

# NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SAN FRANCISCO



## CHAPTER 65

# SENTINEL



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**Rep. Nancy Pelosi**  
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**Rep. Jackie Speier**  
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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

## JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2017.**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; AT FOB, 90 7TH ST LOWER LEVEL - RM B-020**  
**GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - RM B-020**  
**PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING.**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 19 ALEX LAZAR, SR. CONGRESSIONAL AIDE, REPRESENTATIVE NANCY PELOSI'S OFFICE  
AUG 16 DEE AMADEN, ROSIE THE RIVETER/WWII NAT'L HISTORICAL PARK VOLUNTEER  
SEP 20 LUNCH: 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 JULY...** While we cannot include all the information in our newsletter, much of the information below is taken from NARFE weekly legislative messages. They are posted on the NARFE website and available to NARFE members via telephone by calling 703-838-7780 and toll-free at 877-217-8234.

**Thrift Savings Plan:** Legislation expanding withdrawal options in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) was introduced in the House this week by Reps. Elijah E. Cummings, D-MD, and Mark Meadows, R-NC, in the TSP Modernization Act of 2017, H.R. 3031, the companion bill to Senate bill, S. 873. NARFE members should write their members of Congress and ask them to support this legislation. These bills would provide more flexible withdrawal options for TSP accounts and are supported by the Employee Thrift Advisory Council, of which NARFE is a member. The legislation would allow multiple, partial post-separation withdrawals, which participants can time to their individual needs, and would provide multiple age-based withdrawals for participants who are still working and are older than age 59½. The legislation also would add flexibility to the TSP by allowing the election of quarterly or annual payments and permitting periodic withdrawals to be changed at any point during the year. Payments could be stopped while allowing the account balance to remain in the TSP. Finally, the bill would eliminate the withdrawal election deadline.

**Federal Long Term Care:** Reps. Gerald E. Connolly, D-VA, and Don Beyer, Jr., D-VA, sent a letter to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) asking for solutions to improve the affordability and stability of the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP). Last November, NARFE testified before Congress alongside OPM's Director of Healthcare and Insurance on the drastic premium increases and pressed for reforms to fix the program. During the hearing, the former OPM Director of Healthcare and Insurance testified, "[OPM does] not have a proposal that is ready for being shared with the committee at this time." The two lawmakers from Virginia followed up this week noting that the director's response was not sufficient and requested that an update be sent to them on the status of a timeline for proposed solutions.

**FY 2018 Proposed Budget:** Nine Republican lawmakers, led by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-UT, recently sent a letter to House leadership expressing concern over the proposed cuts to the earned pay and benefits of the federal community outlined in the President's FY 2018 budget. The letter highlighted the financial sacrifices the federal community already has made and specifically mentioned the proposals to which NARFE objects. The letter also points out how the egregious policies "break a commitment to employees and retirees who have based financial planning on longstanding promised benefit calculations." Additionally, Legislative Officer Jon Lampman reported that 108 lawmakers signed onto a letter authored by Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-MD, urging House leadership to reject the proposed cuts to the earned pay and benefits of federal workers and retirees outlined in the President's budget.

**Annuity Scam:** The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently alerted federal annuitants to a particularly aggressive company offering retirees cash in return for some or all of their federal annuity. According to OPM, the cash payment being offered is worth much less than the long-term worth of annuities and comes with high interest rates and fees. OPM has received numerous phone calls from one company in particular asking not only for verification of annuity amounts, but also banking information, including routing numbers and account numbers. The OPM Office of the Inspector General (OIG) discovered this company is currently under investigation by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Please report any suspected scams to the OPM OIG at 877-499-7295.

**COLA/Loss of Buying Power:** Social Security beneficiaries have lost nearly one-third of their buying power since 2000, according to the 2017 Social Security Loss of Buying Power Study released today by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL). "The findings represent a big loss of 7 percent in buying power over the past 12 months. This occurred as inflation has begun to climb, but people receiving Social Security and government annuities received an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of just 0.3 percent for 2017. The study's findings illustrate the impact on the buying power of Social Security benefits when the economy goes from a period of extremely low inflation to more typical rates of inflation. The last time there was a loss in buying power this big was in 2011, another year similar to 2017. Based on consumer price index (CPI) data through April of this year, the estimated COLA for 2018 may be around 2.1 percent but that number could change since there are still several months to go before all the data is in.

*(continued on back page)*

**Advocacy:** Whether you're a veteran or first-time advocate wanting to play a more active role, the webinar "Choose Your Own Advocacy Adventure: Preparing for August." with NARFE's Grassroots Program Manager Molly Checksfield will help you polish your advocacy skills. We need all federal employees and retirees to speak out against proposals containing cuts to your earned pay and benefits if we are going to be successful. The hour-long webinar was originally aired June 27, however, it is archived on the NARFE website and can be viewed anytime. If you have any questions, please email NARFE's Legislative Department at leg@narfe.org.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Balance on 05/01/17 | <b>\$2057.27</b> |
| Income              | \$ 454.01        |
| Expenses            | \$ <u>255.57</u> |
| Balance on 05/31/17 | <b>\$2255.71</b> |

**MEMBERSHIP:** We welcome *Virginia Guzman, Cory Keith, Henry Keith, Patricia Lee* and *Bonnie Macaraig* to our Chapter and thank *Cecilia Cervano, Edmond B. Serchia, Frances R. Sheykhzadeh, Karen Wing* and *Kathryn E. Wong* for reinstating their memberships.

**SUNSHINE:** Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of *Virginia M. Elmore*.

**July Speaker:** Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 19 presentation by Alex Lazar, Senior Congressional Aide to Rep. Nancy Pelosi. An AmeriCorps alumnus, Alex joined Rep. Pelosi's office after graduation from San Francisco State. He advocates for constituents who have encountered problems with federal agencies and facilitates Rep. Pelosi's participation in district events. He is Chapter 65's Congressional District 12 Liaison. Please strongly encourage District 12 constituents to attend. Members from other chapters will attend. Everyone is invited.

**Rosie The Riveter Event:** Our August speaker, Dee Amaden, sent the following invitation: "Calling all fans of Rosie the Riveter! The National Park Service and it's non-profit partner, the Rosie the Riveter Trust, invite all NARFE members to help us break the record for the most Rosie the Riveter look-alikes. On Saturday, Aug. 12, we hope to gather as many as 5,000 'Rosies' to shatter last year's record as a pre-emptive strike against our competitors in Ypsilanti, MI. The Rally begins at 10 a.m. at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond. Following the rally enjoy the Home Front Festival with music, food, dancing and entertainment at a nearby waterfront park and on board the Red Oak Victory Ship. Don't want to dress up but also want to catch the fun? Sign up as an event volunteer! For more information and to sign up for updates, visit [www.rosietheriveter.org](http://www.rosietheriveter.org) and click on the link to the Rosie Rally. Or, contact chapter member Dee Amaden at [Dee.Amaden@comcast.net](mailto:Dee.Amaden@comcast.net)"

**NARFE NET News:** Sign up for the next NARFE National Benefits webinar on **July 27 - Survivor Benefits: Key Decisions** at <http://www.narfe.org/member/FederalBenefitsInstitute/>. Have you missed the legislative webinars? You can find them at: <http://www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?ID=3672>. And don't forget to follow us at: <https://facebook.com/narfe65>

**NARFE CHAPTER 65 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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