

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CHAPTER 65



**SENTINEL**

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Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, FOB, 90 7<sup>th</sup> St, near Market



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**DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER**

**NO MEETING THIS MONTH SEE YOU AT BISTRO 10UN**

**1130 MARKET ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DEC 10 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON **BISTRO 10UN** 1130 MARKET ST  
JAN 20 CHARLOTTE ELY REGIONAL. EPA REP. "WHAT IS WATERSENSE?"  
FEB 17 THOMAS KENNELLY RET. DEP. CHIEF U S ATTY. GENERAL OFFICE

**PRESIDENT: JERRY HALL, 415-412-0488, fritz1313@hotmail.com**

**GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS WITH BIRTHDAYS AND/OR ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER...** It is Thanksgiving time as I write this and soon the year will end. I

thought it was a good time to be thankful for a great year for your San Francisco NARFE Chapter. We continue to recruit a large number of new, mostly active federal employees. We are all indebted to your Membership chairperson, Mike Crahan, who continues to recruit many new members. People walked up to our table at the Health Fair in November and told us they **needed** to join NARFE. Maybe the excellent contributions of your legislative person, Jon Lampman and NARFE's success at getting legislation passed that reduced the Part B of Medicare premium from more than \$150 to approximately \$124 for those who do not pay for it out of social security had some impact. Or maybe the many members who volunteered to work during our 3 day recruitment drive in July said something that encouraged someone to support NARFE. Or maybe they attended the pre-retirement presentation by Ann Lindsay that your secretary, Jane Ramos, arranged and then decided that NARFE was important. Possibly the outstanding messages that Leslie Ching gets posted on the Federal Building digital sign attracted the attention of some. Maybe it was the October meeting where Martha Raup, your 1st VP, (who also keeps an active Facebook page for the Chapter) effectively led the various health care representatives to discuss their programs and the new Self Plus One option that made them want to join. Or maybe they were interested in the important meeting your second vice president, Juanita Lott, coordinated, where NARFE's union "partners" talked about the importance of collaboration to protect and enhance worker benefits. Their interest in NARFE might have been peaked by one of the many items that your treasurer, Dianne Joseph, posts on our excellent webpage ([narfe65.org](http://narfe65.org)). Maybe someone read the monthly newsletter that Joe Mangiameli tirelessly produces each month. Maybe they received help from your service officer, Dave Garcia, in dealing with an OPM issue. Maybe they wanted to participate in one of the excellent tours that Helen Rogers has and continues to organize. You never know what makes an active or retired federal employee take the step to support our organization by becoming a member. Somehow I believe it is the many volunteers such as Roz Itelson, Sue Mangiameli, Jess Ramos, DorisMarie Hagopian, Frank Morelli and many others who make your local chapter of NARFE an important source for information and advocacy. I am very thankful to have such dedicated volunteers working with me so that NARFE is the voice of federal workers and retirees in San Francisco. Please try to support the Chapter by participating in the raffle fundraiser and the Thursday December 10th holiday luncheon. Please see last month's newsletter for details or call or email me for additional information. Finally, please read the Executive Board Report on the back page and complete the survey.

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:** Recently NARFE reported that the Highway Funding Bill may still have a provision from the Senate that would eliminate the G-fund for many active and retired employees. The National NARFE site includes [a link to a letter to send to Federal legislators](#), and an excellent link to OPM's site to change or modify health care providers. "Patience is the key word for retirees using the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Open Season Express phone line, 1-800-332-9798, or the [Open Season online service](#), to change their Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) enrollment. There are long wait times on the phone, and the registration process for using the online system can be trying."

**JANUARY MEETING SPEAKER:** At our January meeting **Charlotte Ely** a regional representative from WaterSense will speak to us about her agency’s program and the current drought situation we are facing. The title of her presentation is “What is WaterSense?” which will focus on water efficiency and how to save water using independently certified products bearing the WaterSense label.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Balance on 10/01/15	<b>\$ 1821.49</b>
Income	\$ 274.42
Expenses	<u>\$ 263.24</u>
Balance on 10/31/15	<b>\$ 1832.67</b>

**MEMBERSHIP:** Welcome to our new member **Walter Zaumseil** and thanks to **Harold Charns, Danny Fong, Calvin Hue** and **Karen Wing** for reinstating their memberships

**SUNSHINE:** Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Mary Hale**.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT:** Last year we conducted a survey to ask our members if a monthly newsletter was still important to them. The majority said “Yes”, and a strong minority said they do not have or want to use digital access for a Chapter newsletter. The estimated monthly cost to produce and mail newsletters to our members is almost \$400. With current membership of 545, and yearly Chapter dues of \$8, of which \$1 goes back to the State as per capita dues, **we have a monthly shortfall of \$82**. Over 100 members generously donated to our June fundraiser request, which raised \$1680. We just started a second fundraiser, which so far has netted \$383. However, the Executive Board is now exploring whether it’s time to raise Chapter dues. Before we do that, we’d like to hear more from our members. What would you prefer?

**SURVEY:** Please rank the following 3 options as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, to reflect your preferences:

- A. Retain \$8 Chapter dues, and hold 2-4 fundraisers/year to cover anticipated shortfall of \$1000-\$2000 (for newsletter expenses, plus all operating expenses).
- B. Raise Chapter dues to \$10/year (17 cents/month), which leaves us with \$105 to pay other expenses, if membership remains constant, but would still necessitate holding fundraisers.
- C. Raise Chapter dues to \$12/year (33 cents/month), which leaves us with \$1195 to pay other expenses (such as insurance, mailings, meetings, and website), and provides a small cushion.

**Please send your response and comments** to Martha Raup via email ([mailladymartha@yahoo.com](mailto:mailladymartha@yahoo.com)), by mail (179 Chilton Ave, San Francisco CA 94131) or by phone (415-334-6380).

**Comparison of 3 income options and their financial impact on newsletter expenses**

OPTION	# Members	Chapter Dues	State Per Capita Dues	Chapter Net Dues	Yearly Income	Newsletter Expenses	Yearly Shortfall/ Cushion	Monthly Shortfall/ Cushion	Annual Dues	Annual Dues Withholding
A	545	\$ 8	\$ 1	\$ 7	\$ 3,815	\$ 4,800	\$ (985)	\$ (82.08)	\$ 48.00	\$ 42.00
B	545	\$ 10	\$ 1	\$ 9	\$ 4,905	\$ 4,800	\$ 105	\$ 8.75	\$ 50.00	\$ 44.00
C	545	\$ 12	\$ 1	\$ 11	\$ 5,995	\$ 4,800	\$ 1,195	\$ 99.58	\$ 52.00	\$ 46.00

**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. Or, sign up for DUES WITHHOLDING and save \$6/year!