

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER 65
SENTINEL

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JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON JULY 20, 2011 AT FOB, 90 7TH ST,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; 11TH FLOOR RM 11-010
GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - "RM B-120"
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JUL 20 SPEAKER FROM GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
AUG 17 SPEAKER FROM CONGREGWOMAN 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 JULY... According to recent reports, the federal worker retirement system "has emerged as a key target" in negotiations about our national debt. It's not right – and we need to speak out now. Rather than addressing other entitlement programs, corporate subsidies, and excessive military budgets, vulnerable federal employees and retirees are being singled out.

Tell Washington that Federal workers Protect America's Heartbeat rejects additional cuts to your pay and benefits. Send your Protect America's Heartbeat letter today to your elected officials. Go to www.NARFE.org. On the main page of the site click on Protect America's Heartbeat and fill in your name and address. Simply click to submit and the letter below will be sent to your representatives and the president. If you don't have internet access call NARFE's toll free numbers for the **Congress (1-866-220-0044)** and the **White House (1-888-225-8418)** and voice your disapproval of federal workers and retirees as being scapegoats for a problem they did not create. Doing nothing sends the wrong message to congress and the president.

Please understand that bringing in new members is the responsibility of all of us. NARFE provides active and retired federal workers with twelve magazines a year with relevant and helpful articles, especially for those who are nearing retirement. NARFE can help you address retirement issues both before and after retirement. Low membership fees make it economical and worthwhile. Moreover, NARFE has worked continuously to protect your earned benefits since 1921. Please sign up a new member this month and consider giving your friends a membership for their birthday, retirement, or simply because you care about their future.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD: For those members without internet access, we ask you to copy this letter and mail copies to President Obama, Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, and Rep Pelosi or Rep Speier:

I'm writing today to express my strong opposition to any plan to impose an additional tax on federal workers by increasing the amount they are required to contribute to their annuities. According to recent reports in the Washington Post, House, Senate, and White House representatives in budget negotiations are open to changes in federal civilian retirement funding - even though the Federal employee annuity fund is actuarially sound and federal workers, who did not cause our budget crisis, have already accepted a two-year pay freeze to help solve the budget problem.

If such a retirement annuity funding plan goes through, 17.4 percent of a federal employee's salary before taxes would go to the government. This proposed tax will overburden lower-wage earners who, because of the tax, won't be able to contribute as much of their salary to their Thrift Savings Plans.

Private companies do not require their workers to contribute to their pension funds, but federal workers have been paying into our trust fund since it was created. It is unfair to expect federal workers to pay even more. Just like those before them, current federal workers continue to serve the federal government at an estimated 22 percent lower wages than their private sector counterparts. The Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuity is, on average, \$944 per month. In fact, because of the two-year pay freeze, federal employees would pay more for a smaller annuity. Losing this incentive puts the nation further at risk of not maintaining a talented and capable work force.

In addition, I am strongly opposed to any other attacks on federal workers or retirees, including any reductions in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. Federal workers are the inspectors who ensure the food our families eat is safe, and the federal intelligence officers who just did their part to catch the world's most wanted terrorist - they protect America's heartbeat, and should not be made into budget scapegoats and singled out unfairly. ***We need you to Act Now!***

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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: 5/01/11	\$ 5,418.15
Income	\$ 472.64
Expenses	\$ 620.31
Balance on: 5/31/11	\$ 5,270.48

SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA; 566-7358

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families of our deceased member **James Kawanishi**.

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

We send out a warm **WELCOME** to our newest members **Susan E Mangiameli, Joseph L Mangiameli, Terri Penn, and Lois E Sims**. We also thank **Ruth V Apana, William F Cromer, and James W Hawkins** for reinstating their membership.

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

We thank **Ralph and Caroline Hockley** for their generous contribution to the Alzheimer's Association.

CHRIST THE LIGHT CATHEDRAL TOUR: On June 15th some twenty members of Chapter 65 gathered in Oakland at the Cathedral for a guided tour. Most of those in attendance took Bart over. It is no doubt an architectural marvel which delivers on the theme of a sacred space. We had two guides who were very informed and knowledgeable about the history and construction of the Cathedral. The tour was inspiring but a bit long at one hour and a half.

Next we walked two blocks to the free Broadway Shuttle which delivered us to Jack London Square. Once there, we separated into groups and headed to different restaurants mainly Scotts and Miss Pearl's. I dined (oyster poor boy) with the members who selected Miss Pearl's who specializes in New Orleans, Cajun cooking. Everyone thought the food was just fine.

After lunch we headed for the ferry terminal and enjoyed a most pleasing ride back to the city with sunny vistas and a sense of peace at being on the water. Once at the Ferry Building, after some goodbyes, we dispersed and went our own ways. It was a day well spent.

GGNRA: Summer's here! Members and guests, join us for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) presentation. Learn more about the geographical area of GGNRA, areas of interest to you, and even volunteer jobs. A special note to active members: Feel free to bring your co-workers and lunch. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area extends 80 miles north and south of the Golden Gate creating a vast greenbelt along the Pacific Ocean. Within its boundaries are ancient redwoods, historic landmarks, miles of hiking trails, rocky shorelines, rare and endangered species, lush coastal wilderness, and breathtaking vistas. You can take an hour, an afternoon, a day or more and discover the national parks at our doorstep.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) chronicles two hundred years of history, from the Native American culture, the Spanish Empire frontier and the Mexican Republic, to maritime history, the California Gold Rush, the evolution of American coastal fortifications, and the growth of urban San Francisco.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area's (GGNRA) far-reaching boundaries are home to more species that are listed by the federal government as threatened or endangered than any other national park site in the continental United States. Each year the GGNRA is featuring one of these special plants and animals through educational programs, events, restoration activities, and a variety of materials for park visitors of all ages.