

SENTINEL

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JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER

**NO MEETING THIS MONTH DUE TO TOUR OF
CHRIST THE LIGHT CATHEDRAL AND LUNCH IN OAKLAND
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- JUN 15 TOUR OF CHRIST THE LIGHT CATHEDRAL AND LUNCH IN OAKLAND**
- JUL 20 SPEAKER FROM GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**
- AUG 17 SPEAKER FROM CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI'S OFFICE**
- SEP 21 LUNCH AT CAFFE BELLA VENEZIA 720 POST STREET**
- SEP 24 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S MISSION CREEK PARK SAN FRANCISCO**
- OCT 19 SPEAKER FROM CA TELEPHONE ACCESS PROGRAM**

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 JUNE...Last week, the *Washington Post* called federal worker annuities “generous.” It’s that sort of false belief that is fueling Capitol Hill’s attack on federal workers – both active and retired. To arrest these attacks, our NARFE National office has issues a call to action alert and requests all members to contact President Obama and Congress ASAP.

Reaching policymakers in Washington is easy and only takes a few minutes. Even if you’ve never called Congress before, now is the time. Dial 1-866-220-0044 for the Capitol. Ask the operator to connect you to your Senator’s office or Representatives office or supply your ZIP Code. I am a retired/active federal employee who [tell the staff person a little about your work or your job before you retired].

You can deliver this message to both your senators and your congressperson. Try to address two important points:

1. I want to voice my opposition to any attempt to shift more of the cost of the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program onto employees and retirees. Explain how much you already pay per year and what percent of your annuity or salary goes to health benefits. Additional increases besides those that have been occurring every year would make healthcare a significant burden financially. Federal employees already contribute 30% to the cost of their healthcare, which is similar to what most private industry workers pay that work for corporations and certainly more than many workers pay in both the private and public sector.

2. I also oppose any mandatory increase in the amount that federal employees must contribute to their retirement fund, which is nothing more than a 5% tax on 2.2 million middle-class families. Just like those before them, current federal workers continue to be paid approximately 22% less than their private sector counter-parts. We serve (or have served) our country proudly and shouldn’t be unfairly singled out to bear the burden of fixing a budget problem we didn’t create. Our pension is fiscally sound and not the cause of the current deficit.

The toll free number for the White House is 1-888-225-8418 and operates from 9am to 5pm EDT. Leave the same message for the President.

Every new proposal to tax or slash the federal workforce is a threat to every active and retired federal worker. Washington is making it clear that they think our annuities and benefits are too generous – and that they think we can be easily singled out and scapegoated.

ANOTHER MATTER: Don’t forget that in June we will be having a field trip which includes an architectural tour of the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison, near Lake Merritt in Oakland, followed by lunch at Jack London Square. Please see the information at the bottom of the newsletter on making your reservation for the tour. While the tour normally is \$5.00, NARFE members will receive the tour free and only need to pay for their individual lunches and transportation to and from the site. The Cathedral is within a few short blocks of the 19th Street BART Station and the free Broadway Shuttle between Grand Street and Jack London Square where Ferries arrive from and depart to the San Francisco Ferry Building. There is also parking at the Cathedral. Reservations must be requested by June 5, 2011. Please provide your email address as all those attending will receive information via email about the transportation, tour, and lunch. If you do not have email and need additional information feel free to contact me via telephone. Members will meet in front of the Cathedral’s main entrance on June 15th at 10:20 am to begin the tour at 10:30 am. There will be no meeting in June, only the tour and lunch following the tour. Our next meeting will be in July.

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JUNE 2011

"NARFE - Working for You"

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 \$40.00 and Chapter 65 Dues are \$8.00 annually. Mail check for the full \$48.00, 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: 4/01/11	\$ 5,814.80
Income	\$ 414.44
Expenses	\$ 811.09
Balance on: 4/30/11	\$ 5,418.15

SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA; 566-7358

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of our deceased members **Leslie Jacobs, Lila Pon and William V Romo.**

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

We send out a warm **WELCOME** to our newest members **Stefanie Arthur, Hanna Danfoura, George Escobar and Eugene Payne.** We also thank **Harry K Fong and Jonathan J Seagle** for reinstating their membership.

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

Plans are in the works to organize a NARFE Chapter 65 team to participate in the **Walk to End Alzheimer's** being held on Saturday, September 24th starting at 10:00 AM. The walk will originate at Mission Creek Park located at 4th & Channel Streets, near AT&T Ball Park. This is a major fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California; more at a later date.

Here's some information to help you understand the reality of Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's disease is;

*responsible for \$173 billion in annual costs in the United States

*the sixth leading cause of death in America

*not limited to the elderly, with people in their 30s, 40s and 50s developing the disease

*currently affecting more than 5 million people, resulting in 11 million Alzheimer and dementia caregivers who provide \$144 billion in unpaid care for loved ones

*a disease someone in America develops every 70 seconds and by mid-century someone will develop Alzheimer's every 33 seconds.

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 _____