

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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**APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER**

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY APRIL 18, 2016 AT FOB, 90 7TH ST.  
COMBINED CHAPTER 65/DISTRICT V MEETING - NO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH  
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

APR 18 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) COMBINED CHAPTER 65/DISTRICT V MEETING  
MAY 18 SARA RUSSELL, EXECECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD AND  
JANIE THOMAS, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, DOL-OASAM  
JUNE 15 TOUR OF THE TENDERLOIN DISTRICT

**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 APRIL...** Some members have been taking advantage of the free Webinars NARFE is providing online for its members through **NARFE Federal Benefits Institute**. You can hear them live or listen and view them after they have been presented. On March 10th Tammy Flanagan was the presenter on: "*Survivor Benefits: Key Decisions for Feds of All Ages*". Members found her to be an excellent presenter and the on line visuals quite helpful. Non-members may sign up for \$39.95 which includes a one year NARFE membership and access to the Webinars. The sessions are approximately one hour and provide another hour of questions and answers. For further information about upcoming Webinars see the article **NARFE Federal Benefits Institute** on the back page. This can be an excellent recruitment tool for your friends who are not members and will provide them with vital information they can use either pre or post retirement.

Bills were introduced in both the Senate and the House that provide a 5.3% pay increase for active federal employees in 2017. If passed, the FAIR Act would provide a 3.9% across-the-board pay adjustment plus a 1.4% locality adjustment in 2017. This compares to President Obama's proposal of a combined 1.6% increase for federal employees next year. **Congressman Gerald Connolly (D-VA)**, who sponsored the bill, stated "No other group has been asked to sacrifice more than our federal workforce, who have endured years of pay freezes, increased retirement contributions, no locality pay, sequestration cuts and a government shutdown," Connolly said "this bill is a down payment on trying to help restore some of the losses that have been incurred by our dedicated federal employees, and I hope demonstrates we value their public service." The 5.3% pay boost was originally proposed by the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) earlier this year.

Our Chapter is sponsoring the NARFE District V Meeting, Monday April 18, 2016. This meeting will serve in lieu of our regular meeting on Wednesday April 20th. Our Guest Speakers will be Helen Zajac, NARFE Region VIII Vice President and Member of the National Executive Board, Katie Gross, San Francisco Field Representative for Senator Feinstein, and Martha Raup, the Region VIII Representative on the National NARFE CAB (Configuration Advisory Board). The meeting will be designed to help prepare our 12 Chapters for the National Convention August 28th in Reno, provide an opportunity to discuss the NARFE Strategic Plan, develop a thoughtful approach to change, meet with a representative from Senator Feinstein's office, learn about how NARFE is using technology to enhance its image and recruit new members, and provide an opportunity for members from various chapters to collectively discuss important issues facing NARFE. The meeting will be held at the San Francisco Federal Building at 90 Seventh Street in Room 040, one half-block from the Civic Center BART Station. Check in begins at 10:45am, **Meeting** begins at 11am and will end no later than 2:45pm. There will be a 30 minute lunch break at approximately Noon. The **registration fee of \$15** will include a box lunch with fruit salad, soda, and chips. Additionally there will be cookies, coffee, tea, and bottled water during registration and during breaks. The registration fee is used to pay for the food and materials for the meeting.

**Please mail this registration form with your lunch choice not later than April 11, 2016**

Check the box in front of the Sandwich you want. Condiments will be provided.

[ ] Roasted Turkey with lettuce, tomato, on wheat bread, [ ] Ham and cheese with lettuce and pickles on rye bread, [ ] Roast Beef with lettuce and tomato on Sour Dough bread, [ ] Vegetable Sandwich, - lettuce, cucumber, sprouts, tomato, & avocado on 9 Grain bread.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your registration with lunch choice and check to NARFE Chapter 65 to Jerry Hall, 229 De Montfort Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112. Phone 415-412-0488 for questions.

**President’s Message continued: COLA:** For all you annuitants, when it comes time to calculate the cost of living adjustment for 2017, the summer 2016 months will be compared not to the lower average of 233.278 for 2015 but rather the higher 234.242 average in 2014. The carried-forward 2014 figure essentially amounts to a 0.4% decline last year that will have to be made up in 2016 before any upward cost of living adjustment can occur. The new CPI-W figure for January 2016 was 231.061, 1.36 percent lower than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2014, which was 234.242. **While the inflation index gain was modest in January, the prospect for a 2017 federal retiree COLA increase remains negative at this point.**

<b>TREASURER'S REPORT:</b>	Balance on 2/01/16	<b>\$ 2544.64</b>
	Income	\$ 558.70
	Expenses	<u>\$ 808.00</u>
	Balance on 2/29/16	<b>\$ 2295.34</b>

**MEMBERSHIP:** We thank *Peter C. Taylor* for reinstating his membership.

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:** The most recent NARFE legislative hotline includes a couple of interesting items:

1. The House Budget Committee recently approved a vote that if adopted by the Senate and House and signed into law by the President would result in \$1.46 trillion in unspecified “other mandatory” spending cuts. This category includes major reductions for federal and military retirement and health benefits. According to NARFE it is unlikely that these significant cuts will be included in the final House Budget.
2. NARFE endorses a revenue neutral proposal that will “tweak” both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The proposed relief will reduce the WEP penalty for future Social Security benefit payments, beginning in 2017, for those who turn age 62 before 2017. The House Ways and Means Committee held hearings on this proposal in late March but the results were not known at press time. The most recent NARFE hotline message is available at <http://www.narfe.org/member/currenthotline.cfm>.

**NARFE Federal Benefits Institute:** Offers Webinars, White Papers and other resources designed to help members take charge of their federal benefits and guarantee a secure future. To attend the live events (Webinars), access the on-demand sessions, white papers, and other resources go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and click on the “Federal Benefits Institute” banner. All of these features are FREE for NARFE members.

Webinars coming soon: April 28 “*Claiming Social Security*”; May 26 “*Exploring TSP Withdrawal Options*”; June 30 “*5-Yr Countdown to Retirement*”; Dates for “*Post Retirement, FEHBP*” and “*Medicare, and Alphabet Soup of Health Plans*” will be forthcoming. Previously Recorded Webinars also are available on the site.

**CURIOS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE TENDERLOIN?:** Then be sure to sign up for the Tenderloin Museum and Neighborhood Walking Tour scheduled for June 15, 2016. Walking tours vary depending on the Guide but could include Cadillac Hotel; Grateful Dead/Miles Davis recording studio; Boeddeker Park; St. Boniface Church & other interesting landmarks. Look for more details and sign-up form in the May Newsletter.

**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>), READ our NEWSLETTER ONLINE: (<http://www.narfe65.org/newsletter/>); LIKE US on FACEBOOK: (<http://facebook.com/narfe65>) VIEW our NATIONAL WEB SITE: (<http://www.narfe.org>) and CSFC WEB SITE: (<http://www.csfcnarfe.org>)**

**NARFE DUES:** Currently National Dues are \$40.00 and Chapter 65 Dues are \$12.00 annually. Mail check for the full \$52.00, along with your **DUES RENEWAL NOTICE**, when you receive it, to NARFE, Membership Services, 606 Washington St, Alexandria, Va. 22314-1914.