

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



SENTINEL

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NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2016.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; AT FOB, 90 7TH ST 11TH FLOOR RM 11-010
GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - RM B-040 (NOTE ROOM CHANGE)
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- NOV 16 INFORMATION ON INTERNET ARCHIVE/REVISED BY LAWS DISCUSSION
- DEC 14 LUNCHEON OLIVE GARDEN, STONESTOWN (NOTE DATE CHANGE)
- JAN 18 TO BE DETERMINED

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 NOVEMBER...

2017 COLA: As many of you may have heard the COLA for 2017 is 0.3%. A very little increase for the daily costs that keep increasing, such as the 9% increase in my Kaiser FEHB monthly payments, such as the outrageous increases in the Federal Long Term Care program, such as the \$1 increase in many items in the grocery store, such as the \$3-\$4 increase in every item at most restaurants in San Francisco, such as the increase in the Muni pass for seniors from \$25 to \$36 in January 2017 or the increase from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per ride on Muni, such as the extraordinary rent prices that many must address, or the ever rising taxes for owning and costs for repairing a house. And to top that off, NARFE will again have to try to stop a huge increase in Part B of Medicare for those not having their payments taken from Social Security, which is most CSRS retirees. So whatever the CPI-W is measuring, it is not measuring the increases in the cost of living affecting most federal retirees.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI): That brings me to talk about the CPI-E, the E stands for elderly (I guess many of us are elderly or at least up in years.) People in their 60s and above have increases in their costs which the CPI-W does not seem to address. Thus, NARFE and other organizations that care about those over 60 and do not want to see people become impoverished when they get older and are retired are beginning to discuss and recognize that the CPI-W is not addressing their needs and that an index that reflects the increased costs of those 60 and above should be considered and ultimately addressed through a new and more appropriate index. Thus, a new index suggested by some in Congress who care about seniors is now being discussed, one that reflects more appropriately the expenses that those of us who are retired face and are challenged to address every day.

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: On December 14th we will have our holiday luncheon at the Olive Garden at the Stonestown Galleria. The Mall has plenty of free parking, excellent access via the M Line, 28, 29, 57, and 18 lines. I hope you will all consider coming to this special holiday luncheon where you can enjoy the company of other Federal workers and retirees. We will have a room specifically set up just for our group.

**====Olive Garden, Stonestown RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 10th====
Mail Reservation coupon for the DECEMBER 14th, 11:30am Holiday Luncheon with check to: Jerry Hall 229 De Montfort Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112.**

Name _____ Telephone No. _____

Check Choice of Lunch item:

- [] Pepperoni and Sausage Flatbread, [] Grilled Chicken Flatbread,
- [] Lasagna with meat sauce, [] Sausage stuffed Rigatoni, or [] Fettuccine Alfredo

@ \$24.00 each, price includes all the soup or salad you can eat, iced tea, coffee, or soda, and a Dolcini small dessert, taxes and tip. Total Enclosed \$_____.

Attach names of guests and their choice of entrée. Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 65.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (Cont.)

Contact Congressional Representatives: I want to encourage you to take some action in regards to the issues we are facing. If you do not act, congress and others will conclude, "everything is fine." On the narfe.org website under the legislative action section there are three very important letters that you can send, use as a model for writing your own letter or you can call Washington and let your voice be heard. 1. [Protect Federal Retirees](#) From a Disproportionate Medicare Part B Premium Increase. 2. Support the [CPI-E](#). 3. Address the [Shocking Increase](#) in Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) Premiums.

Online you can go to: <http://cqrcengage.com/narfe/action> to see the letters and send them instantly to your congressional representatives. After the election, you can also call congress on NARFE's toll-free number 1-866-220-0044 and ask the operator to connect you to your representative's office. Or in early November you can call your local congressional office. Remember that silence is considered to be acceptance in our current political environment. We have an obligation to address our concerns as well as those who will retire in the future, to protect us all from disregard and possible disrespect of the contributions of federal workers and retirees throughout the United States.

Member Forum: Our upcoming meeting on November 16th will provide all or our members an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to them, advise your officers what is important and the issues you want the Chapter to address. Secondly, we will be discussing the revisions to our By Laws that the By Law Committee and the Executive Board have been discussing and that ultimately will be a consensus of how the members want the Chapter to operate now and in the future. The proposed revision is posted on our website narfe65.org. Additionally, copies of the proposal will be available at the November meeting. If you do not have internet access or will be unable to pick up a copy of the proposal, please contact me at 415-412-0488 and a copy will be mailed to you. I hope you will try to attend this interactive discussion that we will have on the 16th of November at 1:00 pm. Feel free to call or email me if you would like to discuss any of these issues or events that your Chapter is sponsoring in the next two months. And thank you for your membership in NARFE and our Chapter.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Balance on 9/01/16 **\$1398.97**, Income \$1435.98, Expenses \$936.50, Balance on 9/30/16 **\$1898.45**

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome *Annis Arthur, Dehi Oleary, Diane Roy* and *Wah Chor Tom* to our Chapter and thank *Stephen Bacharach* and *Carmen Sales* for reinstating their membership.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: The NAEFE headline says it all: “Low COLAs for 2017 Leave Federal Retirees Worse Off”. The 0.3 percent cost of living increase will not cover the 6 percent and more 2017 increase in the Federal Health Benefits Program. In addition, 30 percent or more Federal Retirees may pay a lot more for Medicare Premiums in 2017. This group is comprised of people who do not have Medicare premiums deducted from their monthly social security check. NARFE urges everyone to send a letter to their elected Federal officials seeking relief from this dramatic increase in premiums. Use this link to send a letter: <http://cqrcengage.com/narfe/app/onestep-write-a-letter?17&engagementId=238053>.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Helen Rogers will give a brief overview and a handout on The Internet Archive which is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, images, web pages and more. We also will be having an open membership forum where we will be discussing the proposed revisions to the Chapter’s By Laws and any other items you wish to discuss.

SERVICE OFFICER: Pauline Jue 415-584-8141

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.

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.

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>)