

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SAN FRANCISCO



CHAPTER 65

SENTINEL

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



Sen. Kamala Harris
Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20515
Phone 1-202-224-3553
50 United Nations Plaza
Rm 5584
San Francisco CA 94102
Phone 1-916-448-2787

Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone 1-202-224-3841
1 Post St Suite 2450
San Francisco CA 94104
Phone 415-393-0707

Rep. Nancy Pelosi
House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
Phone 1-202-225-4965
90 7th St Suite 2-800
San Francisco CA 94102
Phone 415-556-4862

Rep. Jackie Speier
House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
Phone 1-202-225-3531
155 Bovet Road Suite 780
San Mateo CA 94402
Phone 415-566-5257

NARFE HOT LINE
Phone 1-877-217-8234

White House
Phone 1-888-225-8418

Congress Switchboard
Phone 1-866-220-0044

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2017.
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-120
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB 15 DOUG CORDELL, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
MAR 15 LUNCHEON AT HARD KNOX CAFÉ, 2448 CLEMENT STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA
APR 19 PRESENTATION: CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDANCE

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 FEBRUARY...
Possible Pay Freeze: Conservative think tanks such as the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute have argued for many years that federal workers are overpaid. A pay freeze is a quick way to begin to address what they believe is a problem. The 2.1 percent pay increase President Barack Obama approved may be the last general increase the federal workforce will see for the next couple of years. A pay freeze would most likely be passed under budget reconciliation procedures that would prohibit a filibuster in the Senate.
Hiring Freeze: In 1982, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined hiring freezes imposed by former presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan and determined that was not an effective strategy. Hiring freezes have "little effect on Federal employment levels," the GAO said. The report said the freezes "disrupted agency operations, and in some cases, increased costs to the Government." Donald Trump signed an executive order implementing a hiring freeze on January 23rd.

(President's message continued on next page)

MARCH LUNCHEON: I am pleased to announce that our March Luncheon will be on Wednesday March 15th beginning at 12 Noon, at the Hard Knox Café, 2448 Clement St (between 25th Ave & 26th Ave), San Francisco. Always a favorite, this very casual eatery has fun southern food and some of the best corn muffins in the city. It is easy to get to on the 38R Geary bus or the California 1 both stopping at 25th or the 29 Sunset, which stops at Clement and 25th. There is street parking in the area (meters) and some free street parking within a few blocks. Each meal (entree and two sides) is served with two corn bread muffins and your choice of Ice Tea, Soda, or Coffee. The cost is **\$22.00 per person** including taxes and tip. (Desserts and other drinks including beer and wine may be purchased separately.) Seating will be upstairs and downstairs. Hopefully we will have warm spring weather for this fun event.

-----**Return this reservation coupon by Thursday March 9th**-----

Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 65 and mail **coupon and check** to Jerry Hall, 229 De Montfort Av, San Francisco, CA 94112. Select **one entrée** and **two sides** for each name attending. (Select three sides if you prefer vegetarian.) Check here ___ if you need downstairs seating.

1. Name _____ Telephone _____

Entrée (Circle 1) Blackened Snapper, Fried Chicken, BBQ Spareribs, Country Fried Steak

Sides (Circle 2) Cole Slaw, Macaroni and Cheese, Yam Fries, French Fries, Garden Salad, Red Beans & Rice, Stewed Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Collard Greens.

2. Name _____ Telephone _____

Entrée (Circle 1) Blackened Snapper, Fried Chicken, BBQ Spareribs, Country Fried Steak.

Sides (Circle 2) Cole Slaw, Macaroni and Cheese, Yam Fries, French Fries, Garden Salad, Red Beans & Rice, Stewed Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Collard Greens.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Possible At Will Employees: I recently read about a bill from last year's congress that may be reintroduced and would have a better chance of being signed under the new administration. Todd Rokita (R-Ind.), proposed a bill that says, in essence that any employee in the Civil Service hired on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of the Act shall be hired on an at-will basis. It states "...Such an employee may be removed or suspended, without notice or right to appeal, from service by the head of the agency at which such employee is employed for good cause, bad cause, or no cause at all." The ability to fire a federal employee as stated in the bill would, in effect, make all federal employees political appointees. Whether this is a good idea I will leave to you to decide.

