

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SAN FRANCISCO



CHAPTER 65

SENTINEL



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

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER NO MEETING THIS MONTH. SEE YOU AT OUR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT OLIVE GARDEN, STONESTOWN GALLERIA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- DEC 13 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: OLIVE GARDEN AT STONESTOWN GALLERIA
JAN 17 TO BE DETERMINED
FEB 21 PRESENTATION: THE JEREMIAH O'BRIEN LIBERTY SHIP

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 DECEMBER...

NARFE CHAPTER 65 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: The membership survey has been extended! Please respond by January 10, 2018, either by email (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?

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Modernization Act: On November 17, The President signed into law the TSP Modernization Act, H.R. 3031, which provides more flexible withdrawal options for Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participants. The legislation was endorsed by NARFE. Specifically, the legislation allows multiple, partial post-separation withdrawals, which participants can time to their individual needs, and provides multiple, age-based withdrawals for participants who are still working and are older than age 59-1/2. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board has two years to issue regulations necessary to implement the expanded withdrawal options. While TSP participants will welcome the changes, they may need to wait up to two years to enjoy the expanded options.

Alzheimer's Semipostal Stamp: The U.S. Postal Service will dedicate the Alzheimer's Semipostal Stamp at 10 a.m. Thursday, November 30 at Johns Hopkins Asthma and Allergy Center Atrium in Baltimore, Maryland. Followers of the U.S. Postal Service's Facebook page can view the first-day-of-issue ceremony live at [facebook.com/USPS](https://www.facebook.com/USPS). The stamp will be released November 30. Proceeds from the 60-cents stamp will raise funds for the National Institutes of Health, which leads Alzheimer's **research** (emphasis added). Customers may pre-order the stamps at usps.com/shop. Please help stamp out Alzheimer's disease and spread the word. **(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.)

=====HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 9th===== Mail Reservation coupon for the December 13th, 12 Noon Holiday Luncheon at Stonestown Galleria with check made payable to NARFE Chapter 65 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 as well as taxes and tip.

Total Enclosed \$ _____. Attach names of guests and their choice of entrée.

Medicare Part B Premiums 2018: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that the 2018 premium for Part B of Medicare will remain at \$134 a month. But even with no change, millions of Social Security recipients will pay higher Part B premiums that will eat up all or most of next year's 2 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security. If your Part B payment is below \$134, your new payment will increase to the extent allowed under the hold harmless provisions. They do not allow reduction of Social Security benefits but do allow the increase in social security to be used to move Medicare Part B participants fully or closer to the \$134 payment currently in effect.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance on 10/1/17 = \$2552.48, Income \$491.33, Expenses \$254.15, Balance on 10/31/17 \$2789.66

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome **Gail Benton-Shoemaker, Stephen Canright, Gary Ino** and **Les Yamagata** to our Chapter and thank **Randel J. Hufnagel** for reinstating his membership.

SUNSHINE: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Donald C. Baer, Nora Higgins, Marian R. Olson** and **Victor Weiner.**

Chapter 65 By Laws Revision: Finalized Bylaws (available at www.narfe65.org) will be voted on at the Holiday Luncheon on December 13th. Please try to attend. Your voice is important.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): If you are interested in making a donation through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), you may do so through January 12, 2018. The official list of approved local, national, and international charities is only available on-line. Donations cannot be in cash or to charities not listed. Donations may still remain anonymous.

Current employees and annuitants should go to: www.opm.gov/ShowSomeLoveCFC and create a password and profile. This year's retirees will only be able to make a one-time donation by credit/debit card or by ACH bank transfer. As of this writing "annuitant" is not yet available in the profile drop-down box (although it is expected to be available in early December). Until this is available, a retiree cannot make an on-line donation. Regular deductions from a retiree's pension/annuity will not be available until the 2018 CFC Campaign next year. Assistance and updates may be obtained from CFC Customer Care/Help numbers: **(800) 797-0098** and **(608) 237-4898** from 7 am to 5 pm (MDT).

SF Firefighter's Toy Program: For the second year during our December lunch at the Olive Garden in Stonestown Galleria on December 13th 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 are a gift card (i.e., Target, iTunes, Best Buy, Ross, etc.), or 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

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.