

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER 65
SENTINEL

HERMAN BRACEY, EDITOR

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JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON JANUARY 18, 2012 AT FOB, 90 7TH ST,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; 11TH FLOOR RM 11010
GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - "RM B-120"
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 18 LENNIE LUND CSFC DISTRICT V VICE PRESIDENT
FEB 15 JAMES MOLINAN, STATE DIRECTOR—SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN'S OFFICE
MAR 21 LUNCH SF STATE VISTA ROOM

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 JANUARY...

I want to thank the almost sixty NARFE members and supporters who attended this year's celebration of the San Francisco Chapter's 60th anniversary and our annual holiday luncheon. The Chapter received two recognitions presented by Dottie Schmidt, the California Federation President on the occasion of our 60th anniversary. One was a certificate and letter signed by the president of NARFE, Joseph Beaudoin and the District VIII Regional Vice President, Helen Zajac. Our Chapter also received a certificate recognizing our 60th anniversary from the California Federation and signed by Dottie Schmidt, President.

Of course, this year was also the 90th anniversary of NARFE as a national organization as well. I had to reflect that all Federal Employees and Retirees have for many decades seen the importance of the "Federal Family," the connection that we have to each other and the commitment to service that unites us. While federal workers continue to be paid approximately 25% less than employees with similar education and experience in the private sector, they have exhibited and currently do exhibit a deep commitment to their country and the importance of public service. As we celebrate these anniversaries, we can be proud of our service and remember the importance of representing the federal community through our membership in NARFE.

While the deficit reduction "super committee" failed to agree on ways to address the federal deficit, there are still those who devalue public service and the importance of government contributions to making our country great, safe, and protected. Thus, we need to continue voicing our concerns about attacks on federal workers and retirees and the benefits they earn from their service. Your service to your country over the past years deserves respect and recognition, not misrepresentation and contempt as some have displayed this past year. The founders of NARFE and our Chapter understood this and have led the way. We need to appreciate their vigilance and walk in their footsteps, proud of our accomplishments as public servants and strong in our opposition to those who devalue our contributions.

Best wishes to all of our members for a happy and healthy 2012.

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

Your help is still most welcomed as NARFE continues to be in the forefront in raising private funds to assist in the worldwide quest under way to find new treatments to stop, slow or even prevent Alzheimer's. Because new drugs take years to produce from concept to market—and because drugs that seem promising in early-stage studies may not work as hoped in large-scale trials—it is critical that Alzheimer's research continue to accelerate. To ensure that the effort to find better treatments receives the focus it deserves, the Alzheimer's Association funds researchers looking at new treatment strategies and advocates for more federal funding of Alzheimer's research.

Additionally the Associations' Chief Medical Officers states, "Despite increasing momentum in Alzheimer's research, we still have two main obstacles to overcome. First, we need volunteers for clinical trials. Volunteering to participate in a study is one of the greatest ways someone can help move Alzheimer's research forward. Second, we need a significant increase in federal research funding. Investing in research now will cost our nation far less than the cost of care for the rising number of Americans who will be affected by Alzheimer's in coming decades."

- Bill Thies, Ph.D., Chief Medical and Scientific Officer, Alzheimer's Association

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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: 11/01/11	\$ 5,673.88
Income	\$ 1,281.85
Expenses	<u>\$ 243.88</u>
Balance on: 11/30/11	\$ 6,711.85

The winners of this year's raffle drawing are:

1st prize winner: Rich Dana	\$100.00
2nd prize winner: Noboru Hanyu	\$ 50.00
3rd prize winner: Yolanda Thompson	\$ 25.00
4th prize winner: Robert Nelson	\$ 25.00

We thank all of you who chose to participate!

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

We send out a warm **WELCOME** to our newest members **Linda S Clapp, Judy N Labria, Christine Moiseve, and Sonya M Sellers**. Also our thanks to **Mary E Dice, Paula Katz, Kenneth W Quan and Irene Wentland** for reinstating their memberships.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you will probably have noticed an increase in your annuity. At last federal retirees are scheduled to receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to their civil service annuities beginning in January 2012. Retirees in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) will receive a 3.6 percent increase to their annuities, while retirees in the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) will receive a 2.6 percent increase to their annuities.

To trigger a COLA for 2012, the average CPI-W for the months of July, August, and September of 2011 needed to rise above the 2008 average for those same months, the last measurement to trigger a COLA (for 2009). It did, by 3.6 percent. While CSRS retirees receive the full amount of the CPI-W increase as a COLA, current law reduces the FERS COLA by 1 percentage point for increases above 3 percent.

Because the CPI-W showed declining prices from 2008 to 2009, and while it showed prices increasing between 2009 and 2010, it did not show prices increasing back to 2008 levels, there has not been a COLA for the last two years. But finally, we have some good news for 2012!

Under current law, COLAs for federal retirement annuities, as well as for military retiree annuities and Social Security payments, are determined in reference to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is calculated by economists and statisticians with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-W is the current index used for measuring increases in the prices of consumer goods throughout the economy. It includes prices on all consumer goods, including food and beverages, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and communication, and more.

The new CPI-W figure for September 2011 was 223.688. The average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2011 was 223.233. This is the new reference figure for determining the 2013 COLA. NARFE continues to support strong COLAs based on fair assessments of increases in consumer prices to protect the value of federal annuities from inflation.