Now More Than Ever: These are just some of the possible things Federal Employees are facing. They make your NARFE membership even more important during a time of change and uncertainty. Your NARFE membership ensures that the folks in Washington understand the contributions of both Active and Retired Federal workers. Good government requires that Federal retirees and employees be provided with decent benefits and appropriate pay. If this is ignored, the quality of government will suffer and so will the country. And don't forget that people learn about NARFE because we tell them about NARFE and why it is a valuable organization for all Active and Retired Federal employees. NARFE depends on each of us to spread the word about why NARFE matters and the good that NARFE does.

NARFE California Federation Convention: The NARFE California Federation Convention will be held on May 2nd and 3rd at the Grand Sierra Resort, 2500 East Second St., Reno, NV. Room rates are \$59 for a standard room and \$79 for an upgrade. Reservations can be made at <https://aws.passkey.com/event/14803370/owner/16854/home> or by calling 1-800-648-5080. Provide the Group Name: NARFE 2017 California Federation Convention and Special Code: (NCSFC). If you wish to be a delegate for your San Francisco Chapter, please contact our Treasurer, Dianne Joseph or myself, so you can be considered as a possible member of our delegation to the convention. Non-delegate NARFE members can register for the convention directly on the California Federation website: www.csfcnarfe.org and find additional information about the convention. Feel free to contact Dianne or myself if you need assistance or further information. Registrations and reservations should be completed by the end of March to ensure attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance on 12/01/17 **\$2442.50**, Income \$1273.33, Expenses \$1493.19, Balance on 12/31/17 **\$2222.64**

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome **Sara Bartholomew, Sarah Jacobs, Katherine Moore, Carol Sachs** and **Christine Vineyard** to our Chapter and thank **Gerald Chan** and **L. B. Smith** for reinstating their memberships.

SUNSHINE: Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of **James Rhodes**.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: What are future threats to active and retired Federal employee benefits? A recent National NARFE webinar highlighted a few: "1. For active Federal workers a hiring freeze, increased contributions to retirement and the elimination of disciplinary appeal rights may be considered by the new Congress. 2. For retirees, a chained CPI and elimination of the G fund pose challenges to NARFE. Both groups may face significant increases in contributions to the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program." Slides from the NARFE webinar are available at <http://www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?ID=3672>

Pre-Retirement Seminars: Quarterly pre-retirement seminars with BC/BS, Kaiser, SSA, and Medicare representatives will be held on March 16, June 15, Sept 14, and Dec. 14, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Phillip Burton Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate, San Francisco. Prior registration is not necessary. The seminars are designed to help you learn how your FEHBP and Medicare work in retirement.

| NARFE CHAPTER 65 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| President Jerry Hall 415-412-0488 | 1st Vice President Martha Raup 415-334-6380 | 2nd Vice President Juanita Tamayo-Lott 415-292-6221 | Secretary Jane Ramos 415-826-3337 | Treasurer Dianne Joseph 415-334-6380 | Editor Joe Mangiameli 415-359-9644 |
| Service Officer Pauline Jue 415-584-8141 | Membership Mike Crahan 415-285-2417 | Legislation Jon Lampman 925-228-8501 | Public Relations Leslie Ching 415-641-6245 | Audit & Budget Jesse Ramos 415-826-3337 | Sunshine Sue Mangiameli 415-359-9644 |
| Alzheimer's Frank Morelli 415-563-8361 | Telephone DorisMarie Hagopian 415-776-5199 | Webmaster Dianne Joseph 415-334-6380 | Social Media Martha Raup 415-334-6380 | Immediate Past President Jane Ramos | Program Committee Jerry Hall, Jane Ramos, Helen Rogers, Roz Itelson |

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>).

IMPORTANT PHONE 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.