

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER 65  
**SENTINEL**

HERMAN BRACEY, EDITOR

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, FOB 90 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SF, Lower Level Room B-040; (Civic Center BART station)

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**DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER**  
**NO REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH**  
**SEE YOU AT THE DELANCEY STREET RESTAURANT!**  
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

NOV 8 – DEC 13 FEHBP OPEN SEASON

DEC 15 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT DELANCEY STREET/INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

JAN 19 REGULAR MEETING/HELEN ZAJAC REGION VIII NATIONAL VP SPEAKER

APR 16 -18 3<sup>RD</sup> BIENNIAL CSFA CONVENTION ONTARIO, CA

**PRESIDENT; JERRY HALL; 229 De Montfort Ave, SF, CA 94112; 412-0488, fritz1313@hotmail.com**

**GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS AND/OR ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER...**Not surprisingly the report from the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform is proposing the reduction of Federal employees' and retirees' wages and benefits. Federal Workers and annuitants are seen as the "fat cats" by many. Recent news articles suggesting federal workers are "overpaid" have not been factually based. Indeed the federal workforce is higher educated and performs crucial missions for the country and this year again fell behind in wages and benefits when compared to comparable private sector jobs. For the past two years, federal annuitants have a median annuity of slightly over \$30,000 a year and will again this year receive no COLA. Yet many annuitants will be paying approximately \$1,000 more a year for health insurance since 2009. The commission is suggesting federal retirees should pay even more than the 30% we currently pay for health premiums (which is a similar share paid by private-sector workers and retirees). The average married retiree is already paying approximately \$4,000 a year for health care plus another \$1,200 or more for Medicare Part B, if participating in that program. That "fat cat" median annuity becomes less than \$25,000 after these health costs and less than \$1,000 over the 2010 poverty level for a couple. Additionally, our median annuity couple becomes potentially eligible for food stamps. It is important for the Federal Government to maintain the benefit system it uses to attract excellent federal workers. Accordingly, I suggest that you go to the NARFE website ([www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)) and click on the Action Alert in the middle of the home page. It will take you to a letter you can easily send to your Senators and congressperson. You can modify the letter if you wish and once you have entered your name and address, you can easily submit your letter to your representatives requesting that they defend the integrity of the Federal Benefit System and the government's implied promises to its retirees and workers. NARFE also has a toll free number (1-866-220-0044) via which you can contact your representatives and express your concerns.

On a lighter note, NARFE's biennial California convention will be held April 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> in Ontario, California. Please let me know before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 if you are interested in attending the convention as one of Chapter 65's delegates. The Chapter will pay your registration fee and we have set aside a small amount of money to assist with some of your travel and hotel expenses. See additional convention information at the California NARFE website (<http://www.csfnarfe.org/cv2011.html>).

If you would like to support the funding of the California Convention, there are two easy ways to do so. You can be a booster and have your name listed in the program for \$1 and/or you can purchase a raffle ticket for \$5 for a chance to win the \$2011 grand prize, \$500 first prize, \$250 second prize, \$100 third prize, and three fourth prizes of \$50, plus numerous other quality gifts. You need not be present to win. If you would like to be a booster or buy raffle tickets send our Treasurer, Dianne Joseph, (179 Chilton Ave, San Francisco, CA 94131) your check with your name and address made out to **NARFE Chapter 65** to cover being a booster and/or the number of \$5 raffle tickets you desire. All funds collected will go directly to support the 2011 Convention in Ontario, California. Additionally, raffle tickets will be available at our December luncheon and January meeting.

**ACTION ALERT:** regarding the Fiscal Commission Co-Chairs' proposals to cut federal civil service retirement and health benefits, freeze federal pay and reduce the federal workforce by 10 percent. **NARFE President Joe Beaudoin** is asking each of you to immediately call your Representative and Senators toll free at **1-866-220-0044** to oppose a serious effort to cut our retirement and health benefits.

Once connected, the message is: **"I urge you to oppose the Fiscal Commission's plan to cut my earned federal civil service retirement and health benefits. Again the number is 1-866-220-0044.**

**Finally, Happy Holidays to you all and I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas luncheon.**

**"NARFE - Working for You"**

**DECEMBER 2010**

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.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: DIANNE JOSEPH; 179 CHILTON AVE, SF, CA 94131; 334-6380**

Balance on: 10/01/10	\$ 6,840.53
Income	\$ 1,103.53
Expenses	\$ 855.94
<b>Balance on: 10/31/10</b>	<b>\$ 7,088.12</b>

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

A warm WELCOME to our newest members *Diane Reese Beyer, Christopher Buchanan, Rebecca Clark, Kenneth L Cooper, Gae Conte, Lourdes Devigal, Harry Hu, Pauline Jue, Nancy McCormick, Paul J Morales, Gary Orth, Zenaida Rocamora, Janice Shordike and Harold I Silk*. We also thank *Lila Pon, Eduardo A Ramirez, May Tam and Michael L Wimer*.

For Chapter 65 members renewing their memberships after January 1, 2011 and paying annually, the cost will now be \$48 (\$40 national dues + \$8 chapter dues) following the due increase passed at our convention earlier this year. However, by changing to dues withholding you can get a bit of a break. National will charge you just \$34 + \$8 chapter dues for a total of \$42 or \$.12 a day. The monthly withholding comes to just \$3.50. For a dues withholding application you can call me or pick up a withholding application at one of our meetings.

**Your 2010 Chapter 65 Officers were returned to office for 2011 by unanimous consent.**

**SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA 566-7358**

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of *Clinton D Steele* and *Eugene Zachary*.

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON:** Our chapter's luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, at the Delancey Street Restaurant, 600 Embarcadero at Brannan Street in San Francisco. No-host cocktails at 11:30 a.m. (please order directly from the bartender), with lunch at 12:00 noon. The entrees are: seared sea scallops with mango-papaya salsa and organic field greens and vinaigrette, linguini with smoked chicken and shitake mushrooms with red or white sauce, and apple glazed loin of pork with sweet and sour red cabbage. Lunch includes: appetizers, soup du jour with assorted flat breads; one soft beverage per person and unlimited coffee or hot tea or iced tea. Dessert is a choice of vanilla bean ice cream and biscotti or chocolate mousse. Attendance is limited to 36 people, so please send in your reservations ASAP. **There is valet parking at \$4 per vehicle or ride public transportation via Muni Metro street cars T-Third or N-Judah toward AT&T Ballpark. Disembark at the outdoor Brannan Street Station and walk across the street. Donated door prizes happily accepted.**

**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATION EARLY AND SUBMIT THE COUPON BELOW:**

===== Please respond NO LATER than MONDAY, DECEMBER 6 =====

*If you need to cancel your luncheon reservation, please call Leslie Ching (415-641-6245) NLT noon, Tuesday, Dec. 7.*

**Mail reservations to: Leslie Ching, 160 Gardenside Drive, #101, San Francisco 94131**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check choice of entrée: [ ] Sea Scallops [ ] Linguini with Smoked Chicken [ ] Glazed Loin of Pork

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$26 per person Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach names of guests and entrée. Make checks payable to: NARFE Chapter 65**