

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

PRESIDENT

Jane Ramos
826-3337

1st VICE PRES

Martha Raup
334-6380

2nd VICE PRES

Donald Enochson
566-6408

SECRETARY

Martha Raup
334-6380

TREASURER

Jess Ramos
826-3337

EDITOR

Herman Bracey
668-2337

EXEC BOARD

David Garcia
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COMMITTEES:

SERV OFFICER

David Garcia
510 235-7750

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STATE

LEGISLATION
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PUB. RELATIONS

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641-6245

AUDIT & BUDGET

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PROGRAM

VACANT

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Edith Higa
566-7358

ALZHEIMER'S

Jess Ramos
826-3337

TELEPHONE

DorisMarie Hagopian
776-5199

BINGO TRES

Joseph Smith
650 755 -8261

WEBMASTERS

Dianne Joseph
Martha Raup
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

Cong Nancy Pelosi
House Office Bldg
Wash DC 20515
Phone 1 202 225 4965
450 Golden Gate Ave
SF Ca 94102
Phone 415 556-4862

Cong Jackie Speier
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
Ph 1 877 217-8234
White House
Ph 1 202 234 1111
Congress Switchboard
Ph 1 866-220-0044

MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MAY 20, 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

MAY 1-3 2nd CSFC BIENNIAL NARFE CONVENTION IN CONCORD, CALIFORNIA
MAY 20 REGULAR MEETING-REPORT ON THE 2ND BIENNIAL CSFC CONVENTION
MAY 25 MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 17 REGULAR MEETING – PROGRAM TBA
JUL 15 SUMMER LUNCHEON-MARINE MEMORIAL CLUB-609 SUTTER ST SAN FRANCISCO

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

GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS AND/OR ANNIVERSARIES IN MAYIf you receive this newsletter before May 1, you can still let us know if you want to attend the 2nd CSFC Biennial Convention in Concord, California, May 1-3. Otherwise, you can join us at our May 20 meeting to get a report on the policy issues and legislative priorities voted on and discussed at the convention. Chapter 65 is sending 13 delegates to the convention, and this is the best turnout that I can ever remember from our Chapter for a convention. So we should have lots to report to you at our May meeting.

At our April meeting, we had a very informative talk by Maxine Anderson of the League of Women Voters about the state propositions, **1A –1F** on which we'll be voting on May 19. The League provided us with very helpful handouts giving us a good overview of the state budget process, as well as pros and cons of the various propositions. You can always pick up material from the LWV at public libraries.

If you haven't already done so, remember to check out the "hotline" on the NARFE website. There you will find solid information about NARFE's legislative activities and up to date information about recent accomplishments. The April 3 hotline explains the April 2 defeat of a substitute amendment that would have cut entitlements, and would have included a reduction of \$10.263 billion in federal civil service retirement and health benefits.

Your Chapter is always looking for ways to get the word out about NARFE, so we hope you'll let us have your ideas! If you haven't been to a Chapter meeting, we'd love to see you and get your opinions.

MEMBERSHIP: HERMAN BRACEY, 668-2337

I know we are all weary and fearful for our country and ourselves after being awash in this current situation with the financial market collapse, bank bailouts, mortgage foreclosures, credit crunches, stimulus plans and extensive job losses. Many of us have been badly blooded and are seeking some safe haven not withstanding our many doubts, fears, and uncertainties.

I can say with certainty that NARFE is still here willing and able to continue the fight to protect our earned benefits which usually come under attack when financial problems surface and there are calls to cut government spending. NARFE is always working, here and now, to insecure that Federal employees and retirees do not suffer any major loss of purchasing power in the current economical crisis. NARFE's record is that we have not lost any benefits in many, many years. How much is that worth; surely it's worth your cost of membership in this organization? We must continue to strive to keep our voice heard in Washington for many, many generations to come and for that we need your continuing support!

President Obama Addresses Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security in Economic Speech: In a speech at Georgetown University on Tuesday, April 14, President **Obama** assessed economic recovery efforts, linking health care costs to broader economic problems and speaking of the need for health care reform to reign in the expenses of Medicare and Medicaid. He also called on Congress to "get serious" and stop postponing difficult decisions in order to accomplish health care reform this year. Laying out his vision for America's economic future, the President restated the role of Social Security as part of a secure retirement, speaking of a need to focus on the program's long-term stability after health care reform is achieved. "The high cost of health care in this country is not just emptying the pockets of retirees, it is emptying the pockets of America," said **Edward Coyle**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "By eliminating wasteful spending like overpayments to private insurance companies for Medicare Advantage plans, we can take the first step toward getting our economy back on track and having quality, affordable health care for our citizens."

