

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER 65

SENTINEL

HERMAN BRACEY, EDITOR

Meets 3rd Wednesday each month, FOB 90 – 7th Street; SF; Lower Level Room B-040

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MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MARCH 18, 2009 AT FOB, 90 7TH ST,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; 11TH FLOOR RM 11010
GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL RM B-040
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

MAR 8 DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MAR 10 NARFE LOBBY DAY PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE
MAR 18 SPEAKER BART RUGO RETIRED IRS EMPLOYEE - CHANGES IN TAX LAW
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 MARCH.. Our meeting in February at the new Federal Building was well attended, and the speaker, Steven Hoban, Health Insurance Specialist with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was excellent. For those who were unable to attend, and are interested in the information provided to those present, please send me an email, and I'll send you the link to the booklet that Mr. Hoban recommended. Most of your questions about the relationship between FEHBP and Medicare should be answered in this booklet - which you can download. Your Chapter officers and other members have been working hard to make the transition of our meeting place to the new federal building a success. The decision has been made to make this a permanent change and we think that this will be beneficial to our Chapter and to NARFE. We hope you'll let us know what you think.

As of this writing, 5 Chapter 65 members, Herman Bracey, Fran Chan, Dianne Joseph, Martha Raup and I, will be attending the District V annual meeting in San Jose. As usual, all interested members are welcome to these meetings, and we invite you to attend a District V meeting in the future. It's a great way to learn about other Chapters nearby and more about NARFE's work and legislative goals.

Your Chapter officers and Committee heads are urgently seeking volunteers to assist them. Please consider volunteering we'll give you lots of help to get oriented to the positions, and lots of thanks for volunteering. The committees are: Membership, Service, Public Relations, Newsletter, Program, and Alzheimer's; we also need new people to train for the next generation of officers. The current leadership has been rotating duties over the past few years, and we need some new faces. We'd also be happy to have "greeters" at our meetings, to orient new attendees to NARFE and to Chapter activities. Call any of us, and offer to help. Every little bit helps.

Our speaker at the March meeting will be Bart Rugo, a retired IRS employee. He is an experienced instructor and presenter. He currently volunteers at two tax preparation sites, and has also taught tax law to other volunteers. This is another important meeting that we recommend that you attend. And don't miss the Irish Soda Bread prepared by Patricia DelCarlo.

You are being asked to join in raising money for CSFC's Second Biennial Convention being held May 1-3 in Concord, CA. You can do this by purchasing raffle tickets now on sale at Chapter meetings and from me by mail. As a thank you from the Convention Host Committee, there are a number of prizes 1st-\$1000, 2nd-\$500, 3rd-\$250, 4th-\$100, 5th-\$50. Donations are \$1 for a single ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. If you send a donation for ticket(s), please also send a SASE if you want the ticket stub. This is not a lottery. Free tickets will be available at 90 7th Street during our general membership meeting. The odds are much better than Lotto.

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

The Chapter wishes to publicly acknowledge and thank Chapter 65 member Walter Slater for his generous contribution to the Alzheimer's Association.

Now more than ever organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association will depend on contributions from individuals such as our chapter 65 members to continue their work. Our generous contributions in the past have helped move forward the search for a cure to Alzheimer's and have helped those who need help in coping with this disease. 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 check to me at the above address; I'll forward it to the Alzheimer's Association.

NARFE – CHAPTER 65
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MARCH 2009

"NARFE - Your Voice in Congress"

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** when you receive it, 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).

AARP TAX AIDE PROGRAM: From February 1 through April 15th each year, the AARP Tax-Aide program offers free one-on-one counseling, as well as assistance on the telephone and internet to help low income and senior individuals prepare basic tax forms, including the 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and other standard schedules.

There are several Tax Aide sites around the city where you can make contact to receive tax help. **(1) Federal Bldg 450 Golden Gate Ave.** SF located in the lobby, Turk St. side open Monday - Friday 9:00AM-1:00PM - phone (415) 522-4307 (no appointment required); **(2) Stonestown YMCA 3150 20th Ave. SF** open Tuesday-Thursday 11:30AM-3:30PM - phone (415) 242-7135 (appointment required); **(3) Chinese American Citizens ALNC 1044 Stockton St. SF** open Tuesday and Thursday 10:00AM-2:00PM (no phone contact given-no appointment required); **(4) St Mary's Senior Services 450 Stanyan St. SF** open Monday 9:30AM-1:30PM - phone (415) 750-5800 (appointment required); **(5) Aquatic Park Senior Center 890 Beach St. SF** open Tuesday 9:30AM-1:30PM - phone (415) 775-1866 (appointment required) **For locations outside the city call 1-888-687-2277**

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL: 650-834-749

We were not able to have Premium Conversion attached to the stimulus package, but legislation was passed as part of that package treating Federal retirees without Social Security benefits fairly. As a result of NARFE's advocacy, Federal retirees who are not eligible for any of these payments will be eligible to take a newly created \$250 a person refundable tax credit for the 2009 tax year. Reduced payroll tax withholding was provided to wage earners under the "Make Work Pay" provisions. Social Security, Veterans, Supplemental Security Income, and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries who are not otherwise wage earners will automatically receive an additional \$250 check from the Federal Government. Information on how non-Social Security retirees can apply for the tax credit will be provided to NARFE members when it becomes available in the Legislative Hotline and in NARFE magazine.

New NARFE-supported bipartisan legislation repealing the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) numbered H.R. 235 was introduced January 4th by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) and cosponsored by Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA). Sen. Dianne Feinstein will introduce a Senate companion soon. House and Senate lead sponsors for Premium Conversion will introduce legislation during February.

SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA;566-7358

Our prayers and condolences to the families of **Helen M Green, Theresa D Guenley, Victor S Keyak, and William E Lawrence. Rod Peery** a former Federation President and District V VP passed on Feb 1, 2009; a memorial service will be held 1:00PM March 11, 2009 at the Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024.

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

A warm Welcome to: **Barbara A Chase, Bill Foster, Patricia Garcia, Kenneth L Jolivette, Kathleen S Lhee, Thomas J Purcell, and Francine Roby.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: JESSE RAMOS 826-3337

Balance at	12/31/08	\$5,408.03
Income		\$1,385.63
Expenses		\$1,483.93
Balance at	1/31/09	\$5,309.73

DON'T REGRET GROWING OLDER IT IS A PRIVILEGE DENIED TO MANY!