



NARFE/CSFC

“The Voice of the Federation”

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National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



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The California State Federation of Chapters was chartered to function as an auxiliary arm of the National Association of Retired Civil Employees on August 25, 1950

Four chapters were chartered: Los Angeles Chapter # 3; San Diego Chapter #. 4; Pasadena Chapter # 10; & Long Beach Chapter #. 21.

TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE 21



NATIONAL CALL CONGRESS DAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2011
SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD



The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction – the Super Committee – is tasked with crafting legislation to cut about \$1.5 trillion from the federal budget.

Its deadline is November 23 – fast approaching – and your earned federal retirement and health benefits may be at risk.

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd:

Please call 1-866-220-0044. Make sure your Members of Congress know that federal retirees and active employees who protect America’s heartbeat won’t sit still while they are singled out for unfair cuts.

STEP 1: Call the Capitol using NARFE’s toll-free number **1-866-220-0044**. (If busy use the commercial number: **1-202-224-3121**). Ask the operator to connect you to your representative’s or senators’ office. You can also find the direct number for your representative and senators by going to their personal site on the House web site, www.house.gov, and the Senate web site, www.senate.gov.

STEP 2: Tell the staff person who answers the phone next where you live so they know you are a constituent, then say:

“I am a retired/active federal employee and member of NARFE”. (Tell the staff person a little about your work). **“(Senator or Representative X) represents thousands of federal workers and retirees and their survivors, and any recommendations the Super Committee makes shouldn’t unfairly single us out to bear the burden of fixing a budget problem we didn’t create.**

Federal workers, retirees and survivors didn’t cause the budget crisis, and making extreme cuts to pay, earned health and retirement benefits, or making changes to cost-of-living adjustments, would unfairly single out those who protected (or protect) our nation, including many now on a fixed income.”

Whether you speak to a staff person or leave a recorded message, request that your lawmaker respond in writing to your phone call. For that reason, **be sure to leave your mailing address**. Contact **ONLY** your own representative and two senators.

Lawmakers will disregard your message if you are not a constituent.

BY: DOTTIE SCHMIDT
CSFC PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Dottie Schmidt
CSFC President

Federation Newsletter, "The Voice of the Federation"

The first issue of the CA Federation Newsletter, "The Voice of the Federation", published in July was a

hit with most members who received it.

Unfortunately, many members didn't. Being in a hurry to drive to the Presidents Conference in Reno in July, I sent the message, forgot to attach the newsletter and ran out the door. When I arrived home four days later I found several e-mail messages asking where the newsletter was. Yes, they received the message BUT no newsletter. However, our NARFE-NET Coordinator **Carl Bailey** and our Newsletter Editor **H. Ray Harrington** were my safety nets. Each of them, realizing what I DIDN'T DO, did it for me, sending to DVPs and others. If you didn't receive it and would like to read it go to the Federation website: csfnarfe.org and click on Publications at the bottom of the page.

Federation Executive Board Meeting

Please know that your Federation Executive Board is working hard on behalf of our members and not just at meetings. We had two full days of topics and discussions at the Executive Board meeting on September 7-8, in Monterey. Some of the actions included:

1. The Board voted to implement a messaging system so all our members with e-mail could receive information directly without the messages going through the District Vice Presidents and chapter officers. Some of our members are working diligently to find a server that fits our needs.

2. An ad hoc committee consisting of three Federation Past Presidents took on the job of looking into the Federation Hall of Fame Guidelines to clarify the qualification requirements and judging of nominees for induction. Though many members had worked diligently on behalf of the Federation and NARFE and were perceived to have gone above and beyond their described positions to qualify for Hall of Fame induction, in many instances the data necessary to validate the qualifications of the nominees were unrecorded,

sporadic and/or sketchy. Because of the inconsistencies in corroborating data and the perception of unfairness in judging, the committee recommended the program be discontinued. As a result, the Executive Board voted unanimously to terminate the Federation Hall of Fame program.

3. In cost-cutting efforts last year, the Board voted to reduce the number of federation districts from ten to eight. The redistricting was tabled for one year pending the Federation's financial picture following the increase of National dues in September 2010. At that time, the Board took on other cost-cutting measures, i.e., less travel and fewer chapter visits, reducing the number of board meetings in a convention year from four to three, and other measures. At our recent meeting Treasurer **Mary Foster's** financial report revealed that the Federation's financial picture is much better than 2010. In response to the report, the Executive Board voted to rescind the 2010 motion to reduce the federation districts and retain the ten we have.

These are only a few of the many discussions, proposals and action items that were undertaken at the Federation Executive Board meeting. You will be able to read about the meeting in more depth in the Federation Executive Board Minutes that will be available by the time you read this.

California Federation Call to Action re: Representative Becerra

In early September I put out a Federation Call to Action in response to the appointment of Congressman **Xavier Becerra**, CA-31 to the Deficit Reduction Committee (Super Committee) that was implemented as part of the agreement to raise the debt ceiling in early August. It consists of 12 members, six Senators and six Representatives, who are charged with cutting \$1.5 trillion over ten years from the federal deficit by November 23rd.

The Call to Action requested that every member of the CA Federation sign a letter that was attached to the message and return it to me. The letter, addressed to Representative **Becerra**, explained that Congress was singling out federal workers and retirees by proposing major cuts to their income and earned benefits. We requested that he and other members of the Super Committee focus on other ways to reduce the federal deficit. The letter pointed out active federal employees

have already accepted a two-year pay freeze to help solve the budget crisis, and that as a nation we believe in shared sacrifice.

I made an appointment to meet with Representative **Becerra** on Friday, September 30, to deliver what I hoped would be hundreds of letters.

The letters started arriving 50-60 or more at a time in my mailbox and I was thrilled. When I flew to Southern CA on Thursday, September 29th, I took 863 letters with me. District II Vice President **Charlie Mattis** who accompanied me to Representative **Becerra's** office added 107 letters for a total then of 970. Also attending the meeting with me were **Marguerite Coffey-Hunt**, Chapter 0003 Legislative Chair, and **Arthur Sibley**, Chapter 2323 Legislative Chair.

Representative **Becerra** was not available to meet with us so we met with his District Director **Liz Saldivar**. We spent 45 minutes discussing the proposed legislation that concerns NARFE's active and retired federal employees, each of us focusing on various issues including the U.S. Postal Service proposals. **Liz** was gracious and interested in our concerns. At one point she left the room and came back with 40 of the letters that had been sent to their office and added them to ours for a total of 1,010. Additional letters have also been sent to me and to his office making the grand total of letters 1,084!

THANK YOU to all our Federation Members who signed and sent letters! YOU made this Call to Action a HUGE SUCCESS!! I hope it makes a positive impression on Representative **Becerra** and other members of the Super Committee.

I would like to add this about the letters I received. Some members wrote their own letters adhering to the message we wanted to send, but in their own words. Some wrote me that they were also sending the letter to Senators **Feinstein and Boxer** and to their own Representative. Others, added hand written notes about their positions with the federal government and the number of years they were employed. Others wrote about their military service in WWII and Vietnam. One woman wrote that her husband is serving on active duty in the Army National Guard and that his letter was being sent to me under separate cover. I received many notes from members thanking me

for "doing this" and wishing me success. This is **OUR** success and **I THANK YOU** for "doing this".