From the Alliance for Retired Americans

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION ON MAY 19, 2009

TOGETHER WE CAN....RECRUITING is everyone's job!!

NATIONAL WEB SITE: (<http://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.

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL, 650 754-9962

On Thursday, April 2nd, before passing their fiscal 2010 budget resolution, the House of Representatives defeated a substitute amendment offered by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) which would have cut entitlements like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid by \$1.3 trillion over 10 years and would have included a reduction of \$10.263 billion in Federal civil service retirement and health benefits.

In a letter sent to all 435 members of the House before the vote, NARFE President, Margaret Baptiste urged lawmakers to oppose the amendment because it would have compelled the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to consider proposals such as cutting or canceling Federal annuity cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), basing future retiree annuities on the highest five years of salary, shifting a growing share of Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium costs to workers and retirees and/or requiring workers to double their Thrift Savings Plan contributions to receive the full government share. The Ryan substitute was defeated 137 to 293.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: LESLIE CHING, 641-6245

Chapter 65 Members: Check Craigslist and iList for your Chapter's monthly postings. Postings on Craigslist are available for 7 days (includes the meeting day) and 30 days on iList.

Search for "NARFE" in the San Francisco Bay Area; then Communities or All Categories; and Groups. Special guest speakers or luncheons are included in the postings. Go to: www.craigslist.org or www.iList.com

TREASURER: JESSE RAMOS, 826-3337

Beginning Balance 3/1/09	\$5,388.57
Income	\$ 860.77
Expenses	<u>\$ 747.04</u>
Ending Balance at 3/31/09	\$5,502.30

SUNSHINE; EDIE HIGA, 566-7358

Our prayers and condolences to the family of **John Lockley**

OUR SUMMER LUNCHEON is scheduled for **Wednesday July 15, 2009 at the Marine Memorial Club 609 Sutter Street at Mason Street**. No Host Cocktails at 11:30 AM with lunch at 12:00 PM. The cost will be \$23.00 and the choices of Entrees are Asian Chicken salad, Cobb Salad, Petrale Sole, Leatherneck Angus Cheeseburger, or Pasta Primavera. Lunches include: mixed green salad, teas, sodas, Starbucks coffee or hot tea service, raspberry sorbet or vanilla ice cream. **Parking** is usually available at the Olympic Club garage, 665 Sutter Street, fifty yards from the MMC on the same side of the street. MMC has arranged for parking in this garage @ \$4 per hour with a limit of four hours. Have the parking ticket validated at the restaurant. Sutter Street is one way heading west.

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

A hardy **WELCOME ABOARD** to our newest members: **Doug Betten, Ann Marie Roache, Mary Sandstrom, and May T Tam.**

SINGLE DUES REFERENDUM:

You might have heard the National Executive Board (NEB) has called for a referendum on the creation of a single dues structure for our Association. At our last two national conventions resolutions were made to amend the Bylaws so we could have single dues, but both times it failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote. As it now stands, while national dues are the same for all chapters, chapter dues varies anywhere between \$3.00 and \$12.00 depending upon which chapter you are a member.

However, not every chapter was represented at these conventions and the NEB believes every chapter member should be given an opportunity to discuss and vote on an issue of this magnitude. The use of a referendum will accomplish this. The purposes of a unified NARFE Dues are to aid in the recruitment and retention of members. In addition, it will benefit all chapters in maintaining their financial records by reducing the current number of dues categories. **Please let your Chapter Officers know your thoughts on the subject!**

The referendum proposes \$40.00 as NARFE Dues. Some members have asked me how we arrived at that figure. This comes from current National dues of \$29, average chapter dues of \$8.10 and 10%, or \$2.90, to the federation. When the referendum passes, it will cost each member \$40 (or \$3.33 a month): \$9 rebated to the chapters; \$4 rebated to the federations, and \$27 for National. The last thing we want to do is impose a financial hardship on our members. We have some members who are living on a very small annuity. But, without a strong, viable NARFE to fight to protect that member's annuity and health care benefits, the alternative would be much worse: a reduction of that annuity and benefits. The schedule for the referendum has the ballots being mailed to every chapter secretary around September 1, 2009. Chapters will have three full months to decide their position and return the ballots to an independent firm by early December. *Excerpts from President Margaret Baptiste's open letter on the referendum.*