

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SAN FRANCISCO

CHAPTER 65

SENTINEL

HERMAN BRACEY, EDITOR

Meets 3rd Wednesday each month, Historic Odd Fellows Hall, 26 – 7th Street , near Market, SF

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ALZHEIMER'S

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826-3337

TELEPHONE

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776-5199

BINGO TRES

Joseph Smith
650 755 -8261

WEBMASTERS

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334-6380

IMM PAST PRES

Herman Bracey

Sen Barbara Boxer

Senate Office Bldg
Wash DC 20510
Phone 1 202 224 3553
1700 Montgomery St
SF Ca 94111
Phone 415 403- 0100

Sen Dianne Feinstein

Senate Office Bldg
Wash DC 20510
Phone 1 202 224 3841
1 Post St Ste 2450
SF Ca 94104
Phone 415 393-0707

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House Office Bldg
Wash DC 20515
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450 Golden Gate Ave
SF Ca 94102
Phone 415 556-4862

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House Office Bldg
Wash DC 20515
Phone 1 202-225-3531
400 S El Camino Real
San Mateo, Ca 94402
Phone 650-342-0300

NARFE Hot Line

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Ph 1 800 839-5276

DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

**NO MEETING THIS MONTH SEE YOU AT SINBAD'S
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DEC 17 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT SINBAD'S AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

JAN 21 THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT NEW FEDERAL BLDG, 90 7TH STREET LOWER
LEVEL CONFERENCE CENTER ROOM B 040

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 DECEMBER. As the end of the year approaches, Chapter 65 once again will celebrate the

holiday season with our annual luncheon to be held at SINBAD'S RESTAURANT on the Embarcadero Pier 2 in San Francisco on Wednesday, December 17. We sincerely hope you'll mark your calendars and send your reservations to DorisMarie Hagopian as soon as possible. Sinbad's provides an excellent lunch, beautiful views of the bay, bridge and boats, and a casual atmosphere next door to the Ferry Building with its gourmet shops and authentic feel of old San Francisco. Our keynote speaker will be Judy Lynn, District V Vice President. Judy's dedication to NARFE and commitment to our goals are so important and inspiring to us all. Come renew old acquaintances and make new friends and to hear about the issues of importance to all retired feds. Bring a friend too; all are welcome!! We'll have door prizes and will welcome any door prizes donations that you care to bring to share.

At our November meeting, the following Chapter Officers were elected for 2009; they will all be sworn in at the December luncheon. Your officers in 2009 will be: President - Jane Ramos, First Vice President - Martha Raup, Second Vice President - Don Enochson, Secretary - Martha Raup, and Treasurer - Jesse Ramos.

In January, the regular monthly meeting will be held, for the first time, in the new Federal office building, 90 7th Street (Corner of Mission and 7th). Doug Betten, Regional Administrator, OASAM, Department of Labor is sponsoring our meeting. We will have a separate meeting space for the executive board meeting in the morning, and for the general meeting at 1:00 pm. This is a beautiful building, and if you haven't seen it yet, we hope you'll come to either or both the board meeting and the general meeting. The building is now open to the public; all you need is a government issued picture ID, such as your driver's license or DMV ID. This new building is "green", and is built with concrete made from a 50% slag and coal ash concrete, which greatly reduces the environmental damage caused by using new Portland cement alone. The design is an innovation of Thom Mayne, a Pritzker Architecture Prize winner!

We believe that by meeting in the new Federal building we will greatly increase our visibility and familiarity to federal employees - and of course - make recruitment much easier. More information will follow in the January newsletter. Also, call me if you need more information before then. And please plan to come and let us know what you think about meeting in the new building. Your Chapter has been meeting in the Odd Fellows Building for many years, and we have been very well served by the management there - but we (your officers and board) felt that this offer - the new FOB - is one we can't refuse. We think, in fact, that this is a wonderful opportunity to further the image of NARFE and to make it a stronger association in the process.

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

The Chapter wishes to publicly recognize and thank Elizabeth Rieger for her generous donation to the NARFE-Alzheimer's Research Fund. As we near the end of the year some of you may wish to make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association before December 31. Last year NARFE members donated over \$558,000 to the Alzheimer's Association. Funds donated to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research are earmarked 100% for research, while member donations to the Alzheimer's Association are used for the care and support of people with Alzheimer's disease, their families and caregivers, as well as research.

Whether you wish to donate to the NARFE-Alzheimer's Research Fund or the Alzheimer's Association, you should write "NARFE Chapter 65" in the memo section of your check to make sure that your contribution is noted as coming from a NARFE Chapter 65 member. Mail your donation to me at the above address; I'll forward it to the Alzheimer's Association.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all!

DECEMBER 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).

Doug Betten of the Labor Dept has arranged for us to hold our January 21, 2009 chapter meeting in the new Federal Bldg at 90 7th Street. The meeting will be held on the lower level in the Conference Center Room B-040. A picture ID is required to enter the building. The meeting should be listed on the building directory to your left as you enter the building. There is a staircase down to the left of the directory with elevators to the right of the directory.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JESSE RAMOS 826-3337

Balance at 10/1/08	\$6,417.72
Income	\$ 384.02
Expenses	\$ 465.22
Balance at 10/31/08	\$6,336.52

SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA; 566-7358

We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of **John Brady, Harriett E Crawford, Leo Debernardi and Ethel W Dunlap.**

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

A warm **WELCOME** to our newest members: **Amparo L Aragon, Joaquina G Flynn, Julie A Rose, Janet R Heater, Betty J Scully, Agnes Sikora and Harold S Stoddard.**

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL: 650-754-9962

On July 30th, the House of Representatives passed legislation allowing Federal Employees Retirement System employees to credit their unused sick leave toward their retirement as an addition to an unrelated bill to regulate tobacco products, H.R. 1108. That bill is still pending in the Senate. Civil Service Retirement System workers are allowed to credit their unused sick leave toward their retirement, but FERS employees are not. When Congress created FERS in 1986, the cost of allowing workers to apply their unused sick leave toward retirement was traded off against other FERS benefits not available under CSRS. In 2007, the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service reported that FERS employees near retirement used substantially more sick leave and had much lower sick leave balances than comparable CSRS employees. What a surprise! According to the Office of Personnel Management, the Federal Government loses \$68 million each year in productivity due to sick leave used by FERS employees close to retirement. The House-passed bill would allow FERS employees who retire in the next three years to credit 75 percent of their sick leave hours toward retirement. FERS employees retiring later would have all of their unused sick leave credited to retirement. Crediting unused sick leave toward years of service would increase future annuities of current FERS workers, but it would also result in an additional cost to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the trust fund that holds U.S. Treasury Securities for both the CSRS and FERS.

OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON is scheduled for **Wednesday December 17, 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, Shrimp Louie Salad, Red Snapper (blackened Cajun style), 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. Your door prize donations are welcomed.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY AND USE THE COUPON BELOW!

===CUT HERE === HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ===== PLEASE RESPOND BY DECEMBER 12, 2007

MAIL RESERVATIONS TO DORISMARIE HAGOPIAN; 1895 Jackson St. Apt 502; SF, CA. 94109-2882

NAME _____ TEL NO _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

NUMBER IN PARTY _____ \$25.00/\$27.00 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

ATTACH NAMES OF GUESTS

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NARFE CHAPTER 65