick Sheehan in 1977; Youth Minister at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Vacaville, CA for eight years; founded the Gold Star Families for Peace in January 2005 after her son, Casey Sheehan, died while serving in Iraq; has authored three books: Not One More Mother's Child, Dear President Bush, and Peace Mom. Other candidates for the 8th District seat have also been invited and may be present on October 15, 2008. And, finally, we will be electing new officers in November, so please step forward and offer to fill one of our Chapter officer positions! Please consider volunteering to serve if you want to be involved in a more active way in protecting your earned retirement benefits, now is the time. We need a President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. Also, Committee heads: Legislation, Public Relations, Membership, Audit and Service. You could also serve on any of these committees. The next few years are going to be extremely important for federal employees and retirees. Your Chapter needs YOU! Come to a meeting or call us. **Thank you for supporting NARFE.**

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

The Chapter wishes to publicly acknowledge and thank Florence Chinn for her generous donation to the NARFE - Alzheimer's Research fund, and also Beatrice Bertwell for her generous donation to the Alzheimer's Association. If this newsletter reaches you before October 11, I hope it will remind you to participate in the Alzheimer's Association's annual Memory Walk on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. It's easy to do, it's fun and we all hope this major event will help to keep the public from forgetting about those among us with Alzheimer's.

If you wish to make a donation to support programs and services to individuals and families coping with Alzheimer's, as well as supporting research efforts into finding a cure, please make your check payable to "Alzheimer's Association". On the other hand, if you wish your donation to be used solely to support research efforts into finding a cure, 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 donation to me at the above address; I'll forward it to the Alzheimer's Association.

NARFE – CHAPTER 65
651 COLE STREET APT 2
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OCTOBER 2008

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

**Visit OUR CHAPTER 65 WEB SITE: (<http://www.narfe65.org>) for more Chapter information, photos, archived newsletter, etc. 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).

Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) annual open season will run from Monday, November 10, through Monday, December 8, 2008. The final three 2008 issues of *NARFE* magazine will provide open season information including an overview (October), plan changes (November) and rates (December). (As official announcements are made by the Office of Personnel Management, additional details will be posted at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/>)

TREASURER'S REPORT: JESSE RAMOS 826-3337

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Balance at | 8/1/08 | \$6,249.84 |
| Income | | \$1,167.44 |
| Expenses | | <u>\$1,009.08</u> |
| Balance at 8/31/08 | | \$6,408.20 |

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL; 650-754-9962

You may be aware Congress overrode a Presidential veto on July 15th to prevent a 10.6 percent cut to physician reimbursement rates in the Medicare program. The legislation passed by a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate. In prior attempts, the White House had been able to rely on Senate Republican allies to keep the bill from advancing to the floor. This time, halfway through the routine roll call vote, ailing Sen. Edward Kennedy, who had been away from Capitol Hill recovering from surgery for brain cancer, entered the Senate chamber - surprising fellow Senators, aides, and gallery watchers - assuring that the measure would receive the needed 60 votes to allow floor consideration of the Medicare bill. The bill itself (HR 6331) ultimately passed by voice vote.

The new law pays for the physician payment increase in part by reducing the Government's payments to Medicare Advantage plans (Medicare Part C). Indirect medical education program payments will be reduced for these private managed care plans, and new requirements will be established for private fee-for-service plans, resulting in \$12.5 billion in savings over five years according to the Congressional Budget Office. Bill supporters believe the Medicare Advantage managed care plans have been overpaid compared to the reimbursement levels currently awarded to Medicare's traditional fee-for-service providers (Medicare Part B). This bill accomplished two tenets of NARFE-endorsed policy: preserving the traditional fee-for-service program by ending higher reimbursement rates solely to Medicare Advantage and sustaining doctor participation in the Medicare program. In order for the Medicare program to function as intended for beneficiaries, physicians must participate in the program and must be compensated adequately.

SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA; 566-7358

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of ***Nancy K Mattson***.

MEMBERSHIP: HERMAN BRACEY; 668-2337

Our warmest Welcome to these new members, ***David Jesson, James Wade, and Patricia Young***

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION MEMORY WALK: Mark your calendars now so you won't forget to attend the ***Memory Walk on Treasure Island on Saturday, October 11, at 9:30 AM***. This is your chance to publicly show that you support the Alzheimer's Association's efforts to find a cure for Alzheimer's. There will be thousands of folks, young and old, walking on Treasure Island that day in support of finding a cure. You can be a part of this important event. I asked in the July newsletter if there was a member willing to act as a contact person for NARFE members who would prefer to participate with other NARFE members as a group, or in a team. Unfortunately, no one has volunteered - yet. If you'd just like to participate in the Walk, or if you're willing to lead a NARFE Memory Walk Team on October 11, please contact me.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4TH!!!