Membership

CA Federation membership numbers are spiraling downward.

The latest numbers are: From January through August we have lost 1,976 members due to non-renewal of dues and cancellations. What are we to do about this horrific loss of members? Much of it comes down to working the M-112s every month and communicating with your members. Those members whose names appear on the M-112s as dropped members need to be called and encouraged to reinstate their membership. Try to determine why they dropped out.

Those who have received 2nd dues renewal notices should get a friendly reminder call that their expiration date is coming up. Call your Prospective Members and invite them to attend a meeting and learn more about NARFE and your chapter. From time to time place a call to some of your members to just say "hi" and ask them to attend a meeting. Could be you're having a special program or event they may be interested in. Make contact once in awhile and let your members know you're interested in them. You never know – you might pique the interest of someone who's been an inactive member for a long time.

Presidents Breakfast

On a light note, I want to thank District VI members and everyone who attended, for the wonderful Presidents Breakfast they honored me with on Saturday, September 10th at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. Around 80 people were in attendance, most from District VI, but many from other areas including Salinas, Palm Springs, Highland, Walnut Creek, Vallejo, Paradise, Pleasanton, Auberry (find that on your map) and probably other areas I'm not aware of. Representatives from Anthem Blue Cross, GEHA and Kaiser attended and offered terrific giveaways. The District VI members gifted me beyond belief and because the theme was travel, a travel "slide-show" was projected of my experiences in and out of state and out of country, complete with music, captions and a map with an arrow pointing from my home to the next location visited.

District VI honors every new Federation President and has done so since the early 1990s.

They believe in having their members meet the new president and make him/her feel welcome. It creates a “connection” and the presidents always carry that special event created just for them in their memories.

I hope you’ve had a great and relaxing summer. When you’re out and about this fall, at a local event, a football game, another organization’s fundraising event, wear your NARFE badge and take along some applications. By the way the airport – any airport – is a great place to meet up with feds. Hand those applications to the TSP folks and when you strike up a conversation with someone in your waiting area, chances are pretty good he/she is or has worked for the federal government. Another good recruiting method!

Stay well and have a lovely autumn,

DELIVERING YOUR LETTERS TO CONGRESSMAN BECERRA’S OFFICE

On September 30th almost 1,100 letters addressed to Congressman **Xavier Becerra** were delivered to his Los Angeles Office by a delegation of NARFE members, led by CSFC President **Dottie Schmidt**. Pictured below are the letters and members who delivered them.

These letters were written to Congressman **Becerra** because he is a member of the “Super Committee,” and we wanted him to know that Federal Employees, Federal Retirees and Survivors do not want to be treated as scapegoats in deficit reduction legislation.



Pictured L-R are District II V.P. **Charlie Mattis**, Ch. 2323; **Dottie Schmidt**, CA Federation President, Ch. 1335; **Liz Saldivar**, Rep. Becerra’s District Director; **Arthur Sibley**, Legislative Chair, Ch. 2323 and **Marguerite Coffey-Hunt**, Legislative Chair, Ch.0003.

REPORT FROM REGION VIII



By Helen Zajac
Region VIII Vice
President

I have some good news to report from NARFE headquarters, and some bad news.

First the good news

- **New from Headquarters:** There are new materials available to help with recruiting. The F-122, Look at What NARFE has Done for You Lately, has been revised (August 2011) and is available for downloading from the NARFE website. Printed copies should be available for order through use of the F-18, Requisition for Printed Supplies, by the end of September. There is also a new poster for “Protect America’s Heartbeat” which shows members of the FBI, US Customs and Border Patrol and National Institute of Health personnel at work, protecting America’s Heartbeat – and asks that we tell Congress that cutting jobs hurts all of US. This poster is also downloadable from the NARFE website. Another new item is a flyer for eNARFE, which explains the virtual chapter of NARFE, which has experienced great membership growth and now has 1,176 members. This flyer is also downloadable from the NARFE website. All of these new materials will help you with your recruiting efforts as you work with federal agencies on the upcoming Health Fairs and Combined Federal Campaign. Kudos to your new Federation President **Dottie Schmidt** for being proactive in working with the Health Care Agencies, and the Federal Executive Boards to gain valuable contacts with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). There are several events scheduled where NARFE members will staff tables at events sponsored by CFC, and meet with employees representing federal agencies.

Now the bad news – **Membership:** As of September 7, 2011, total NARFE membership is 291,266 members in 1,393 chapters. California membership is 25,880. In August alone 4,631 members were lost due to non-renewal (3,885), death (701) and cancellation (45); while 615 members were recruited and 681 members were

reinstated. I've heard many members say that our dues increase is the reason why we are losing members, but with so much to lose from the Congressional budget reduction efforts – members can ill afford to not belong and be part of the fight to retain our earned benefits. NARFE is a very reasonable insurance policy (13 cents a day – or 11 cents a day for dues withholding), with a great track record of no lost benefits in the past 17 years! Perhaps our members have become complacent with these past successes and don't think there is a need to continue their membership - but now is the most important time to belong to NARFE – we need as many voices as possible to contact Congress and let them know that we don't want to be scapegoats for these budget cuts. As our membership drops, so drops the volume of our voice and Congress will be less likely to listen to our softer voice.

Initiatives: Headquarters is taking on initiatives right now to increase our membership – the Fall Office of Personnel Management (OPM) mailing is being sent to 63,800 annuitants and survivors. We are once again offering a special two year membership incentive of \$72, and as a 1 only offer e-NARFE membership to 5,000 annuitants and survivors. Following the OPM mailing will be a lapsed member mailing. The joint mailing with the National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA) is being finalized and anticipated to be mailed in October. A test telemarketing program with Marketing General Inc (MGI) is also being done, aimed at getting selected dropped members to renew their membership.

Coalition Efforts: Headquarters has also been working with the postal employee groups throughout the recent postal reform issues. NARFE President **Beaudoin** issued a statement on the reform proposal made by the Postal Service in August. There have been several articles in the magazine about USPS's financial problems and the consideration of favorable and unfavorable legislation in Congress to address the shortfall.

NARFE is about to send a letter from President **Beaudoin** to all 535 Members of Congress in support of Representative **Lynch's** postal reform legislation and in opposition to the USPS proposal to pull postal workers and annuitants out of the FEHBP, CSRS and FERS. In addition, we plan to have an email available soon

on the NARFE Legislative Action Center that NARFE members can send to their lawmakers in support of the **Lynch Bill**.

NARFE will also be coordinating with the postal employee organizations on a response to the Obama Administration's postal reform proposal, which is expected to be released within the next couple of weeks.

What You Can Do: NARFE Headquarters is networking with their Coalition Partners (a list of all the partners is available on the NARFE website, Legislative Page) in these ventures – and NARFE Chapters are also encouraged to network with local Coalition Partners to educate them about NARFE, and perhaps sign up a few new members. Support of the Health Fairs and CFC efforts will also give you an opportunity to gain new members. Letters to the Editor (which are free) will also gain needed publicity for NARFE. Sample letters are available in the Protect America's Heartbeat Tool Kit. We need **your** help to tell the public that NARFE is here, working for the federal community and we need their help by joining with us in our fight to save our earned benefits.

