

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CHAPTER 65



**SENTINEL**

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**DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER**

**NO MEETING THIS MONTH SEE YOU AT RISTORANTE TI PIACERA  
1507 POLK ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DEC 10 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, RISTORANTE TI PIACERA, 1507 POLK ST, SAN FRANCISCO  
JAN 21 MERCY HOUSING AMY BAYLEY, RSM, VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNITY PLANNING  
FEB 18 SPEAKER FROM NASA

**PRESIDENT: JERRY HALL, 229 De Montfort Ave, SF, CA 94112, (415)-412-0488,  
fritz1313@hotmail.com: GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CHAPTER**

**MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS AND/OR ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER...**In January the Senate will change leadership and this will be reflected in every committee, as Republicans will head them instead of the Democrats. One of the more interesting or frightening (to some) is the very likely leadership over the committee dealing with the federal workforce. It is widely believed that Senator Ron Johnson will take over the Chairmanship of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee — which oversees the workforce. Johnson is one of the Senators from Wisconsin, described by many as "a Tea Party Republican." Certainly his focus is on the government's deficit spending. A number of his proposals are outlined in a 2011 report on deficit reduction.

First, Johnson believes that federal workers are overpaid, even though the Federal Salary council in October 2014, after 3 years of no salary increases for federal workers, indicated that the average federal worker receives 35% less than her/his private-sector counterpart.

Second, Johnson believes that the public sector is too generous in the areas of health care and retirement. Johnson stated, "I think it's unrealistic for public sector employees to believe that they are immune from modifications to their pay and benefit packages." Johnson, the former owner of a plastics company, went on to say "Those things in the private sector have been modified dramatically." He suggests that government employees and retirees should be required to pay more so all employers (including the Federal Government) can pay less.

While Johnson feels it is "way too premature" to discuss specific reductions in the number of workers, he said "the federal government is way larger than it should be" and a smaller government would need fewer employees. His deficit-reduction report recommended cutting federal employees by 10 percent and federal contractors by 15 percent.

In his 2011 report Johnson suggests phasing out the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) Basic Benefit Plan and eliminating COLAs for CSRS annuitants. My comments include **only a few** of Johnson's proposals to "cut costs" and are taken from a November 9th article from the Washington Post by Joe Davidson on November 10, which can be found on our Chapter 65 Facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/narfe65>).

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON:** Our annual Holiday luncheon will be on **December 10th** at **Ristorante Ti Piacera, 1507 Polk Street, San Francisco, near California St., (415) 771-9946**. Lunch will be served at 1:30pm, social at 1:00 pm in the bar area. Each entrée will be served with a **Mista Salad**, which includes seasonal mixed greens, tomato and onion, tossed in lemon-herb vinaigrette. Entrees are either **Penne al Matricciana** with Spicy Italian sausage, red onion, and tomato, in white wine and garlic sauce or **Ravioli ai Funghi al Pesto**, Portobello stuffed raviolis with pesto, topped with sautéed cherry tomatoes and goat cheese. The luncheon will conclude with coffee and a Biscotti (Italian almond dipping cookie). Other beverages can be purchased individually at the bar. Price for the three-course luncheon, including tax and tip will be \$30. **The deadline for signup and payment is December 5<sup>th</sup>**. **Public Transportation:** The California Cable Car, the 19 Polk, the 47 and 49 Muni lines all service the area. There are public parking garages and on street metered parking throughout the area. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jerry at 415-412-0488 or via email at [fritz1313@hotmail.com](mailto:fritz1313@hotmail.com). ***In addition to lunch, we will have the drawing for prizes from our fundraiser as well as our annual holiday gift drawing. Please feel free to bring a donated, wrapped gift to the luncheon.***

**TREASURER'S REPORT: DIANNE JOSEPH, 179 CHILTON AVE, SF, CA 94131, 334-6380**  
Balance as of 10/31/14: **\$1186.57** (Income \$434.33, Expenses \$290.66).

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

Thank you to an **ANNONYMOUS DONOR** for a generous donation to the fund. Remember, donations for Alzheimer's Research can be made anytime by completing the coupon in the NARFE Monthly Magazine or by sending a check payable to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research, (with Chapter 065 noted on the check) to the address above. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated

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

Welcome Aboard to our newest members: ***Sal Damante and William R Tamayo.***

**SUNSHINE: EDITH HIGA, 566-7358**

Our prayers and condolence to the family and friends of ***Paul L Raymond, 125 Cambon Drive 12-H, San Francisco, CA 94132-2514.***

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: JON LAMPMAN 925-228-8501**

The basic monthly Medicare Part B premium will stay at \$104.90 for those whose adjusted gross income for 2013 was reported to the IRS as being \$85,000 or less (individual filers) and equal to or less than \$170,000 (joint filers). Equally important for out-of-pocket costs, the Part B deductible will also remain unchanged at \$147 per year. Also, the 2015 COLA increase for Federal retirees will be 1.7 percent. Further, stayed tuned since a NARFE hotline alert stated an increase in federal employee retirement contributions and the chained CPI may be on the new legislative calendar.

**HEALTH BENEFITS IN RETIREMENT:** Peter Bauer from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services will be hosting the last seminar on Thursday, December 18, from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the Federal Office Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Arizona Room, second floor. Participating representatives are: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Kaiser, GEHA, Mailhandler's, Social Security and Medicare. **PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER THE BUILDING.**

**MERCY HOUSING – JANUARY PRESENTATION:** Mercy Housing is a national nonprofit affordable housing organization leading a movement to create stable, vibrant and healthy communities for families, seniors & people with special needs. During this presentation we will be looking for answers to questions such as: Where does Mercy Housing get the money to build their new, large housing developments? What segment of the population is their housing intended to help – only the elderly, only families? What factors determine eligibility? Are there waiting lists? Also, you will be able to pose your own questions during this time.

Visit **OUR CHAPTER 65 WEB SITE:** (<http://www.narfe65.org>) for more Chapter information, photos, archived newsletters, 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 510235-7750**

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