

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SAN FRANCISCO



CHAPTER 65

SENTINEL

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



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Rep. Nancy Pelosi
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San Mateo CA 94402
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NARFE HOT LINE
Phone 1-877-217-8234

White House
Phone 1-888-225-8418

Congress Switchboard
Phone 1-866-220-0044

APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 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-040 (NOTE ROOM CHANGE)
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 19 PRESENTATION: CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE
MAY 17 PRESENTATION: THE U. S. COAST GUARD
JUNE 21 TOUR OF SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL

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...

I decided to write something positive and a little history this month. There seems to be a lot of worrying and fretting because of the change in the administration. It is common to hear fears that there will be layoffs, loss of benefits, and minimal, if any, pay increases for federal workers. But I decided at least for this month to discuss some positive things that may be in the future.

Possibly the Biggest retiree COLA in years?: Retirees are often frustrated by cost of living measurements that do not seem to reflect the cost increases they are experiencing. With only seven months to go before determining the COLA, the current numbers suggest the 2018 COLA may be larger than any in the past few years. The index rose .26 percent in February but it is already 1.03 percent higher than the average for the 3rd quarter of 2016, which will be the base for calculation of the 2018 COLA. Of course, the exact amount for the 2018 COLA will not be known until October of this year. Historically there were hefty COLAs in the 1970s and 1980s. Retirees received an 8% COLA in 1975, a 9.9% COLA in 1979, and the biggest COLA ever, 14.3% in 1980. (Of course, this occurred due to gas shortages, high interest rates, large price increases, etc. during this period.) However, 2018's COLA could be significantly more than we have had recently. You worry and think couldn't Congress eliminate the next COLA? Yes, true, but probably unlikely - (Nothing worse than a lot of seniors angry over a sensible COLA being taken away!)

CPI-E Act of 2017: Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) last week introduced the CPI-E Act of 2017 (HR 1251) -- a bill that would require the Social Security program to use the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for retirement benefits, including many former federal employees in CSRS and FERS. Proponents of the bill -- similar to another bill proposed in 2015 -- say the CPI-E would increase benefits and better ensure that cost of living adjustments in Social Security actually reflect the real rising costs for seniors and disabled people in America. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), from 1982 to 2011, CPI-E rose at an annual average rate of 3.1 percent, compared with 2.9 percent for the methods that are currently used, such as the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

At Least a 1.9% pay increase for Active Federal Employees?: The Trump administration, after announcing plans to slash spending across much of the government, will recommend a 1.9 percent raise for federal workers to take effect in January, according to a budget document and a senior budget official. Agencies have been told by the White House to build a 1.9 percent pay raise for civilian employees into their spending plans for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

(President’s message continued)

The Millionaire Club to Expand?: There are already more than 10,000 federal workers who have contributed the maximum to the Thrift Savings Plan from the first day on the job. They have put all their money in the stock market C and S funds throughout their employment. Their accounts are now more than \$1,000,000. Instead of heading for the “safety” of the Treasury securities G fund, they continued to invest in the stock funds when they were down and on sale. They bought low and now the market is at record levels. Many of the 35,000 federal employees and retirees with \$750,000 to \$999,000 accounts — are likely to become millionaires this year. (Of course this depends on the stock market and whether it continues its current rise.)

TREASURER’S REPORT: Balance on 02/01/17 **\$2089.13**, Income \$731.66, Expenses \$304.14, Balance on 02/28/17 **\$2516.65**

ALZHEIMER’S: At our March luncheon \$53.00 was collected for Alzheimer’s research. Thanks to all of the attendees that contributed. Remember, 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 Frank Morelli, 1237 Filbert St, San Francisco CA 94109-1713.

MEMBERSHIP: We Thank **Leonard Corsinotti, Clyde Okazaki** and **James P. Thurston** for reinstating their membership.

SUNSHINE: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Charles Taylor** and **Katherine E. Wald**.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: Three important updates: NARFE expressed disappointment that a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee voted to require over 76,000 postal retirees to enroll in Medicare, Part B; OPM warns retirees about a telephone scam threatening the retiree’s annuity and criminal prosecution unless the retiree pays the caller, see <http://www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?ID=4179>; finally, the Washington Post and other publications have published numerous articles about threatened cuts to domestic programs and possible layoffs of active Federal employees. See the entire articles at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2017/03/20/overshadowed-executive-order-sets-stage-for>.

Tour of San Francisco City Hall: The tour will be on Wednesday, June 21st starting at 1:00 pm. The 102-year old Beaux Arts style City Hall is one of San Francisco’s most beautiful buildings. The docent-guided tour runs 45 to 60 minutes and will cover the building’s art, history and restoration after the 1989 earthquake. The tour is limited to 25 people; cost is \$2 per person. Tour participants are to meet at 12:45 pm atop the front stairs, where we will be met and escorted into City Hall by the tour docent. Participants are urged to not bring backpacks or large totes. Reservations will be confirmed when payment is received. Please send cash, or check made out to “Helen Rogers,” to 132 Lawton St. SF, CA 94122 with your name, number in party and your phone number/email address for confirmation. If you have any questions, please contact Helen at 415-759-8478 or hobanrogers@mindspring.com.

NARFE-NET News: The next legislative webinar titled **What the Budget Process Means for Federal Employees and Retirees** will be on April 4th at 11:00 am PDT. You can find this and other legislative webinars at: <http://www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?ID=3663>

Pre-Retirement Seminars: The next pre-retirement seminar with BC/BS, Kaiser, GEHA, SSA, and Medicare representatives will be held on June 15 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					
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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.