At this very difficult time, with the new Super Committee in Congress ready to propose cuts to the federal community, we need to let the federal community know that the only Association dedicated solely to protecting the federal community is on the watch, as we have been for the past 90 years - NARFE is **Working for You!**

CSFC NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Ellen Rafferty
Committee Chair



Hello everyone, my name is **Ellen Rafferty**, and I am the Federation's National Legislation Committee Chair. I have been asked by **Dottie Schmidt and H. Ray** to write an article for the fall quarterly Federation news letter. Because of all that is going on, it will be hard to make this a brief article.

We have 3 major legislative issues I need to tell you about: (1) The results of August Advocacy Month; (2) CA Congressional Districts Realignment; and (3) The "Super Committee" for Debt Reduction.

Let's start with the results of August Advocacy Month. I guess you can say the numbers speak for themselves: Only Senator Boxer's Sacramento District office was visited, and no appointment was made with Senator Feinstein's office; 17 Congressional Offices were visited (and thank you to the Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and others for making that happen); 7 Congressional Officers were contacted but no appointment could be made – either the Congressional office couldn't fit NARFE into their August schedule, or – after numerous follow-up calls or emails were made – the Congressional office didn't get back to the contact to make an appointment; and 29 Congressional Offices weren't contacted at all. One explanation for the low turnout may be attributed to the just-completed Congressional District Realignment, in which Congressional offices didn't want to “cross-over” into newly designed Congressional Districts. Next year will be even more challenging because I will need to reorganize my CDL lists because many of us will find ourselves in newly created Districts and with new/different House Members running for those seats.

I now want to tell you more about the CA Congressional Districts Realignment. A citizens Committee was established to realign the State's Congressional Districts based on the results of the 2010 Census. And what a job they did! Districts have been consolidated and Districts have been moved. I can say with confidence that most of us will find ourselves in a new district, with a new member of Congress representing us. There isn't too much information out there on the internet right now because there are still challenges to the newly-form districts.

But what you can do to find out what your new CD district is going to be, is to go to the internet and type in: wedrawthelines.ca.gov (you do NOT need to type “www” in front of wedrawthelines.ca.gov); go halfway down the page that opens, and find “**Click here to view the final certified maps at the Statewide Database site**”. When the next page opens up, go to the box that says “**District type:**” – to the right that reads “****2011 District Maps****” --and click the down arrow and select “**2011-08-15 12:01pm crc Congress certified statewide**”. Next, **locate an address within a district:** ENTER YOUR HOME

ADDRESS including your zip code”, then click on “**Locate**”. This will find your house on the map. On the left side of the page there is a bar that you can move with your mouse to zoom in or zoom out. When it's large enough to read, click on the flag that indicates your house. A box will open showing the number of your new Congressional district.

One more thing – next June the State will hold a primary for all House seats. It will be an “open” primary meaning that whoever wants to run for the seat will be placed on the ballot. The top 2 vote getters – no matter if it's a Democrat and a Republican, or 2 Democrats, or 2 Republicans – will battle it out on November election day to win the seat. There should be more information available for the next Federation newsletter in January, including who will be running in what district. So, sit tight ... more will be revealed!

Last, but not least, is information on the Joint Select Committee on Debt Reduction also known as the “Super” Committee. Made up of 6 Democrats and 6 Republicans, 3 House Members from each party, and 3 Senators from each party, they are tasked to come up with another 1.2 Trillion to be cut out of the Federal budget. The members of the Super Committee are: Democratic Senators **John Kerry (D-MA)**, **Patty Murray, Co-Chair (D-WA)** and **Max Baucus (D-MT)**; Republican Senators **John Kyl (R-AZ)**, **Pat Toomey (R-PA)** and **Rob Portman (R-OH)**. The House Members are: Democrats **Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)**, **James Clyburn (D-SC)**, and **Xavier Becerra (D-CA)**; Republicans **Jeb Hensarling, Co-Chair (R-TX)**, **Dave Camp (R-MI)**, and **Fred Upton (R-MI)**.

This group of legislators has just started their work and they must come up with recommendations by November 23rd. The recommended cuts must be approved by 7 of the 12 Committee members. If that happens, then the recommended cuts will head to the House and the Senate for an “up or down” vote, which means there will be no amendments, changes or deletions. The House and Senate must vote on the cuts as is from the Super Committee by December 23rd. If the Super Committee fails to come up with recommended cuts, or the House or Senate fails to pass the recommended cuts, then starting January 2012, automatic cuts will kick in across the board in Federal spending.

That's it for the October Federation Newsletter. There will be updates on these issues in the next January 2012 edition.

AUGUST ADVOCACY MONTH

NARFE Saddleback Valley Chapter #1689 and Laguna Woods Chapter # 970 met with Congressman John Campbell's District Director, Lou Penrose, at the Laguna Woods City Hall today to discuss NARFE's most urgent issues in 'Protecting America's Heartbeat' campaign.

L-R: **Sonne Idelshon**, Legislative Chair # 1689; **Renate Idelshon**, Public Relations # 1689; **Cliff McCraw**, Chapter President # 1689; **Rosa Treibach**, Secretary # 970; **Jim Mathews**, Vice-President/Legislative Chair # 970; **Lou Penrose**, Congressman Campbell's District Director (48th District); **Catherine Martinez**, Treasurer # 970; **Anne McCraw**, Secretary # 1689; **Karin Johnson**, member #970



NARFE Saddleback Valley Chapter 1689 visited with 42nd California District Representative **Gary Miller's** District Director **Steven Thornton** at the Mission Viejo City Hall

L-R: **Mary Kester**/member; **Renate Tries-Idelshon**/Public Relations; **Sonne Idelshon**/Legislation; **Steven Thornton**/District Director of Congressman Miller's office; **Ann McCraw**/Secretary; **Cliff McCraw**/President.



Members of Vallejo Chapter #16 have meeting in Congressman's District Office in Concord.

L-R: **Lea Zajac**, District VII VP Congressman **George Miller**, CA-7, **Helen Zajac**, Region VIII VP; and **Patsy Hollister**, Vallejo Chapter #16 Vice President



L-R **Frank & Pat Marshall, Virginia Cotham, Chris Flores, Dan Mahoney, Sherman Burr & Dorothy Burr.** American River Chapter #1596 visited with **Chris Flores**, Legislative Director for Congresswoman **Doris Matsui, CA-5.**



L-R: **Forney Lundy**, President, Salinas #1496; Congressman **Sam Farr, CA-17**; **Philip Moriconi**, President, Santa Cruz County #0054 & **Dennis Dyrud**, President, Monterey #0579



L-R: **Karen Baird**, CSFC District X VP; **H. Ray Harrington**, President, Greater Paradise/Oroville Chapter #0352; **Thea Max**, Public Relations, Greater Paradise/Oroville Chapter #0352; Congressman **Wally Herger**, CA-2; **Fran Peace**, District Director CA-2; **Ron Griffin**, President, Chico Chapter #1245; and **Sandy Griffin**, Secretary Chico Chapter #1245.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM—OPEN SEASON

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season is the time when active and retired federal employees and their eligible surviving spouses can review the new Health Plans and make changes to their existing plans or switch to a different plan. For the 2012 year, the Open Season officially begins on **Monday, November 14, 2011 and runs through Monday, December 12.**

Although all the Health Care Providers will be happy to provide you with their information, the best place to see all the available plans that are available to you and their 2012 rates are at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/factsheet.asp>, a website provided by the Office of Personnel Management.

