

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



SENTINEL

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Meets 3rd Wednesday each month, FOB, 90 7th St, near Market



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FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON FEBRUARY 18, 2015 AT FOB, 90 7TH ST.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; 11TH FLOOR RM 11-010

GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - RM B-120

PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 18	SPEAKER FROM NASA
MAR 18	LUNCHEON AT HARD KNOX CAFÉ (MORE DETAILS NEXT NEWSLETTER)
APR 15	GRAHAM "DES" DESVERNINE RETIRED FBI AGENT

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 FEBRUARY...All of you are cordially invited to attend this year's California NARFE Convention in San Luis Obispo April 29 and 30. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites in the San Luis Obispo Madonna Plaza, about one mile from downtown. Of course, the convention will conduct the business of the California Federation with a new election of officers, but it will also offer some excellent speakers:

MIKE CAUSEY, Senior Correspondent, Federal News Radio. Mike writes a daily column for Federal News Radio. His background includes more than 30 years writing at the Washington Post. **JUDY PARK**, NARFE Legislative Director Emeritus. Judy was with NARFE for 40 years and was Legislative Director for 32 years from the inception of the Legislative Dept. in 1976 until she retired in 2008. **SARAH WEISSMANN**, NARFE's Grass Root's Program Manager. Sarah came to NARFE over six years ago as a Legislative Specialist and now leads the Grass Roots Program, including the Protect America's Heartbeat Campaign.

You can help represent your chapter at the convention. Registration for the conference is \$20 in advance. If you contact one of the Chapter officers, we will gladly register you for the convention and pay the \$20. As you may know every year the Chapter has a raffle to raise funds for folks who attend convention. This money is a small stipend to help cover some of your expenses should you register through the Chapter and are willing to be a delegate at the convention. San Luis Obispo is a great small town near the central coast of California, surrounded by wineries, ocean beaches, and the famous Thursday night Farmer's market. The city and surrounding area offer excellent restaurants and both Pismo Beach and Morro Bay have waterfront scenic dinner spots near the water. So please consider taking a break from the city and driving down to the central coast to attend your convention. Take a chance and move out of your comfort zone! Go to this year's California Federation convention and bring a friend! For Hotel Reservations call Embassy Suites direct in SLO at 1-805-549-0800 and mention Group Name: **CA State National Active and Retired Federal Employees**, Special Code: **XNA**. Reduced room rate of \$130 plus tax is good through April 6th. Full hot breakfast each morning and happy hour with full bar each evening, with free hors d'oeuvres and drinks for those staying at the Embassy Suites.

It was brought to my attention recently that Health care providers of Sutter Health Systems will no longer be in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Preferred network. Thus if you have Blue Cross Blue Shield and have the standard option you will begin paying for your doctor at Sutter Health at the non-preferred rate (higher). If you have the basic option, you will lose access to these preferred doctors at Sutter Health. NARFE members are concerned about this change that will occur by June 30th (originally April 7th). Obviously if you use these providers and signed up during open season believing that the doctor you see at Sutter Health would be a preferred provider, you are now in a situation you did not sign up for. It may be in your best interest to express your concern in regards to this change in the middle of the year. It would make much more sense to advise members of the plan's preferred providers at the time of open season and not after they have signed up. Thus, I am aware that some NARFE members in Blue Cross Blue Shield who use Sutter Health physicians have begun writing letters to the President and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield, Paul Markovich. You may want to join this letter writing campaign if it affects you or if you believe this mid-stream change is unfair to members who signed up for Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance through FEHB during the open season. Mr. Markovich's address is 50 Beale St., 20th Floor, SF, CA 94105. You can also call Blue Cross Blue Shield at (800) 824-8839 to express your concern.

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

Balance on 12/01/14	\$ 2027.85
Income	\$ 1680.76
Expenses	\$ 2093.42
Balance on 12/31/14	\$ 1615.19

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

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: MIKE CRAHAN, 415-285-2417

Welcome Aboard to our newest member: *Maritza Shepard* and Thank You to *Doug Betten* for reinstating his membership.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: JON LAMPMAN, 925-228-8501

Jessica Klement, the head of NARFE'S legislative Department, was a recent guest on Mike Causey's Federal News Radio. Although Ms. Klement did not identify specific proposals to roll back benefits for active and retired employees, she strongly speculated that the new Congress might attempt to make all active Federal employees contribute more to their retirement. She also mentioned the omnipresent threat of a chained CPI, which could result in many retirees losing thousands of dollars in cost of living increases. Ms. Klement stated a "budget reconciliation" in the spring or summer may result in punitive legislation. Budget reconciliation requires only a simple majority in both Houses and once passed becomes law with the President's signature. It is important that NARFE members continue to monitor NARFE hotline messages and take appropriate action. Ms. Klement's interview with Mike Causey can be accessed with the following link: <http://media.dev-cms.com/wtop/37/3722/372235.mp3>

DID YOU KNOW? Chapter 65 has a new Membership Chairman. He is Mike Crahan and can be contacted at 415-285-2417. Mike is very enthusiastic about efforts to increase NARFE membership and will be providing ideas to accomplish this throughout the year. He also welcomes any thoughts you may have to help achieve increasing our membership. One idea Mike and his wife Pat had involved their "Seasons Greetings" letter sent to friends and former co-workers. In the letter, they stressed the importance of NARFE for preserving our earned benefits and enumerated the benefits of membership such as the monthly magazine, NARFE'S excellent web site, on-staff benefits specialists and others. They closed the letter by inviting the individual to join NARFE and enclosed a Membership Application and a postage paid envelope. Mike reported that twelve letters were sent and they received a positive response from eight individuals.

This is a good example of what each of us can do to recruit new members, but why wait for the holidays? We can do the same thing throughout the year by reaching out to former and current co-workers. Why not give it a try?

SERVICE OFFICER: DAVID GARCIA 510-235-7750

Important numbers: OPM 1-888-767-6738 (Administrative Problems); NARFE 1-800456-8410 (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.

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.