

**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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**JULY 2009 NEWSLETTER
NO MEETING THIS MONTH, SEE YOU AT OUR
SUMMER LUNCHEON-MARINE MEMORIAL CLUB
609 SUTTER ST, SAN FRANCISCO
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- JUL 15 SUMMER LUNCHEON MARINE MEMORIAL CLUB-609 SUTTER ST SAN FRANCISCO**
AUG NARFE GRASS ROOT ADVOCACY MONTH "CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS"
AUG 19 REG MEETING /JAY GRANT, EXECUTIVE WELLNESS COACH," LIVING BETTER LONGER"
SEP 16 PIER 39, AQUARIUM OF THE BAY, LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.
OCT 10 ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK ON TREASURE ISLAND AT 9:30 AM

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 JULY....Don't forget the annual Chapter 65 July luncheon at the Marine's Memorial Club on the 15th! The deadline for reservations is July 8 so that we can inform the Club of all menu choices. This will be a good time to catch up on NARFE news and, of course, news of your old friends. Come for a fun day downtown!

August is designated Grass Roots Advocacy month (See pg. 16 of your July NARFE magazine). We are being asked to call/write our Senators and Representatives. This is the time when many members of Congress plan to spend some time in their district offices. Your Chapter officers will be planning visits to talk about NARFE's legislative priorities; we'd welcome your participation. Sample letters are available on the NARFE website to guide you on NARFE legislation priorities. Changes are coming and we want to be sure that we protect the benefits we have all earned. It seems certain that there will be national health care reform, and we need to know how we will be affected by any changes to our health benefits. Please get involved in this..don't leave it to others.

NARFE HQ has asked us to identify those Chapter members who are seriously affected by the GPO/ WEP and are willing to be part of the Chapter's delegation to our congresspersons' offices. This will allow them to put a "human face" on this issue. Personal stories have a large impact on decision making. Sometimes talking about our issues has an abstract quality to it without specific examples. Let me know if you're willing to do this.

On May 30, some of our Chapter members attended a rally in Berkeley held by the California Retired Teachers Assn. Thousands of teachers are also adversely affected by the GPO/WEP and they are also fighting to repeal these unfair penalties. As they state, "Nine out of 10 public employees affected by the GPO will lose their entire spousal benefit, even though their spouse paid Social Security taxes their entire working life to provide that benefit." We were glad to see that others are taking up this fight as well as NARFE!

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

The Chapter wishes to publicly acknowledge and thank Ralph Hockley for his generous donation to the Alzheimer's Association.

As I mention in every newsletter, if you wish to make a donation to support programs and services to individuals and families coping with Alzheimer's disease, as well as supporting research efforts to find a cure, please make your donation check payable to "Alzheimer's Association". On the other hand, if you wish your donation to be used solely to support research efforts in finding a cure; please make your check payable to "NARFE - Alzheimer's Research". To ensure that your donation 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 then forward it to the Alzheimer's Association. The Chapter is still looking for a member to serve as its Alzheimer's Coordinator. In the June Newsletter I described what the Coordinator does. Please read the paragraphs again and then decide that you want to help.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JESSE RAMOS 826-3337

Balance at 5/1/09	\$5,202.39
Income	\$ 303.37
Expenses	<u>\$ 361.01</u>
Balance at 5/31/09	\$5,144.75

HAVE A HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

NARFE – CHAPTER 65
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"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.

LEGISLATION: BEATRICE BERTWELL; 650-834-7493

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste denounced proposals made by House Republican leaders to reduce the retirement annuities of federal workers and require them to work longer to receive their full earned annuity.

The proposals, set forth in a policy agenda released on June 4 by Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA), recommend that the federal civilian annuity calculation be based on the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three years. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that "the average new Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retiree would receive about \$1,250 less in 2008 and \$6,530 less over five years than under current law." In addition, the Boehner/Cantor paper recommends that federal civilian employees not be afforded their earned annuity until they reach age 62, under any circumstance. Currently, employees can retire at age 55 if they have 30 or more years of service or at age 60 if they have 20 or more years of service. Federal public safety employees are required to retire by age 57 and air traffic controllers must retire by age 56.

"Not only would these proposals dishonor the government's obligations to its workers, but it also makes public service a much harder sell to the highly talented and skilled individuals needed to take on the challenges of recovering from an unparalleled economic upheaval, fighting two wars and defending the homeland," Baptiste said. "The federal government should serve as a model to other employers and should not be a part of the mindless race to the bottom, which has contributed to the growing number of employees without adequate retirement savings or health insurance."

SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA; 566-7358

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of ***Genevieve O Rodriguez and James A Wright***.

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

A warm WELCOME to ***George Cousart***, and thank you to ***Francis J Clark, William J Dowds, Carl E Mondon and Frances M Salcedo*** for reinstating their membership.

Please remember, our effectiveness as a grass-roots organization depends upon each member!

OUR SUMMER LUNCHEON is scheduled for ***Wednesday July 15, 2009 at the Marine Memorial Club 609 Sutter Street at Mason Street at the Leatherneck Restaurant located on the 12th floor.*** 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. Public transportation the 2, 3, 4, 9x, 27, 30, 38 and 45 routes are reportedly within two blocks.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY AND USE THE COUPON BELOW!

===CUT HERE === HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ===== PLEASE RESPOND BY JULY 8, 2009

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

NAME _____ TEL NO. _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

CHECK CHOICE OF ENTREE: Pasta Primavera _____ Cobb Salad _____ Petrale Sole _____ Asian Chicken Salad _____

Leatherneck Angus Cheeseburger _____ Number In Party _____ @ \$23.00 EACH TOTAL ENCLOSED\$ _____

ATTACH NAMES OF GUESTS AND THEIR ENTREES. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NARFE CHAPTER 65**