Although it may seem overwhelming, you can narrow your choices by plans that are PPO, wherein you choose from a list of Preferred Providers but are not limited to that list or an HMO, which provides managed care with a single facility or provider. These are very general descriptions and are intended to show only one way to help you reach what may be the most important decision you will make for the next year.

If you do not have access to the Internet and/or prefer a personal approach, there are Health Fairs happening all over the nation, some as early as late October and lasting through the first week of December. In California, you can contact me and I will advise you of any Health Fairs in your area. Outside of California, your Health Care Provider may be able to connect you to your local representative who can suggest a fair for you to attend.

The most important thing to remember is to NEVER cancel your FEHB Health Insurance, as once it is canceled, you can never reinstate it. If circumstances are such that you need to let it go for a while, you can SUSPEND your service. Please contact the Office of Personnel Management for more information on this.

Federal Employees have one of the best Health Care Plans available. Take advantage of this benefit and choose wisely.

By: **Jim Guida**

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DISTRICT NEWS



DISTRICT III NEWS

By: **Lenore Manak**,
District III VP

As usual on a yearly basis four chapters do not hold meetings during the summer months. All seven chapters did participate in the July 27 National Call-In to our legislators and the White House in Washington, DC. The District Convention Host Committee remained busy completing all tasks necessary following our State Federation Convention in April 2011.

Riverside Chapter 0188 had two members who participated in notable volunteerism. **Bart Porter**, Chapter Membership Chair, was in Joplin, Missouri following that disaster there working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from June 20-July 18, 2011 helping the tornado debris cleanup. There was roughly 2 million cubic yards of debris that had to be trucked to landfills.

The second volunteer from this chapter is **Jim Crandall**, Exec. VP. He was on a 10 day Mission trip to the Highlands of Guatemala where he and a group of 15 volunteers built and installed wood efficiency stoves and hot water heaters. He also helped rebuild some of the houses destroyed by the mud slides of last summer. The group installed 30 sets of stoves. The area he worked in was Chichiwatabago in the mountains at 7000 feet. The people were very appreciative and friendly. **Jim** said he would go back again.

Southwest County Chapter 0478 hosted a U.S. Border Patrol agent at their meeting on September 8, 2011 who addressed the issues related to human and drug trafficking. The local newsletter printed an article notifying community residents about the meeting and then again following the meeting with pictures. Of course, Chapter President **Nick Shestople** did give the agent an application to NARFE.

DISTRICT V NEWS



By **Lennie Lund**
District V VP

Currently, I am also
President of Chapter 50, San Jose.

It truly is a very rewarding position and it is always wonderful to see our regular, dedicated members at our meetings. With that being said, it would be fantastic if more of our members were willing to become more involved in the operations of our chapter, to lead and participate in our events, and regularly attend our meetings.

I don't know about everyone else but my summer went by like a flash and I'm already planning for Christmas! However, even though July, August, and now, September, whizzed by much too quickly, I was fortunate to have attended the following NARFE chapter meetings in District V:

- ❖ July 16th - Chapter 544, Redwood City
- ❖ August 3rd - Chapter 1496, Salinas

I know all of the officers in District V are working really hard to help protect our benefits. Several District V chapters were very active during August Advocacy Month to appropriately deliver our Protect America's Heartbeat message. I also know that they continue to be active in this area.

I attended my first CSFC EB meeting in Monterey, Sep 7-8, 2011. I learned so much from all of the attendees. Especially, from my counterpart DVPs – thank you! I want to thank all of the attendees for making me feel right at home.

After the CSFC FEB meeting in Monterey, I was successful in registering NARFE to have a table at four CFC events in northern CA. The CFC events included: San Francisco (Sep 14th), Oakland (Sep 16th), Rohnert Park (Sep 25th), and Sacramento (Oct 3rd). Dee Shallenberger, Executive VP, and corresponding District VPs have taken care of scheduling NARFE volunteers for the events.

Over the course of the next several months, one of my goals is to become acquainted with each District V Chapter President and find out what the greatest needs are for their chapters.

Additionally, my past experience as the administrative officer for a non-profit organization, I know how critical it is for organizations to maintain accurate IRS and Secretary of State records. It is doubly important to make sure all governmental reporting deadlines are met to avoid penalties or other sanctions. With that in mind, I hope to assist District V Chapter Presidents with these responsibilities, as well as assisting in a few other areas. Recently, I asked District V Chapter Presidents to provide me feedback on the following:

- a. Direct deposit of funds - Do you receive your funds electronically?
- b. Online reports - Are you able to access?
- c. Chapter Bylaws - Are they current?
- d. Chapter Banner - Does it reflect our correct name?
- e. Secretary of State - Does your chapter's record reflect our correct name?
- f. Update your record (address and phone number) online - Do your members know how to do this?
- g. Distinguished Members - Do you know if any of your members are eligible?
- h. F-10 - Chapter & Federation Officers Manual, (08/11)
- i. FH-6 – Member Records Manual, (06/10)
- j. FH-9 - Public Relations Handbook, (12/10)
- k. FH-10 - Service Officer Guide, (08/09)
- l. FH-19 - Membership Development Manual, (12/10)
- m. If applicable, Election of Officers for 2012 - What is your status?
- n. Installation of officers for 2012 - Are you prepared?
- o. F-7 - Chapter Officer Roster

As we all know, this is the time of year everyone needs to be reviewing their Medicare and FEHB enrollments. I have had some NARFE members tell me that they have had to cancel their FEHB supplemental dental insurance because it has become too expensive. I have also had friends tell me they have had to cancel their dental insurance through AARP because it has become too expensive.

Fortunately, I have personally found an alternative to expensive dental insurance. It is not insurance but a health care savings program. This program offers discounts off the providers' normal fees. For example, my husband just saved a total of \$335 on his most recent dental services. His savings for a new patient exam, full-mouth x-rays, and cleaning was \$102 or 35% savings. His savings on one porcelain crown (molar tooth) was \$233 or 25% savings. His total savings amounted to 27%. My husband and I are both marketing this program so please contact me if you would like more information on how you too can save on your dental, vision, and more health care needs.

In summary, I will do whatever I can to assist the District V Chapter Officers to maintain a successful and healthy chapter.

DISTRICT VI NEWS



By **Mary Jo Smith**
District VI VP

District VI sponsored a breakfast in honor of **Dottie Schmidt** on September 10, 2011 at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, California (where the 2013 Convention will be held). There were 77 NARFE members in attendance. **Kaye Brown** did a great job making all the arrangements, with the help of many of the District VI members. The theme of the breakfast was Dottie's travels and included a video of **Dottie's** travels photos. The employees at the hotel were very helpful and the food was great.



DISTRICT VI PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST

DISTRICT X NEWS



BY: **Karen Baird**
District X VP

On October 19 District held their Annual District Meeting-Training Session. The Speakers and Trainers at this meeting were:

Dottie Schmidt, CSFC President; **Ellen Rafferty**, CSFC National Legislative Committee Chair; and **H. Ray Harrington**, President, Greater Paradise/Oroville Chapter #0352. They all gave excellent presentations and those in attendance learned a lot about the latest NARFE information.

