

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER 65  
**SENTINEL**

HERMAN BRACEY, EDITOR

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, FOB 90 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SF, Lower Level Room B-040; (Civic Center BART station)

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**APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON APRIL 18, 2012 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-120"  
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

APR 18 US POSTAL INSPECTOR-MAIL FRAUD, IDENTITY THEFT AND MORE  
MAY 16 DISTRICT V MEETING, THREE FLAMES RESTAURANT, SAN JOSE, CA  
JUN 20 LUNCH AT TANGERINE CAFÉ, 3499 16<sup>TH</sup> ST AT SANCHEZ  
JUL 18 Preparing For Retirement At Any Age /ANN LINSAY DOL BENEFITS OFFICER  
AUG 26-30 32<sup>ND</sup> BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION-SPARKS-RENO, NV

**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...** Today I received some distressing news from our national office. NARFE membership numbers continue to plummet to the lowest levels in many years. I watch federal employees continue to be the targets of those who devalue government and the services and protections we as federal employees provide or as retirees did provide. In the last two months California lost almost 350 members. NARFE serves a vital function. Our now deceased predecessors in 1921 understood the importance of Federal Workers being vigilant and trying to protect their earned benefits. Below I have provided all of you with the information you need to encourage you to renew your membership, to recruit new members and to encourage others to renew their membership. It comes from an article written by our national office and should help you to fully understand why we have and need NARFE even more in the current political climate.

"Your earned retirement and health care benefits are among your most valuable assets. Although you did or may currently be doing all the right things to prepare for retirement, there is no guarantee that the promises made to you when you entered the federal workforce will be kept. Many of your colleagues have turned to the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE). We (I) ask you to join them by becoming a member of NARFE today or to renew your membership now. For 90 years, NARFE's mission has been to protect and enhance federal pay, retirement and health care benefits. Although our mission has not changed, the threats have escalated as political battles continue in Washington. NARFE has been in the thick of the fight, leading the charge, through the "PROTECT AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT" campaign to defend the reputation, integrity, and rights of the nation's 4 million feds – active and retired.

For less than \$50 a year you get: Vigorous legislative representation by a staff of registered lobbyists; weekly Legislative Hotlines, bringing you up-to-date on developments on Capitol Hill; and Action Alerts, advising you when it's time to make your views known. A subscription to **NARFE Magazine**, with exclusive coverage of Congress and the White House from federal employee and retiree perspective; authoritative Q&As about federal benefits; and financial, health, and lifestyle features. Access to valuable members-only content on the NARFE website and NARFE's **Newswatch**, a weekly e-mailed news digest. The services of a staff of former federal personnel experts who can answer your individual pre- and post-retirement benefits questions by phone and e-mail. Discounts on products and services, including travel, hotel and insurance – and the most sophisticated federal retirement calculator available anywhere. So, whether you have retired, are retiring within a few months, or not for a number of years, NARFE is working to protect your retirement future today! Applications are in every issue of the NARFE magazine, renewals can be done online at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Your membership ID number is located above your name on your monthly NARFE Magazine.

**APRIL 18 GENERAL MEETING:** Our guest speaker will be a U.S. Postal Inspector from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, San Francisco Division. Join us for the presentation on "Mail Fraud, Identity Theft, and More."

Feel free to bring guests with you, along with your lunch; coffee, cookies and/or crackers will be furnished. See you there!

**PLEASE BE AWARE THERE WILL BE NO EXECUTIVE BOARD OR REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 16 DUE TO DISTRICT V MEETING AND TRAINING SESSION IN SAN JOSE.**

**THE NARFE-PAC COUPON IS ON PAGE 13 OF THE APRIL ISSUE OF NARFE MAGAZINE.**

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**APRIL 2012**

**"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**

<b>Balance on: 02/01/12</b>	<b>\$ 6,158.29</b>	(for an itemized breakdown of income and expenses
Income	\$ 455.70	go online to narfe65.org, click on reports and then
Expenses	<u>\$ 999.93</u>	choose "treasurer" from the drop down menu)
<b>Balance on: 02/29/12</b>	<b>\$ 5,614.06</b>	

**SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA 566-7358**

Our prayers and condolences go out to the family and friends of **Rose Mary Azinheira, 2546 17<sup>TH</sup> Ave, San Francisco, CA 94116-3001.**

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

A warm WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS: **Sharon R Adleson, Brenda Dang, David Offenbrown, Jason Taylor and Roger Yates.** We also THANK **May Tam and Thomas P Leahy** for reinstating their memberships.

There's little doubt we are living in very stressful and confusing times. Our society and the whole world for a fact are undergoing massive, fundamental changes and no one really knows what shape the future will take as a result of these changes. Unfortunately, federal workers and retirees are being unfairly targeted to finance some of these proposed changes in the federal budget.

What can we do in such troubling and seemingly hostile times? I would say, "stay informed, raise your voices, and remember to vote. Now is not the time to be sitting on the sideline."

**National Legislation Director Julie Tagen reports:** Joseph A. Beaudoin, president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), urged caution in response to a proposal floated today, 3/15/12, by four Senate Republicans to eliminate Medicare and shift the health care coverage of America's seniors into the current Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP): This is a kill-two birds-with-one-stone kind of proposal that would both bring down Medicare as we know it and threaten the stability of the FEHBP.

As for the senators' notion that America's seniors should be in the same health care system as America's elected officials, they seem to have forgotten that, starting in 2014 members of Congress will no longer be covered by the FEHBP but will be in state-based health care exchanges.

The senators propose a premium-support program, similar to last year's Ryan Budget proposal that would threaten the affordability of health care for all seniors. "Given the current environment of budget attacks on federal employees, retirees, and Medicare, the federal workforce and all Americans should be wary of plans like the one proposed today Beaudoin added. "For more than four decades, the FEHBP has provided a stable, though not overly generous, health insurance benefit to federal civilian employees, retirees and their dependents. To throw open the doors of the plan to absorb the flood of seniors currently enrolled in Medicare poses certain risks and must be examined closely.

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

As we often 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.