

**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; (Civic Center BART station)

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
90-7th St Suite 2-800
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

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Jerry Hall
412-0488

1st VICE PRES

Martha Raup
334-6380

2nd VICE PRES

Herman Bracey
668-2337

SECRETARY

Jane Ramos
826-3337

TREASURER

Dianne Joseph
334-6380

EDITOR

Herman Bracey
668-2337

EXEC BOARD

David Garcia
DorisMarie Hagopian
Frank Morelli

SERV OFFICER

David Garcia
510 235-7750

MEMBERSHIP

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668-2337

LEGISLATION

Rolene Walker
359-9297

PUB. RELATIONS

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641-6245

AUDIT & BUDGET

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SUNSHINE

Edith Higa
566-7358

ALZHEIMER'S

Frank Morelli
563-8361

TELEPHONE

Ruby Dale
DorisMarie Hagopian
776-5199

ACTIVE EMPLOYEE

LIAISON
Rebecca Clark
625-7726

WEBMASTERS

Dianne Joseph
Martha Raup
334-6380

APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON APRIL 20, 2011 AT FOB, 90 7TH ST,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; 14TH FLOOR RM 14-010
GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - "RM B-20 & B-040"
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 16 -18 3RD BIENNIAL CSFC CONVENTION AT ONTARIO. CA
APR 20 REGULAR MEETING/SPEAKER ANN LINDSAY BENEFITS OFFICER DEPT OF LABOR
MAY 18 REGULAR MEETING/SPEAKER KATHLEEN BUTTERFIELD, US COURT OF APPEALS
JUN 15 TOUR OF CHRIST THE LIGHT CATHEDRAL AND LUNCH IN OAKLAND

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 APRIL... NARFE's total membership now stands at a staggeringly low 302,464! Although we anticipated a dip in membership with the dues increase this year, these numbers point to a potentially damaging membership hemorrhage if not remedied now! NARFE cannot afford to have its numbers dip into the 200 thousands. To help us keep NARFE a viable association, we are calling on all our members to recruit at least one new member. Consider giving a friend a membership as a gift. Remember all federal employees, annuitants (more than 4.3 million people) and their spouses are eligible for membership. Our earned benefits are being severely threatened. On March 10th the Congressional Budget Office suggested cuts in Federal Employee Pay and Benefits over the next decade to reduce the deficit. Go to <http://www.thirdway.org/taxreceipt#> on line and see that less than 2% of the federal budget goes to federal workers and the management of federal facilities.

I want to remind you that all members are invited to attend the 10:30 am business meetings we have most months. These board meetings are open to all members to bring their issues, concerns, and suggestions during the meeting. Our membership meetings are held at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of most months (except when we have social events) and are primarily program meetings with topics and presentations suggested by members and announced in advance. This information can be found in your Chapter 65 newsletter and on line at <http://www.narfe65.org>. Also, please feel free to contact me at any time to present your concerns and interests which I can bring up at our meetings and/or discuss with you.

Some members have asked to have a group outing and the program committee has selected Wednesday June 15th as the day for our outing. The outing will include an architectural tour of the new Cathedral of Christ the Light and the surrounding campus overlooking Lake Merritt in Oakland. The Cathedral is four blocks from the 19th Street Bart Station and three blocks from the free Broadway shuttle bus. This modern structure has been built to last for centuries. The tour is informative in regards to the challenges of building the structure, the materials used, the designs, and the origins of the artifacts and art inside. Moreover, it explains how the facility attempts to address the various needs of the nearby community as well as the other surrounding East Bay communities. Several members have gone on the tour previously and found it informative, interesting, and enjoyable. After the tour, folks will have the opportunity to take the free Broadway Shuttle to Jack London Square and eat lunch together in casual and informal settings at the various restaurants in that area. Menus for the Jack London Square restaurants will be found on our website on line and will be available after the tour. The excursion will end with a leisurely boat trip from Jack London back to the Ferry Building in San Francisco or another trip back on Bart from the 12th or 19th Street stations, whichever you prefer. While the tour of the Cathedral will be free, each member will need to pay for his/her own lunch (\$10 to \$15) and their own transportation, Bart (\$3.10 one way adults and \$1.20 for seniors with senior ticket or senior Clipper Card) or boat ride (\$6.25 one way or \$3.75 for 65 and older with ID). This outing will replace our normal morning business meeting and afternoon program meeting for the month of June. See the bottom of the newsletter for information on signing up for this NARFE outing.