We start off our meetings by presenting awards to outstanding leaders in chapters that choose to make a presentation. The winners and their Chapters were: **Wanda Tessaro**, Greater Paradise/Oroville Chapter #0352; **Millie Rogers & Dick Millington**, Chico Chapter #1245; **Norm Overbay**, Redding Chapter #1324; **John D. Sundstrom**, Clear Lake Chapter #1566 and **Rita Wilczynski**.

Each year a Cascade Award to honor the person in District X who has contributed to NARFE and District X in a manner becoming the Cascade Mountain Range which begins in District X and extends into Canada

The first winner of the Cascade Award in 2010 was **Chet Olson** of Red Bluff Chapter #1655 for his years of dedication as a Service Officer and HICAP Counselor.

This year the person who was presented the award joined NARFE in 1978 and has held a myriad of offices in Oroville Chapter #1711 and Chico Chapter #1245.. He was California Federation District Vice President; Executive Vice President and President. He served on the National Executive Board as Region VIII Field Vice President, representing Hawaii; Nevada; Guam; Philippines and California. He was a major player in getting the Source Tax Law enacted, so people who worked in California or any State and moved to another State do not have to pay taxes on their annuities in the State they moved from. This is a great victory for all American citizens. This fantastic person is **Richard "Dick" Millington**, Chico Chapter #1245.



Dick Millington receives Cascade Award from **Karen Baird**, District X Vice President.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT



By: **Dan Mahoney**
CSFC Public Relations Chair

For those of you who don't know me well I have been on this Committee over 2

years, previously as Vice Chair. We are fortunate in District VI to have a Presidents council that meets Quarterly. **Clarence Howard**, Town & Country Chapter 1674 has been very active in PR in this district for years. Even though he did not make the Presidents Breakfast due to health reasons he arranged for Banner & for free floral arrangements. **Dick Walker**, Elkhorn Chapter 1680 has been on this committee also for sometime.

Jeri Benson, Elkhorn Chapter 1680 President has been doing Health Fairs for 7 years. The Past 3 years I have been helping and last year we did 20 Health Fairs in Sacramento County. Last year, I was at 12 of these Health Fairs mostly in the South Area while she took the North Area. We both helped along with **Clarence**, at the Federal Building on Cottage Way, where there are approximately 1200 federal civil service employees. **Jeri** & I both attended the Pre-Health Fair Session last year at the John Moss Federal Building on 7th & Capitol in Sacramento. Three health providers, Blue Cross, Kaiser & GEHA setup this meeting & included us. They each did a

Power point presentation or Slide Show. Also at the meeting were building contacts representing at the 20 buildings where the Health Fairs were to be held. **Jeri & I** talked to each of them introducing ourselves as NARFE members who would be informing their employees about the advantages of NARFE advocacy & membership. **Jeri** was able to talk the TSA manager into allowing NARFE access to their 2 Health Fairs. We had been denied the previous 2 years over security concerns.

Find out who is holding the pre-Health Fair Session Event in your district & get invited. In our District **Richard Gracey**, from Blue Cross, is our contact. He is supposed to be emailing **Jeri & myself** when he gets the information..

Also, Combined Federal Campaign is underway, in District VI our Annual District Meeting was on same day as big event. Utilize these chances to get into buildings where Active Civil Service Employees are. Bring Posters downloaded from NARFE with local Chapter information already filled out. Ask them if they can put it on Break Room Bulletin Boards. I got 10 posted last year during Health Fairs by asking Building Contacts to place them on Boards.

If you can take a digital camera & get photos of your event, then forward them to NARFE Magazine, and/or NARFE/CSFC Newsletter. At these meetings, utilize your District NARFE Table Throws for public relations purposes.. Please take your camera to meetings with Representatives & Senators or their Aides.

On October 1, **Jeri & I** attended an Alzheimer's Memory Walk on Oct 1, at Capitol Building, a picture of this event is on page 14 of this newsletter. Note our 2 Signs. **Bill Fisher**, Alzheimer Organization CEO of Northern CA & Nevada, came up and thanked us for NARFE's contributions to Alzheimer's Research..

Also on page 8 is a picture of **Chris Flores**, aide to Congresswoman **Doris Matsui**, CA-5, when he visited American River Chapter #1596 during August Advocacy Month.. **Chris** has spoken at our chapter business meetings, each of last three years.

Below is photo of **Mary Jo Smith**, District VI VP, & **me** at Harvey's Inn at Lake Tahoe, on May 14th for CA/NV 110th annual

National League of Postmasters (NLPM) Convention.



According to **H. Ray Harrington** this is the perfect storm we shouldn't have to SHOUT to get active federal service employees attention on why they need & should join NARFE.

If you have any questions about what I have discussed in this article, please contact me at: ar1506@sbcglobal.net or 916-296-2092.

ALHEIMER'S REPORT



By **Laura Wilcox**
CSFC Alzheimer's Chair

Barb Pretzer, NARFE
National Committee Chair
reports: The July 1, 2010-June

30, 2011 accumulative NARFE/Alzheimer's Research contributions for California totaled \$28,723,00. IMPRESSIVE!

The total contribution of NARFE for fiscal year 2011 was \$528,158.69. This brings the grand total donations to \$9,343,204. as of August 31, 2011. This exceeded the 2010 total by over \$2,600.00.

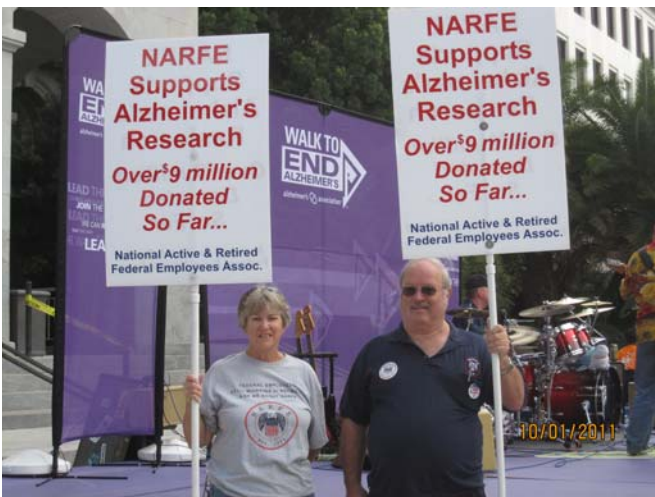
NARFE members now have the option of using a credit card online, at www.alz.org/narfe or www.narfe.org, to designate the donation as a memorial OR in honor of someone (birthday, anniversary) etc. The Alzheimer's Assoc. has agreed that they will send the acknowledgement card to the family of the deceased OR to the party that is being honored (birthday person). The Alzheimer's coordinator for the Federation will

continue to send acknowledgements to the family of the deceased in memory for checks sent to the Federation coordinator. The donor will continue to get the traditional required acknowledgement tax receipt letter from the Alzheimer's Assoc. that is sent to everyone who makes a donation.

Ongoing research by a group of Australian researchers into eye exams to aid in early detection of Alzheimer's disease is showing positive results. Also, blood tests are being developed by researchers to aid in early detection of the disease. There will be more on these two issues in the next CSFC Newsletter. I will, also, include suggestions on fundraisers used by chapters.

We have had a very successful year. I am very proud of the efforts of our chapters and wish them great success in continuing the fundraising efforts this Federal calendar year.

