

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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JUNE 2012 NEWSLETTER

NO REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH!

LUNCH AT TANGERINE CAFÉ, 3499 16TH ST AT SANCHEZ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JUN 20 LUNCH AT TANGERINE CAFÉ, 3499 16TH ST AT SANCHEZ
JUL 18 Preparing For Retirement At Any Age /ANN LINDSAY DOL BENEFITS OFFICER
AUG 15 ALEX LAZAR FROM REP NANCY PELOSI'S OFFICE
AUG 26-30 32ND 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 JUNE... Each month I have the privilege of speaking to the members of the San Francisco Chapter via our newsletter. So many things are always going on that affect the membership. The House voting on May 10th to impose a 5 percent payroll tax on middle-class federal workers by raising most federal employees' retirement contributions. Federal employee who earns \$45,000 a year will have \$200 less each month to buy groceries or pay the mortgage. If the House majority is opposed to taxing America's middle class, they have a funny way of showing it. No other group of Americans has been asked to sacrifice in this way.

Other proposals in the House require federal employees and retirees to pay an increasingly higher share of their health insurance benefits – merely cutting federal spending by shifting costs to enrollees. Active and retired federal employees already pay 30 percent of the overall premium. Based upon the way this requirement would be implemented, workers and retirees would be forced to pay a higher percent of the premium each year to the point where **many could no longer afford health insurance**. My COLA this year simply helped me pay for the increases in the health care premium for my wife and me. Further erosion of this earned benefit seems like another method of taxing a small group of workers and retirees who are an easy target for those who make our laws.

My "personal note" to you is that I can only conclude that there are many Americans and also representatives in the House who simply do not value the federal government nor those who have spent their lives enforcing the laws they passed, the regulations they imposed, the guidelines they established, and the services they have supported. I see this as a certain "disrespect" of the government and its employees. I used to enforce laws for the Department of Labor and found that all the employees I knew valued their service and enforced the laws effectively without bias. They were paid adequately and would not risk jeopardizing their salary and benefits by accepting the occasionally "bribe" that came their way. I have visited other countries where this is not the case, where the ticket is ripped up for \$5, so the government employee will earn enough to pay for the food, housing, and health care for his family. I certainly hope this is not the direction our country is moving, where government employees need to supplement their income to "survive."

Finally, I would like to remind you of our June 20th luncheon at Tangerine, 1:00 PM. This is a very pleasant restaurant with excellent food. The information about the event and coupon can be found in your May newsletter. This and all your newsletters can be found on our website, www.narfe65.org. Please send in your reservation to me with a \$20 check made out to NARFE Chapter 65 by June 8th. Contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for being a member of NARFE and renewing your membership.

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

We thank **Kathryn D Mac Ropol** for her generous contribution to Alzheimer's Research.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today, (May 15, 2012), released an ambitious national plan to fight Alzheimer's disease. The plan was called for in the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), which President Obama signed into law in January 2011. The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease sets forth five goals, including the development of effective prevention and treatment approaches for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by 2025. **(Continued on back page)**

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"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

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TREASURER'S REPORT: DIANNE JOSEPH, 179 CHILTON AVE, SF, CA 94131; 334-6380

Balance on: 04/01/12 \$ 5,209.18

Income \$ 361.20

Expenses \$ 814.03

Balance on: 04/30/12 \$ 4,756.35

"See report on our website for breakdown of income and expenses".

SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA, 566-7358

Our prayers and condolences go out to the family and friends of *Frank J Bello, 4730 NW 3RD ST, Delray Beach FL 33445-2705*

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

A warm WELCOME goes out to our newest members, *Gary L Gumns and Debra O'Leary.*

Lest we forget, NARFE is the only association solely dedicated to preserving and improving the health care and retirement benefits of federal workers and retirees. Today NARFE's efforts are more important than ever as Congress and the administration consider unprecedented cuts in federal pay and benefits. Your continuing membership in NARFE is more important than ever.

Through NARFE-PAC you can help elect/re-elect legislators who recognize the value of civil service, who understand the importance of recruiting and retaining the best and brightest, and who support paying federal employees a fair day's pay for a full day's work including reasonable health and retirement benefits.

ALZHEIMER'S continued:

In February 2012, the administration announced that it would take immediate action to implement parts of the plan, including making additional funding available in fiscal year 2012 to support research, provider education and public awareness. Today, the Secretary announced additional specific actions, including the funding of two major clinical trials, jumpstarted by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) infusion of additional FY 2012 funds directed at Alzheimer's disease; the development of new high-quality, up-to-date training and information for our nation's clinicians; and a new public education campaign and website to help families and caregivers find the services and support they need.

To help accelerate this urgent work, the President's proposed FY 2013 budget provides a \$100 million increase for efforts to combat Alzheimer's disease. These funds will support additional research (\$80 million), improve public awareness of the disease (\$4.2 million), support provider education programs (\$4.0 million), invest in caregiver support (\$10.5 million), and improve data collection (\$1.3 million).

"These actions are the cornerstones of an historic effort to fight Alzheimer's disease," Secretary Sebelius said. "This is a national plan-not a federal one, because reducing the burden of Alzheimer's will require the active engagement of both the public and private sectors."

THE NARFE-PAC COUPON IS ON PAGE 12 OF THE JUNE ISSUE OF NARFE MAGAZINE