

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)

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OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON OCTOBER 19, 2011 AT FOB, 90 7TH ST,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; 14TH FLOOR RM 14010
GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - "RM B-120"
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCT 12 NARFE'S SKY GARDEN GATHERING
OCT 19 SPEAKER FROM CA TELEPHONE ACCESS PROGRAM
NOV 16 FINANCIAL ADVISORS, THE HARRIS GROUP-MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY
DEC 14 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT THE TECHNIQUE RESTAURANT AT LE CORDON BLEU

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 OCTOBER... One of NARFE's biggest challenges is membership retention. It is easy to renew your membership online. You can simply go to NARFE.org, click on the membership button and then click on Membership Renewal. Enter your membership number and your name and you can renew for 1, 2 or 3 years. The more years you renew for, the less your membership costs. Your membership number is above your name on your NARFE magazine or you can email or call me and I can give it to you.

Lennie Lund, District V Vice President, will attend our Sky Garden new member and recruitment celebration on Wednesday October 12th in the 90 Seventh Street Federal building. All NARFE members are invited to enjoy the free food (various snacks) and drink (wine and sodas). You will have a chance to meet and talk with Lennie. Please consider bringing a prospective NARFE member with you to this fun event. The Sky Garden is located on the 11th Floor of the building.

On the following Wednesday, October 19th, we will have our regular meeting in room B-120 on the lower level the Federal Building at 1pm and we will have a presentation by the California Access Program. The CA Access Program provides free phones for use to hearing, sight, and other disabled California residents. If you have or you know of others who have such disabilities, this meeting promises to be very informative. Various "high tech" phone devices will be on display. The presenter is hearing impaired and will use a "translator" to explain the program and demonstrate phone devices that all Californians, regardless of income, have access to. The program is funded by a small fee that is charged on monthly telephone bills.

Additionally, we will have our regular executive board meeting on October 19th in room 14-010 at 10:30 am. All NARFE members are invited to attend this meeting. We are always interested in hearing from members about their concerns, programs, presentations, or trips in which they have an interest.

Your San Francisco Chapter 65 will be celebrating its 60th year anniversary at noon on December 14th at the Technique Restaurant at Le Cordon Bleu - San Francisco, 350 Rhode Island. There is good public transportation to the restaurant and public parking nearby. This Anniversary and Holiday celebration promises to be a fun Chapter 65 event and will cost only \$18. Details on the three course meal and how to make your reservations will be in our November newsletter. Please set aside Wednesday December 14th for this special event.

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

The Alzheimer's Walk To End Alzheimer's, begins 10:00 am Saturday September 24, This year's walk is again at **Mission Creek Park** in San Francisco. **Walk Distance:** 3 mile walk or 1.5 mile shortcut. **Walk Route:** The walk will begin in **Mission Creek Park** and we will walk down the 3rd Street Bridge, behind AT&T Park, up the Embarcadero and back again. This route is scenic, flat and Wheelchair accessible. The Walk offers us an opportunity to focus our attention on the disease and the fight for a cure. For past walks, members of Chapter 65 have chosen not only to make a special contribution but to also participate in the walk. Your checks for a minimum of \$25 should be sent to our Alzheimer's Chair; checks should be made payable to the Alzheimer's Association with NARFE Chapter 65 in the memo section. At this time you can also let me know if you are planning to make the walk. **Public Transportation:** Take any MUNI N or T route to the Caltrain Station. If you take BART, exit at the Embarcadero Station then get MUNI N or T. Take Cal Train up from the Peninsula to the King Street Station. Walk one block south on 4th Street to Mission Creek Park. **Chapter members can meet at 4th and Channel at 9:30 AM the south entrance to Mission Creek for the walk.**

"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: 7/01/11	\$ 5,558.00
Income	\$ 333.68
Expenses	\$ 577.30
Balance on: 7/31/11	\$5,314.38

SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA 566-7358

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of our deceased member **Sylvia B Gross**.

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

We send out a warm WELCOME to our newest members **Thomas Bosserman, Jeffery Flynn, Jennifer Gee, Holly Holman, Eugene Leung, Gloria M Quintanar and Douglas Robinson**.

NARFE Responds to Debt-Ceiling Deal on Behalf of Nation's Federal Workforce: Following the passage of a debt-ceiling agreement by both houses of Congress, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association President **Joseph A. Beaudoin** released the following statement:

"On behalf of our nation's more than four million federal workers and retirees and the Americans they serve, it is a great relief that a deal has been reached to keep the government moving forward. There is also temporary relief in the news that, so far, no sweeping plans have been enacted that would weaken our federal workers' retirement and health benefits. Unfortunately, the nearly \$1 trillion in spending reductions across federal agencies will be a challenge to absorb, and once again federal workers will get the chance to demonstrate their skill at doing more with less. As the debt negotiations continue through the end of the year, I hope our leaders continue to recognize the value of our nation's federal workforce and the sacrifices they are undertaking to get our country back on solid financial ground."

HOUSE SET TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION HONORING FEDERAL WORKERS: House lawmakers returned to Washington is ready to take up a bill honoring the service of federal civilian employees. The legislation (H.R. 2061), introduced in June by Reps. Richard Hanna, R-N.Y., and Maurice Hinchey, D-N.Y., would authorize heads of executive agencies to provide American flags for the funerals of civilian workers killed in the line of duty. Employees killed as the result of a terrorist attack, work-related accident or illness, natural disaster or criminal attack experienced while on duty, either at home or abroad, would be eligible for the honor.

The House had planned to consider the bill late Wednesday, Sept. 7, but put off the vote because Hanna's trip back to Washington was delayed. It is unclear when the vote will take place. "Every year federal civilian employees are killed at home and abroad doing their duty for our nation," Hanna said in a statement introducing the bill. "The American flag embodies the values of our nation that these individuals worked to uphold. This legislation would provide a modest, but significant, benefit in honor of these dedicated individuals who sacrificed on our behalf."

Office of Personnel Management data show that nearly 3,000 civilian federal employees have died in the line of duty since 1992. In a Sept. 2 letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., 15 government observers and leaders of federal employee groups expressed support for the legislation, "Just as do members of the Armed Forces, members of the federal civilian workforce often risk their lives in order to carry out official duties and are critical to executing agencies' foreign and domestic missions," the letter stated. "This act would ensure that future employees who are killed while performing official duties are than \$5 billion per year for 10 years. This is a burden no other business or government agency is forced to bear. (The PAEA also recognized for their valor and dedication to their agency, and, most importantly, to the people of the United States."

WHY IS THE USPS GOING BROKE? TWO REASONS: 1) A congressional mandate imposed by Congress in the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) that requires the USPS to "pre-fund" healthcare benefits for future retirees at a cost of more prevents the Postal Service from raising postage costs to pay for this mandate.) Absent the pre-funding requirement, the Postal Service would have experienced a cumulative surplus of \$611 million over the last four years, despite the worst recession in many decades.

2) The USPS has to make overpayments to its pension accounts based on Office of Personnel Management's figures. Thus, the federal government is holding billions of dollars of excess postal payments to the two federal retirement systems - FERS and CSRS. (The USPS has a surplus of \$6.9 billion in its Federal Employee Retirement System account, and, according to two independent actuarial studies, has overpaid the Civil Service Retirement System account by \$50 billion to \$75 billion.) There is a bill in the House of Representatives that would solve most of the financial problems caused by these two above mandates. It is H.R. 1351, introduced by Rep. Steve Lynch (D-MA) that would allow the USPS to use the pension account overpayments to meet the retiree healthcare prefunding demand without slashing service to the public.