MEMORY WALK PHOTOS



L-R: **Jerri Benson**, President Elkhorn Chapter #1680 and **Dan Mahoney**, CSFC PR Chair & President American River Chapter #1596 at State Capitol Building, October 1, 2011



L-R: **Mille Rogers**, Chico #1245; **Thea Max**,

Greater Paradise/Oroville #0352; **Dick and Marian Millington**, Chico #1245; **Ray Harrington**, Greater Paradise/Oroville #0352; **Sandy and Ron Griffin**, Chico #1245.



L-R: **Ron Griffin**, President Chico #1245; **Dick Millington**, Past Region VIII Field VP; **Becky Robinson**, Director North Valley Alzheimer's Association and **Ray Harrington**, President Greater Paradise/Oroville #0352.

Check for \$1,500 being presented to Alzheimer's Association on October 1, 2011 at Chico Memory Walk.

TODAY'S TASK "Write Your Obituary"

By **Laura Urseny**

Reporter *Chico Enterprise Record*

Is your obituary written yet?

I would guess the very last thing people want to do is write their own obituary, but that's exactly what I've been advocating.

I don't care if you're 25 or 85, it's a good thing to get done.

Writing obituaries has been one of my responsibilities as a newspaper reporter. Not what you'd think of as a normal chore of a reporter for a daily, but it was. And I'm glad it was because I have a perspective on life and death not shared by many.

I tell you this not because of my gender or outlook on life, but because I saw this daily for years.

A woman who lost her husband would come in prepared with a list ranging from his school days and military experience to career and hobbies. She knew birth dates, anniversaries, years of graduation, grandkids and organizations. But it was a different story for a man who'd lost his wife.

More often than not, he would hand over a paper that had the dates of her birth and her death. But what did she do?

“She was just a housewife.”

I would often have to coax information out of men. Where was she born? Did she graduate from college? What was her job? Any hobbies? So, my message is, man or woman, write your own obituary.

No one knows your life like you do. What is important to you might be missed by your spouse or kids.

Besides, it’s a hard thing when your loved ones are struggling with grief to come up with the important milestones of your life.

I can understand why some people might be reluctant to consider an obituary, maybe thinking ignoring it is ignoring death. But really, it’s rather wonderful to see one’s accomplishments, to savor highlights and to see the path your life has gone. Sit around the kitchen table, even with your family, and compose your life story.

Please do this, for yourself, for your family, and for your friends who know you well, but not that well.

And don’t forget to pick out a favorite photograph too.

For the last 30 years, Laura Urseny has been a reporter for the Chico Enterprise-Record in Chico, CA. Her mother Joan Urseny and father Walt Urseny were members of the Greater Paradise/Oroville Chapter 0352.

CSFC SECRETARY



By: Vivian Nathanson
CSFC Secretary

I was born on a small chicken and egg farm in Egg Harbor City, NJ many moons ago, and so consider myself a country girl. Our family had to move to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to get some decent education, and so I had all my education needs fulfilled in PA; including most of my college credits. After being a legal assistant for a couple of years, I joined the

ranks of young women in Federal government; as a GS-1 clerk working for the Submarine Supply Office. Married my high school sweetheart and departed for Las Vegas, NV where we successfully resided, worked for DOD, DLA at Nellis Air Force Base ; had 2 sons; took a leave of absence from the government, (had to help out my husband in his beauty salon businesses); and eventually moved back to the East Coast, where my husband passed away at the age of 44. I continued to live in the East, in Maryland, went back to college, got a degree in real estate; worked as an agent and eventually passed my brokers exam and started my own brokerage with a couple of other agents. I continued my education in real estate and hold G.R.I. and C.R.S. certifications.

After many years of real estate; being burned out, I came back to the Federal government in Alameda, CA as a Finance Officer –GS-7, the same grade I had when I left Nellis AFB, 23 years earlier. When the finance office of DPSC moved back to Phila; I refused and got a position at Oakland Navy base for another agency and was given the title of Administrative Assistant to the Director; and moved up to GS-9; not very impressive; but it was a fun job. I retired in 1994 under FERS; but not before joining NARFE in 1992 at a pre-retirement seminar in San Francisco; and becoming Chapter Secretary of Livermore Chapter 397 the first business meeting I attended in 1994.

The CSFC Secretary Position is many fold; I am now in my 6th year as Executive Secretary; (there are a few other secretaries-Executive Board Recording Secretary; Data Base Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Convention Recording Secretary under my direction). I have never made a secret of the fact that I could not do this job and do it well without **Carl Bailey and Ann McCraw**; not to mention **Nick Shestople** who is diligently preparing the summary of our last convention.

Major portions of this job is keeping record of all the Special Assistants, Standing Committees, Deceased members, current Officers of all the Chapters and of course keeping the Executive Board and Past Presidents informed of current records.

During the year preceding a convention, the secretary is also tasked with preparing credentials

for all the voting delegates; the Executive Board; Proxy Chapters and all the Past Presidents who will be attending the convention. The Secretary is also tasked with keeping all the forms required up to date. Attending all the Executive Board meetings is paramount, since the Secretary supplies all the equipment and supplies needed for the meetings. The Secretary is also asked to present some training at a few District Meetings and works with the DVP's where necessary.

It's a full service position and I have enjoyed it most of the time; and always have an open ear for any chapter members who may need some assistance and I sincerely hope they will continue to call. I always have time to listen and help, if I can.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)



By **Dee Shallenberger**
CSFC Executive V.P.

Ed and I attended the CFC Kickoff event in Oakland in September and I must say I think it was a successful event for NARFE.

There were almost 100 people that attended the event and although NARFE is not technically on the "approved list" we were able to give out all of the applications and NARFE materials that we brought to the fair. I made sure that we asked the people that came to our table if "he or she" were a federal employee and most of the ones that we gave materials to were active federal workers. There were a few that just read our bulletin board, but did not come close enough to the table for us to give them any materials.

Ed and I talked about NARFE and how important it was for them to join the organization especially during this time of "uncertainty" with the Debt Commission, etc. Most were receptive, but some of the people there seemed to have come just for the "free goodies" that the vendors had. We bought some candy and handed those out with the NARFE materials to the people that came to our table.

We heard from the vendor next to us that the CFC event in San Francisco only had about 20

people come to the event. This was the fourth CFC event that this person has attended in Oakland, and she said that this year's was better than any of the ones that she had attended in the past.

As it turns out, the person in charge of setting up the CFC events in Oakland is **Paul Pinaula**, a new federal retiree from NASA Ames. I used to work with Paul and so he told me that NARFE can come to more of these events in the future. He said that he will let us in to any of the events that he is involved with. I have his phone number and will keep in touch with him!

I was asked by several of the CFC people there if we were an organization similar to the ones that were there, but we really did not have any trouble when we told them that we were given permission by **Oliver Wong**. Every one there seemed to know him.

I think that the event was worthwhile and hope that we can go to more in the future. I will keep in contact with **Paul Pinaula**, too.

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN IN ROHNERT PARK



L-R: **Joyce Bianchi**, **Darold Graves**, President Petaluma Chapter 1077; **Dottie Seavy**, **Ted Seavy** and **Ken Markham**, President Santa Rosa Chapter 0053.