Please reserve a space for me to take the one hour architectural tour of the Christ the Light Cathedral at 2121 Harrison St., Oakland, California 94612, at 10:20 am on June 15th. Send your reservation request to Jerry Hall, 229 De Montfort Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112 by US Mail or via email to fritz1313@hotmail.com with the heading "June Cathedral Tour." Reservations must be requested by June 5, 2011.

Name _____ Contact Information _____

Number in party _____

NARFE – CHAPTER 65
651 COLE STREET APT 2
SAN FRANCISCO, CA, 94117-2849
www.narfe65.org

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APRIL 2011

CHAPTER 65 WEB SITE: (<http://www.narfe65.org>) for information, photos, newsletters, etc. **NATIONAL WEB SITE:** (<http://www.narfe.org>); **CSFC WEB SITE:** (<http://www.csfcnarfe.org>) Currently National Dues are \$40.00 and Chapter 65 Dues are \$8.00 annually. Mail check for the full \$48.00, along with your **DUES RENEWAL NOTICE**, when received, 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: 2/01/11	\$ 6,176.40
Income	\$ 729.39
Expenses	\$ 989.59
Balance on: 2/28/11	\$ 5,916.20

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

We thank *Joseph P Scholten* for reinstating his membership.

There's little doubt retirees are in for a rough ride in the present Congress. Our earned annuities and health benefits could be on the chopping block and be reduced by a simple vote of Congress if we don't stay vigilant. It behooves each of our members to be prepared to act when National request action from all members. In the past, very few of our chapter members responded when ask to contact our Congressional delegates by phone, letter or e-mail. The costs of sitting on the sidelines this time around could be great. **THERE COULD BE NO BETTER TIME TO DONATE TO NARFE-PAC. The NARFE-Pac coupon is on page 12 of your April NARFE Magazine.**

Social Security and Medicare under Attack in the Senate, House: Twenty-two Republican senators are threatening to vote against raising the debt ceiling later this year unless the president concedes to cuts in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However, another group of Senators plans to introduce legislation that would separate Social Security from the wider talks on reducing the federal deficit. That initiative has been backed by Democratic Senators. **Richard Blumenthal** (CT), **Barbara Boxer** (CA), **Sherrod Brown** (OH), and **Barbara Mikulski** (MD), as well as **Bernie Sanders** (I-VT). On Tuesday, 125 members of the House Democratic Caucus sent a letter to Speaker **John Boehner**, advising him that a \$1.7 billion cut to the budget of the Social Security Administration would have a disastrous effect on beneficiaries. House Rep. **Mark Critz** (D-PA) introduced an amendment to the stopgap measure to fund the federal government that would prohibit funds in the legislation from being used to cut Social Security or Medicare benefits; privatize Social Security; eliminate guaranteed health coverage for seniors; or establish a Medicare voucher plan that limits payments to beneficiaries. However, the motion failed, 190 to 239.

Retirees Protest Budget Cuts Made at both the State and Federal Level: Retiree activists around the country are outraged as more reports of the ways in which budget cuts will affect seniors are released. In Texas, lawmakers are considering a reduction in Medicaid reimbursements that would result in the closing of 850 of the state's 1,000 nursing homes. In New York, lawmakers have made plans to close 105 of the state's 256 senior centers. In Wisconsin, Governor Walker (R) has called for ending the state's Senior Care prescription drug program. This would force tens of thousands of seniors to enroll in private plans through Medicare Part D, which will be more expensive. Some retiree activists are not taking these attacks lightly. On Tuesday, Florida Alliance members mobilized and joined a "Defend the Dream" protest in West Palm Beach. The event was one of several around the country showing support for public workers, protesting budget cuts, and making Congress aware that Americans will hold lawmakers responsible for their votes. At the Tuesday event, **Tony Fransetta**, President of the Florida Alliance, called on state lawmakers to address what he said were \$26 billion in tax breaks for special interest groups.

ALZHEIMER'S: FRANK MORELLI; 1237 Filbert Street; San Francisco, CA 94109-1713; 563-8361

As we mention in most newsletters, 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 into finding a cure, please make your check payable to "NARFE-Alzheimer's Research". To insure 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 donation to me at the above address; I'll forward it to the Alzheimer's Association.