

# 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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**White House**  
Phone 1-888-225-8418  
**Congress Switchboard**  
Phone 1-866-220-0044

## NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2017**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM; AT FOB, 90 7TH ST LOWER LEVEL - RM B-140 (Note Room Change)**

**GENERAL MEETING 1:00 PM - LOWER LEVEL - RM B-110 (Note Room Change)**

**PHOTO ID REQUIRED TO ENTER BUILDING**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOV 15 OPEN SEASON DISCUSSION WITH FEHB HEALTH INSURERS REPRESENTATIVES

DEC 13 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: OLIVE GARDEN AT STONESTOWN GALLERIA

**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...**

**NARFE CHAPTER 65 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:** The Executive Board meeting recently discussed how to keep Chapter 65 relevant and active. In particular, how can we get a dedicated group of chapter members (30 -40) to systematically, collectively, and quickly respond to legislative issues as soon as national alerts us? In addition, what program should we prepare for our members in 2018? You can help by responding to the following survey by November 10, 2017, either by email ([mailladymartha@yahoo.com](mailto:mailladymartha@yahoo.com)), by phone (415-334-6380), or by mail (Martha Raup, 179 Chilton Ave, San Francisco CA 94131). Thank you!!

#### SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What are the two most important benefits of your Chapter 65 membership?
2. How can we respond more effectively to legislation affecting us?
3. What organizations, topics or trips in 2018 would you like to have highlighted at the general membership meetings?
4. Are you a member of a group or know someone who could make a presentation at a meeting?

**Help Protect Your Federal Benefits:** If you can participate more actively with our Chapter's activities, please let us know! Persons to contact are: **Legislative Program**, Jon at 925-228-8501; **Membership Program**, Mike at 415-285-2417; **Program Committee**, Roz at 415-531-2204 or **Executive Board Meetings**, Jerry at 415-412-0488. You can also help by referring current employees or retirees to be new members of NARFE. If you wish to refer someone, please contact **Membership Chair**, Mike at 415-285-2417

**2018 COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE:** The 2018 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security recipients and annuitants in both the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) will increase 2.0 percent. The 2018 federal retiree COLA is much larger than last year's 0.3 percent increase and the zero COLA in 2016. It's also the first year the CSRS and FERS COLA has been 2.0 percent or more since 2012.

**(PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)**

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON:** On Wednesday December 13th 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. Again, this year we are asking participants to bring a small unwrapped toy to fill the barrel from the San Francisco Fire Department with holiday gifts for the children in our community (See additional information on back page)

=====Olive Garden, Stonestown RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 9th===== Mail Reservation coupon for the DECEMBER 13th, 12 Noon Holiday Luncheon with check to: Jerry Hall 229 De Montfort Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Check Choice of Lunch item:

[ ] Spaghetti with meat sauce, [ ] Eggplant Parmigiana sandwich, [ ] Lasagna with meat sauce, [ ] Italian meats and cheese Piadina (Flatbread), [ ] Chicken and Cheese Piadina, or [ ] Fettuccine Alfredo. Cost is \$24.00 each, which includes all the soup or salad you can eat, iced tea, coffee, soda, or lemonade, and a Dolcini small dessert and taxes and tip. Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Attach names of guests and their choice of entrée. Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 65.

**FEHBP AND OPEN SEASON:** Thanks to all who attended the excellent presentation by DOL Benefits Officer, Ann Lindsay, at our Wednesday meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October. Ann provided us with information on all the different types of health benefits plans under FEHBP. Additionally, she explained the OPM tool available for comparing plans and making good health plan choices that match you and your family's needs. Our chapter is very appreciative of the assistance Ann provides our members and the Federal community in the San Francisco area. We will follow up Ann's overview of plans with a presentation from four health care providers that our members frequently select. Blue Cross, Kaiser, GEHA, and Aetna will present on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. This will be an opportunity to hear a presentation about each of the providers' plans, changes in plans, and to answer questions you may have. Open Season begins on November 14<sup>th</sup> this year.

**FEDERAL BUDGET:** The Senate passed its fiscal year 2018 budget resolution by a vote of 51-49. Unlike the House budget, the Senate budget does not contain any requirement to find savings from federal retirement and health benefits programs. Instead, the Senate version focuses solely on tax policy changes. Now that the Senate passed a budget, a joint budget agreement must be negotiated between the two chambers, and passed again by both the House and Senate. This joint budget agreement, if passed, will determine whether or not federal pay and benefits cuts will be used to pay for tax reform. NARFE members are encouraged to contact their lawmakers and ask that they oppose any joint budget resolution that contains cuts to the earned pay and benefits of the federal community. Please consider writing, calling, or emailing your congressional representative and senators. Protect the promised benefits of federal employees and retirees, including health care, COLAS, FERS, and other benefits by letting congress know your position.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Balance on 09/01/17, **\$2877.43**, Income, \$514.65, Expenses, \$839.60, Balance on 09/30/17, **\$2552.48**

**MEMBERSHIP:** We welcome *Judith Stoyko* to our Chapter and thank *Patricia L. Dodson, S. Narolewski, Consolacion F. Queliza* and *Stanley G. Tom* for reinstating their membership.

**SUNSHINE:** Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of *Emma L. Chan, Angelina M. Deleo, Joseph Paul Scholten, Marjorie M. Wellington* and *Adolph R. Dockus*.

**SF Firefighter's Toy Program:** For the second year during our December lunch at the Olive Garden in Stonestown Galleria on December 13<sup>th</sup> a representative from the SF Firefighter's Toy Program (a 501(c)(3) non-profit) will speak. Attendees may participate by bringing an unwrapped gift for ages zero to 12 years. Their biggest need is for infants and older girls. Suggested gifts for older children is a gift card (i.e., Target, iTunes, Best Buy, Ross, etc.); or by a money donation (cash or checks made out to "SF Firefighter's Toy Program"). Other suggested gifts: Sports equipment; arts & crafts; baby items; ethnic dolls of all nationalities; stuffed animals; iPods; books; toy trucks. If you donate a game system, please include the game. Toy guns are NOT accepted.

**NARFE CHAPTER 65 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

<b>President</b> Jerry Hall 415-412-0488	<b>1st Vice President</b> Martha Raup 415-334-6380	<b>2nd Vice President</b> Juanita Tamayo-Lott 415-292-6221	<b>Secretary</b> Jane Ramos 415-826-3337	<b>Treasurer</b> Dianne Joseph 415-334-6380	<b>Editor</b> Joe Mangiameli 415-359-9644
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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.