NARFE Information Technology Advisory Committee (NIAC)

*(Editor's Note. This article appeared in the Maryland Federation Newsletter and I received permission to reprint here. The matters covered here are very important for the sustainability of NARFE. Thanks to **Ted Jensen**, MD Federation President for sharing this article.)*

By: Patrick Dempsey

NIAC Committee Member
MD Federation

A few weeks before I retired last December I received an email from Ted Jensen. Ted indicated he needed me for a "special mission". The mission turned out to something called the NARFE Information Technology Advisory Committee (NIAC). I had intended to join NARFE when I retired (I now know it is not just for retired Feds) and NIAC seemed a lot like my old job. So a few weeks after I retired I was attending my first meeting. The committee is chaired by **Charlie Pratt**. **Charlie** maintains a very robust web site for the North Carolina federation. The other members are **Bob Drake** and **Bill Leatham**. **Bob** has had a lot of experience at the chapter level in Virginia was a Chief Information Officer in the Dept. of Defense. **Bill Leatham** is from the Florida federation and has financial systems expertise. I had no NARFE experience but I had experience running large systems projects.

We presented our findings and recommendations at the July National Executive Board (NEB) meeting in Reno. The recommendations fell into short term and long term proposals. This article covers some of the near term recommendations. The group thought our short term recommendations should focus on membership retention and recruitment since this is NARFE's most critical problem. We also made our proposals as easy to implement as possible with the least impact upon existing systems. The near term recommendations below were mentioned during the presentation. They are meant to be fairly low cost changes with immediate benefits for chapters and federations.

1. NARFE Officer Roster process (F7) needs to be fixed to enable effective NARFE-wide communications

2. Regions, federations & chapters need simpler and better organized monthly data (M-112)
3. Membership data (M-114) needs to be available on-line
4. NARFE needs an Internet Usability Methodology
5. Regions, federations, and chapters need to get to their data on the national website with a maximum of three "clicks"
6. E-mail address coverage needs to be increased from 20%
7. NARFE needs a Configuration Management Board to represent all Regions and manage future systems improvements
8. NARFE needs to make more use of IT collaboration tools (HQ, Region, Federations) to reduce travel costs

The first three items involve the same basic idea. NARFE needs to move from printed reports to online data. The processes to-day are based upon periodic reports. As an example, a chapter officer needs to contact people who have allowed their membership to lapse. The officer needs to look through a potentially large report that contains a lot of information not needed to call lapsed members. Also, the monthly may be out of date by the time the calls are made. Our recommendation is that NARFE provide online reports that are geared toward specific functions. For the person who wants to contact lapsed members, there needs to be a report that shows only those people who need to be contacted. Some federations and chapters have downloaded and manipulated the information in the monthly reports to do this already. Implementation at the national level would make this extra work unnecessary and would mean that the information would be timely. People who renewed their membership after the monthly report was printed would not show up on the online report. We understand that this will not mean that the monthly reports will go away any time soon. Some people prefer those reports or use that data for local systems.

Today NARFE does not have a large number of email addresses for the membership. Increasing the number of email addresses would

help reduce mailing costs as well as improving communications.

The next major recommendation is that the new processes are developed with something called a Usability Methodology. This means is that people who write the software (developers) need to talk to the people who will be using the system (users). In the case of NARFE we think that the developers need to talk to the users who are the least comfortable with computers. If some-one with limited confidence can use the report then it will be usable by almost everyone. The idea is to make systems easy to use. This is something that sounds simple but requires discipline to do. How many of us eat at three balanced meals per day and get a reasonable amount of exercise per week?

We think the national web site can be improved. This is a moving target to some extent. We discussed some recommendations that were implemented by the HQ systems team before we had a chance to propose them. However, we think that more work can be done. We also think that this is an area where the "Usability" idea can help. For example, HQ staff would ask some typical members to find information or to perform tasks using the web site. If they have trouble then the site may need to be changed to make it easier to use.

As NARFE moves forward on the new processes we recommend that a Configuration Management Board (CMB) be established to guide the process. A CMB can do several things. It will allow for a systems planning process that is transparent. As an example: If someone from a federation makes a suggestion then it will be tracked and the final decision documented. Today suggestions are considered, but the person who made the suggestion may or may not be told what happened to it. It will also provide an opportunity for a larger number of members to have input into the process, either directly or by contacting their representatives. Again, the people who use the systems will have more involvement in the process. Perhaps most importantly, a CMB) would provide some long term continuity to the Information Technology (IT) process. Systems development is a long-term process that should stay on track as new National officers come and go.

Our Committee did most of its business online. I had participated in online meetings a few times but had never relied on them as the primary way to conduct business. For those of you have not done this before it is rather simple. I had to download an application one time. To attend a meeting I just started the application and entered the meeting number. My laptop has a built in microphone and speaker so I didn't even need to use a headset. I could see what the meeting leader had on his screen and we could all talk to each other. **Charlie Pratt** had an account with GoToMeeting.com so we used that service. We think online collaboration tools are the way of the future. They will never completely replace face to face meetings but they can replace most of them. The big advantage in online meetings is the savings in money and travel time. For about \$50 per month our Committee could meet every day.

We know that the report, as any IT related report, has some limitations. These reflect the dynamic nature of NARFE and the IT world. While the NIAC committee was meeting during the year there was a lot of activity throughout NARFE. We focused on the situation that existed in January 2011. As stated earlier, we made recommendations in the report that were already being implemented by July. Also, any long term recommendation involving technology must be reconsidered periodically. Even after one year, which is a reasonable timeframe for implementing the near term recommendations, NARFE will need to look at the longer term recommendations again. This is why our Committee strongly recommended that the NEB establish a Configuration Management Board. The CMB can continually reevaluate the IT situation and guide NARFE for years to come to keep systems user friendly and take advantage of new technology in a cost effective manner.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT I LOVED MY JOB!



By **Andy Morgen**
CSFC Immediate Past
President

I loved my job with the federal government! I love my federal retirement even more! I love the fact that I must continually confront my

former employer to prevent shrinkage of my promised and earned annuity and health benefits. I also love the fact there is an organization, NARFE, that I could join that helps me do that along with others.

The federal government is the only entity that can legally breach their contracts with their employees, such as reducing Social Security annuities (GPO/WEP) and increasing their share of Health Plan premiums, or reducing or delaying COLAs when they retire. Now ain't that special? When will it stop?

There are millions of federal retirees who are not even aware of what is happening to them, or what may happen to their future income. There are just as many federal employees and retirees who are not even aware of NARFE and what it has done and what it is doing for them, and they don't have to pay a cent for this.

Unless we get this message loud and clear to our chapter members, we will sink like the Titanic. The end of 2011 will tell how hard we have been hit by Congress when the Debt Super Committee makes their recommendations, and legislation kicks in to further sour our retirements and working conditions.

It is time to mobilize our troops into action. This is WAR! We are mad as hell, and we won't take it anymore! We must continue to pound on our federal government in order for them to see the light, and maybe they just will. This is what we should be telling all of our chapter members.

Viva la NARFE!

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, NARFE GETS TOGETHER!

By: **Andy Morgen**

Immediate Past President

Anyone who followed the negotiations involving the debt ceiling last summer could see how the various factions dealt with each other to get the other side to give in to their positions. Some say that sometimes the parties acted childish and intransigent. Others say they held firm in their convictions, as that is why they were sent to Washington, to get it to mend their wasteful practices. Fortunately, there was an 11th hour agreement that postponed the hard decisions that eventually will need to be made to put our national treasury on a positive footing. And after it was

over, federal employees and retirees came out of it essentially unscathed for now.

