

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SAN FRANCISCO



CHAPTER 65

SENTINEL



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Congress Switchboard
Phone 1-866-220-0044

AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16, 2017
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; AT FOB, 90 7TH ST LOWER LEVEL - RM B-140
GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - RM B-110
PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUG 16 DEANNE (DEE) AMADEN, ROSIE THE RIVETER/WWII NAT'L HISTORICAL PARK VOLUNTEER

SEP 20 LUNCH: JOE'S CRAB SHACK, 245 JEFFERSON STREET AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF

OCT 18 ANN LINDSAY, DOL BENEFITS OFFICER, DISCUSSION OF THE VARIOUS FEHB PLANS

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 AUGUST...

Thank You Volunteers: Thanks to all of the NARFE members who spent time during the annual NARFE recruitment effort in the 90th Street Federal building July 17, 18, and 19th. Special thanks to Mike Crahan, your San Francisco Chapter Membership Chair. He did a dynamite job, recruiting more new members than any previous event we have held.

Employee Retirement Contributions: This week, legislation was introduced in the House that would repeal the two recent increases in federal employee retirement contributions. The Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act, H.R. 3269, introduced by Rep. Anthony G. Brown, D-MD, would return most federal employee retirement contributions to the pre-2013 0.8 percent level. Beginning in 2013, new federal employees were mandated to pay more toward their retirement than their previously hired colleagues, without any increase in benefits. Those hired in 2013 pay 2.3 percent more, and those hired in 2014 and beyond pay 3.6 percent more than those hired prior to 2013. Over 10 years, these increases in retirement contributions will amount to a \$21 billion loss in take-home pay for these federal employees, and much more thereafter, with no added benefit in retirement. NARFE supports this bill. Legislators should not treat federal employee pay as a piggy bank to pay for other congressional spending priorities. Such practices inhibit the federal government from recruiting and retaining the nation's best and brightest, undermining the ability of our government to carry out its mission of serving the American people.

Fiduciary Rule: The Affordable Retirement Advice for Savers Act, H.R. 2823, introduced by Rep. Phil Roe, R-TN, was approved by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce by a vote of 23-17. The bill, which would repeal the Department of Labor's fiduciary rule, was also referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Under the fiduciary rule, financial advisers are subject to new impartial conduct standards when recommending rollovers of assets into Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), including rollovers from the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). For this reason, NARFE supports the rule and is working to prevent any attempts to undo it. You can contact your lawmakers in support of the rule.

Contact your Congressional Members: NARFE members are encouraged to use the new, easy-to-use NARFE Legislative Action Center to send letters to members of Congress on a variety of NARFE issues, sign up for action alerts and track NARFE-related bills and votes. You can also call 866-220-0044.

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

Our **Wednesday September 20th** luncheon will be at Joe's Crab Shack, located at 245 Jefferson Street at Fisherman's Wharf, at **12 noon**. The F Line stops a block from the restaurant. There are other Muni lines within several blocks as well. There are numerous parking garages and meters nearby. Take the elevator to the second floor. We will have a table with a view of the Golden Gate Bridge. **The meal includes refillable pitchers of coke, lemonade, and water for the table, a choice of a starter salad or soup, a choice of one of six entrees, and a Key Lime pie dessert.** Alcoholic beverages or other items from the menu may be purchased directly from the waiter on a separate check. Please contact Jerry Hall at 415-412-0488 if you have any questions.

-----Return this Joe's Crab Shack reservation coupon **by Thursday September 15**-----

Make checks **(\$25 per person** including tip and taxes) payable To: NARFE Chapter 65 and mail **coupon and check** to Jerry Hall, 229 De Montfort Av, San Francisco, 94112. Indicate **one entrée** for each name attending. Entree Choices are: **1.** Caesar Salad with Shrimp, **2.** Crab Cake Sandwich with Salad, **3.** Mahi Fish Tacos, **4.** Fish and Chips with Coleslaw, **5.** Herb Chicken with Broccoli and White Rice, **6.** Clam Strips with Salad.

1. Name _____ Entree _____ Telephone _____

2. Name _____ Entree _____ Telephone _____ Total Enclosed _____

(President's message continued)

August 2017

2018 COLA (Estimated): The Social Security Board of Trustees released its annual report to Congress and estimates that the 2018 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security recipients to be at 2.2 percent. The actual 2018 COLA figure, however, won't be announced until mid-October.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance on June 1 **\$2255.71**, **Deposits** \$ 404.99, **Expenses** \$ 253.92, **Balance** on June 30 **\$2406.78**

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome **Lucee Rosemarie Fan** and **Betta Ramos** to our Chapter and thank **Francisco Martinez, Robert Watkins** and **Roy Saenz** for reinstating their memberships.

SUNSHINE: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Florence L. Chinn**.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: Hard earned benefits for the Federal community are threatened by stark proposals in Congress. The House Budget Committee recently passed a resolution that according to NARFE "specifically instructs the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to find *at least* \$32 billion in savings from mandatory spending under the Committee's jurisdiction. This would likely require a cut to existing retirement benefits, which is nothing more than a retirement tax on federal employees. These revenue increases would offset the cost of tax reform, a top legislative priority for congressional leadership and the current administration." The budget plan released by Committee Chairwoman Diane Black (R-Tenn.) also would end the "special retirement supplement," which pays FERS employees "the equivalent of their Social Security benefit at an earlier age." In addition, current Federal employees under FERS will increase individual out-of-pocket payments toward retirement by 1 percentage point each year until they equal the government's contribution for those in the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). This change will result in a 6 percent pay cut over 6 years. Retirees who receive their annuity through the CSRS may face a .05 percent reduction in their COLA. According to NARFE this reduction could have a devastating impact on CSRS retirees over time. Also, the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute recently sponsored an informative webinar about proposed cuts to our benefits. This webinar is available on line at <http://www.narfe.org/legislation/articles.cfm?id=4241>

August Speaker: Deanne Amaden, Retired DOL and USDA/FNS employee and current volunteer docent at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park will tell us about life on the home front during World War II including the striking changes forged in the workplace as American civilians, including many Rosie the Riveters, who contributed to the war effort. Deanne will show a short film on Richmond and the Kaiser Shipyards and also discuss volunteer opportunities with the National Park Service.

Chapter 65 By Laws Revision: Finalized Bylaws (available at www.narfe65.org) will be voted on at the luncheon on September 20th. Please try to attend. Your voice is important.

NARFE NET News: The 2017 National Executive Board/Federation Presidents Board Meeting Reports are now online: <https://www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?ID=4186> (must be logged in as a member).

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.