

**CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION  
OF CHAPTERS**  
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

**1950 - 1951**

August 25, 1950, the charter for the California State Federation of Chapters (CSFC) was signed by Elmer Johnson, National President, and attested to by Emery J. Thompson, National Association of Retired Civilian Employees (NARCE). The Charter Federation Chapters and their members are listed below:

**Los Angeles Chapter # 3**

Laura B. Crampton  
Julius Janssen  
Ole Thorson

**San Diego Chapter # 4**

Orton L. Elder  
James P. O'Brien

**Pasadena Chapter # 10**

Timothy M. Hanrahan  
George M. Preston  
Hedley F. Sexton

**Long Beach Chapter # 21**

Harry D. Connor  
John S. Chaffee

George M. Preston, Pasadena, Chapter # 10, was elected to serve as the first Federation President.

**NOTES ON THE FOUR (4) CHARTER CHAPTERS**

**Los Angeles, Chapter # 3**

The Los Angeles chapter was chartered on June 9, 1947 and listed as the chartered members: Lorenzo Bowdoin, Harry G. Johnson, Elijah W. Leonard, Moses Robinson, Charles Spencer, John L. Wheatly and Cornelius L. White.

Julius Janssen member of Chapter # 3, charter member of the CSFC was given credit for the formation of the California State Federation. Mr. Janssen has served the Federation in many ways. He was chapter president for two (2) years, Federation Secretary/Treasurer until 1962 when the position was divided. He then served as Federation Treasurer for another four (4) years. By the time the 1965 convention convened in Fresno, Julius Janssen had become a National Field Vice President. The Federation honored Mr. Janssen by awarding him the title of "Honorary Past President".

Chapter #3 produced three (3) Federation Presidents over the years. Over these 50 years, many of the chapter's members were elected to offices at the state level and many others served on state convention committees. The talents, initiative and

dedication to service by individual Chapter #3 members is too extensive to cover in this brief account.

#### **San Diego, Chapter # 4**

The San Diego chapter was chartered on September 1, 1947. There were twenty-seven (27) charter members. The first elected president was John J. Tucker. On September 3, 1954 Chapter # 4 designated the program for their meeting as "Recognition of the Seventh Anniversary of Chapter # 4 - Honoring Charter Members." It was noted that there were 21 of the charter members remaining. Earlier records were not available to give us more of the early chapter history.

The San Diego Chapter # 4 has produced six (6) Federation Presidents, and they have hosted six (6) Federation Conventions. It is the largest chapter in California and recently became the largest chapter in the National Association in December 1998 with a total membership of 2,622.

#### **Pasadena, Chapter # 10**

George Preston took the "Bull by the Horns" on November 1, 1948, when he gathered nine other retired U.S. Postal employees and established Chapter #10 in Pasadena.

The Pasadena group agreed to hold pot-luck meetings during April, July, and October in the city's Washington Public Park. It was considered a good idea that didn't last as Chapter #10 membership grew and felt it easier to order lunch at nearby Brotherton's restaurant. It was decided a roof was far better than trees to protect against the elements.

Originally from Indiana, Preston settled in Pasadena in 1911, and quickly found a job driving a delivery wagon for Model Grocery. One afternoon while on his route, a friend told him there was a job opening for a U.S. Postal Letter Carrier. Preston went directly to the post office, applied, was accepted and served as a Letter Carrier in Pasadena for 23 years. In 1950 George was elected as the first California Federation President.

George Preston's son Frank, after his military service during World War II, joined his father at the Pasadena Post Office, and served as a Postal Carrier for 32 years, eight months. Doris McAdams, niece of George Preston, also retired from the U.S. Postal Service in Pasadena and is currently a member of Chapter #10.

Pasadena Chapter #10 celebrated its 50th anniversary November 1, 1998.

### **Long Beach, Chapter # 21**

Long Beach Chapter # 21 was chartered on 20 July 1949 and had 22 members at that time. They will celebrate their fiftieth anniversary in 1999. As of March 22, 1999, the chapter's membership totaled 660.

The first President of the chapter was Harry D. Connor who served 5 years. The chapter has had a total of 26 different Chapter Presidents in their 50 years of organization.

During the years 1995 – 1997, President Mabel Burton was the driving force for solicitation of monies for the National Headquarters Building Fund. It should be noted that the onset of solicitations for the Fund began in 1990. However, due to the outstanding and sometimes unorthodox methods and aggressive efforts of Mabel Burton, the Building Fund exceeded the \$2,000,000 goal in 1997. The National Headquarters Staff moved into the new building in November 1997, free and clear of any debts.

Chapter # 21 members are very active in their community. They serve as volunteers for Meals on Wheels at various Senior Centers. They are also active in their respective churches, area hospitals, Assisted Living Residences and Project Read, which is sponsored by the Kiwanas Club. The chapter is also responsible for keeping a section of highway clear of debris, as a participant of the "Adopt a Highway" program.

Members of Chapter # 21 participated in raising funds for Public Television in the amount of \$400,000, by manning phone banks during pledge drives at the KCET Studio in Los Angeles.

District II and Chapter # 21, have hosted three (3) previous California State Federation Conventions. They will again host the Federation Convention in Long Beach in the year 2000, and Chapter # 21 will be the host chapter.

Katherine Slade, Federation Past President, and a member of Long Beach Chapter # 21, served during 1970-1971.

## **OTHER CHAPTERS WHO LED THE WAY**

### **Vallejo, Chapter # 16**

Vallejo, Chapter # 16 is the third oldest chapter in California. There are no available records to determine why it is not a charter chapter of the Federation, but it is assumed they opted not to join the California Federation at that specific time.

Information received from the National office indicates the Vallejo Chapter was chartered June 1, 1949 with 96 charter members.

In an article from the November 1975 issue of "Retirement Life" the following is noted.

*"From President Howard W. Powell of Vallejo Chapter No. 16. we learned of the outstanding performance of one of its Past Presidents, Nadine Algeo. Mrs. Algeo has not missed a single California State Convention since she established her membership some fifteen years ago. In addition she has attended every National Convention of NARFE since 1962. Her late husband, Frank Algeo, also a Past President of Chapter No. 16, was elected President of the State Federation in 1964 and, while the two (2) were enroute to the National Convention in the Midwest by automobile, he was fatally injured in an accident.*

*Vallejo Chapter No. 16 is one of the larger units of NARFE, and has exceeded the 1,000 mark in its membership. Vallejo is the seat of the nuclear powered naval shipyard, Mare Island."*

In 1996 the Mare Island shipyard closed. Vallejo Chapter membership grew rapidly and is currently 1,471. Vallejo Chapter #16 was the host chapter for the 1961 Federation Convention held at the Hotel Casa de Vallejo.

NOTE: The above information was extracted from the Book of Memories published in 1999 by the CSFC Historian Joyce Ross.