But the overall threat has NOT disappeared. Federal civilian retirement and health benefits continue to be vulnerable because the new law created a bipartisan "Super Committee" of Congress with a mandate to cut spending by an additional \$1.5 trillion before the end of this year.

NARFE President **Joe Beaudoin** said: "Federal employees and annuitants have been given a reprieve in the debt-limit deal. This, in large part, is due to the success of NARFE's advocacy and communications campaign, 'Protect America's Heartbeat.' "NARFE members made some 25,000 phone calls and sent over 215,000 e-mail messages to their legislators. These contacts, along with the face-to-face meetings they conducted with lawmakers and letters to the editor they submitted to their local newspapers, were key to this victory."

California NARFE members outdistanced every federation by placing 2288 phone calls to their legislators. Through the efforts of our NARFE national and federation leaders, including our federation National Legislative Chair, **Ellen Rafferty**, the word was passed on, and responded to, as no other call in action has in the past. NARFE got tougher when the going got tough. We can all pitch in when our earned benefits are threatened.

But we cannot let down now. We need to keep the pressure on our legislators. We need to let them know we have shared the sacrifices, and now it is time for others to share theirs. We need to keep up the momentum. One way is to visit every Congressional Legislator's District office every month, at least until the heat is off. We need to let them know we are still around, and we want a fair shake in their dealings.

We can pat ourselves on the back for ramping up the interest in congressional threats to our active and retired federal employees. Let's review our communication systems to see if we can improve them for the next time we have to respond to a crisis. This should also be a good time for recruiting new members who feel threatened by Washington. You may rest assured; your NARFE leaders will be exceptionally alert during this assault on our benefits.

2011 NARFE SCHLORSHIP WINNERS REGION VIII

Ryan Lippert

Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Loyola Marymount University
Sponsor: **William Lippert**, father
Chapter 465 – CA

Kristine Rezai

Huntington Beach, CA 92646
Univ. of California Berkeley
Sponsor: **Patricia Watts**, grandmother
Chapter 1266 – CA

Rachael Schelley

Escondido, CA 90804
CA Polytechnic State Univ.
Sponsor: **Mae Schelley**, grandmother
Chapter 1945 – CA

Michael Schmidt

Long Beach, CA 90804
Franciscan University
Sponsor: **Frances Schmidt**, grandmother
Chapter 970 – CA

Tyler Seppala

Las Vegas, NV 89149
Illinois Institute of Technology
Sponsor: **Peter Mueller**, stepfather
Chapter 423 – NV

David Vawter

Long Beach, CA 90808
Univ. of California Los Angeles
Sponsor: **Lillian Petti**, grandmother
Chapter 2025 - CA

CHAPTER CHATTER

Editor's Note: This is the place in each issue of the "Voice of the Federation" that we will print articles on Chapters that are taking unique actions to improve NARFE. Please submit your articles to me by the 15th of December, March, June, and September. We will do our best to publish this good news.)

DIAMOND MOUNTAIN

CHAPTER #2267

"Going the Extra Mile for a Meeting"



L-R: **Yolanda Duron**, President; **Carol Hamlin**, Secretary; and **Michael Osburn**, Vice President., Diamond Mountain Chapter #2267.

Recently the Diamond Mountain Chapter gained the members of Alturas Chapter #2301 which had been closed.

The Executive Board of Diamond Mountain felt it was important to get the members from Alturas involved in a Chapter meeting. They contacted all the Alturas members, set a meeting date for the meeting and successfully held the meeting in Alturas.

Oh! I might mention that Alturas is 110 miles from Susanville where Chapter 2267 usually meets. What a great effort to get members involved. **Karen Baird** and **H. Ray Harrington**, also, attended the meeting for moral support.

SENIOR ROUNDTABLE MEETING



L-R: **Gary Passmore**, Executive Director, Congress of California Seniors; **Margaret Reilly**, Program Manager, HICAP Services of Northern California; **Beth Abbott**, Policy Director, Health Access; **Bill Powers**, California Alliance for Retired Americans; **Deana Lea**, Executive Director, Area 4 Agency on aging; **Peter D'Anna**, Area Representative, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare; **Doris Matsui**, Congresswoman CA-5; **Margie Metzler**, Convener, Sacramento Gray Panthers, Older Women's League; **John Joseph**, Volunteer, AARP Capitol Action Team; **Steve Almy**; NARFE.

HEALTH FAIRS

By: Dottie Schmidt
CA Federation President

FEHBP Open Season is just around the corner, **November 14 – December 12**. Beginning the end of October and continuing into the first part of December, many federal agencies throughout the state will be holding health fairs, whereby health insurance representatives relate changes and new options to their health plans. With the support of the FEHBP health plan representatives, NARFE members have been fortunate to receive permission from many federal agencies to staff tables and distribute NARFE magazines and brochures during the fairs.

Federation Executive Vice President **Dee Shallenberger**, who is also the Federation Standing Membership Committee Chair, has received schedules for the health fairs throughout the state and has forwarded them on to the District Vice Presidents to coordinate health fair participation within their areas.

Staffing tables at the health fairs offers great public relations and recruiting opportunities in meeting the many federal employees who are there to talk with the health insurance representatives. If your DVP has received permission to participate in a health fair at an agency near you, please offer to help in staffing a table and distributing NARFE materials. It's usually only a couple of hours and the result could be recruiting new NARFE members for your chapter. **Participate and recruit!**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article	Page
National Call Congress Day-	1
President's Message	2, 3, 4
Delivering Letters to Congressman Becerra	4
Region VIII Vice President Report	4, 5
CSFC National Legislative Committee	5, 6
August Advocacy Month Pictures	7, 8, 9
FEHBP Open Season Information	9
District III Report	10
District V Report	10, 11
District VI Report	11
District X Report	12
Public Relations Committee Report	12, 13
Alzheimer's Committee Report	13, 14
Memory Walk Photos	14,
Today's Task "Write Your Obituary"	14, 15
CSFC Secretary Report	15, 16
Combined Federal Campaign	16
Rohnert Park CFC – Photo	16
NARFE NIAC	17, 18
IPP "I Loved My Job"	18, 19
IPP "When the Going Gets Tough, NARFE Gets Together"	19
2011 Region VIII Scholarship Winners	20
Chapter Chatter- Diamond Mountain #2267	20
Senior Roundtable in Sacramento-Photo	20
Health Fairs	21
In Memoriam-George F. Roy	21

IN MEMORIAM

George Francis Roy

October 2, 1925-August 16, 2011

Born in Boston, MA. Served in US Navy 1943-1946; US Air Force 1950-1954; Two Purple Hearts 55 Combat Missions. Started working at Long Beach Naval Shipyard in 1946 retired in 1983.

Member of Long Beach Chapter #0021. Held many chapter offices including President. Served as CSFC District II Vice President and served on CSFC Standing and CSFC Convention Committees.

Member of Military Order of Purple Heart; DAV; Korean War Veterans; AMVETS; and The Chosin Few, and a volunteer at Long Beach Veterans Hospital in helping Veterans and families in filing claims,

He had a great sense of humor and always left people laughing. George is survived by his wife of 42 years, Teruko; three daughters; eleven grandchildren and two great grand children.