



# NARFE

February 2009  
Vol. 56 No. 2

## Mt. Diablo Chapter 531



### Concord, CA

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

## **Chapter Chatter** — The Monthly NARFE Chapter Newsletter

### **CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING — 28 FEBRUARY 2009 @ 11:30**

**Dragon 2000 Restaurant,**

**1651 Bothelho Dr. (Palm Court Shopping Center) Walnut Creek**

Join your friends and fellow chapter members for a delicious seven-course Chinese luncheon. Bothelho Dr. is just off California Blvd—very easy to locate. There is free parking at the restaurant or several parking garages nearby. Bring your family and guests, all are welcome. For reservations at \$13 per person please use the coupon at the bottom of this page and send to June Zaloumis by Monday, February 16.

Our speaker is Ms. Ruth Gay, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy of Lafayette for the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Nevada. She has worked for Alzheimer's for over 20 years including 8 years at the UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center coordinating clinical drug trials. Her topic is "The Climate of Change" to inform us of what is being done at State & National levels to change the course of Alzheimer's in the future. Budget and training will be addressed.

### **CONVENTION NEWS: Paul Andrews**

### **THE CONVENTION IS COMING!!!**

On May 1-3 our Chapter hosts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial California Federation Convention at the Concord Hilton Hotel. This is our third State Convention since 1991 and we expect it to be the best and most entertaining to date.

All chapter members are encouraged to attend and/or to volunteer to help at the Convention. Please consider being an official Chapter delegate. We are allowed 27 delegates who represent our Chapter in the official Conference business sessions. If you are a delegate, the Chapter will pay for your registration fee and the cost of the Recognition lunch and the Banquet. If you don't want to sit through all the business sessions but only attend some sessions, you can come as an alternate delegate and the Chapter will pick up your registration fee. Just let me or any Chapter Officer know of your interest in volunteering to be a delegate, alternate delegate, or just to help out during the convention. Come join us at the Concord Hilton on May 1-3 and celebrate 60 years of NARFE service to its members in California.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Herb Roth**

As we begin the second month of the New Year change begins to take place all around us. Those of us who are fortunate to live in California, espe-

cially in the Bay Area, see the beginning of spring. We have been lulled into spring, seeing the beautiful blue sky, green grass, and even a few buds on our trees.

We also have change in our Country; the inauguration of our new President has just taken place in our Nation's Capitol. One of his strongest messages is service. I worked as a Government Employee in an agency that had service in its title. I feel that as your Chapter President, to a certain extent, I am continuing a form of service. I believe those of us who chose to be members of NARFE are also continuing a form of service by trying to oversee the continuation of our benefits. This includes all dues paying members, whether you are a chapter officer or a member who occasionally comes to a meeting.

I was reminded the other day that we, as a grass roots organization, operate from the bottom up. It is very important for members to participate and when we see a meeting room full of NARFE members it is extremely heartwarming to your board and committee chairs. I recently reviewed the minutes of the California State Federation of Chapters of NARFE and was saddened to read that there are chapters in our State that are closing. One of the reasons is that no one will accept or take a position on their respective boards.

Fortunately, Chapter 531 is starting the year with some potential leaders on the Executive Board. We are in good working order. My greatest wish at this time is for more participation at our meetings. We need your support, and presence at meetings

### **Luncheon - Dragon 2000 Restaurant — February 23, 2009 @ 11:30**

Send reservations to June Zaloumis at 1588 Schenone Ct #B, Concord CA 94521

Any questions, please phone June at 676-6759. ***Deadline for Reservations is 16 February.***

Enclosed is my check (payable to **Mt. Diablo Chapter 531**) in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at \$13 each for the 23 February luncheon at Dragon 2000 Restaurant.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**ALZHEIMER'S DONATION FUND 2009**

Amount of Donation \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make check out to NARFE Chapter 531)  
Funds are for the use of (Please Check One) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Local Support Groups or  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ NARFE Headquarters Research Fund  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to our Chapter Treasurer: 50 Picardy Ct, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-3110**

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
( Please cut off this coupon and mail with your check for our records)

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON THANKS**

We are grateful to the following for donations of gifts for the raffle at the Holiday party:  
\*Trader Joe's                      \*Starbuck's Coffee  
\*Moresi Chophouse                \*Rocco's Ristorante & Pizzeria  
\*Safeway Stores  
\*Lucky's                                \*many individual Chapter members  
\*Clayton Books  
\*And many thanks to Mildred & Phil Fong for leading us in the sing-a-long.

**MEMBERSHIP Paul Andrews**

December was another bad month for our membership count, capping the worst year in anyone's memory. We gained one new member and had one reinstatement, offset by six deaths and five drops for non-renewal, for a loss in December of nine members and a total loss of fifty six members for 2008. This is a 300% increase over our average loss rate in recent years. A quick analysis shows our drops for the year were normal but our death rate increased.

The major factor, however, is that both National and Chapter recruitment of new members decreased by over 50% from past years. We have requested the State Federation to inquire into the National recruitment issue which accounts for most of our annual recruitment numbers. your Executive Board is reviewing possibilities to invigorate local recruiting efforts. Each Chapter member can help in this effort by just bringing NARFE, and our agenda to protect your benefits, to the attention of your friends and acquaintances who are possible members. Please welcome the following new and reinstated members.

**New Member: Joseph Benton**  
**Reinstatements: Sumalle Selim**  
**In Memory: Ervin Bollinger, Betty Hutchins, Adela Johnston, Flora McHenry, and Virginia Spenst**

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION; Rolland Hamilton**  
Here is something of real import that needs

your help, right now. Several thousand contacts to member of The Congress, House and Senate, just may carry enough influence to get some legislative action to enact Premium Conversion. Federal annuitants and active duty personnel and retirees are denied the benefit of health care coverage costs to be paid with pre-tax funds, as already afforded to those actively employed in civil service and the private sector. Phone toll free **1-866-220-0044**, ask for your Congressman and each of your two Senators by name (or by giving your home zip code), and deliver the following message: **"I ask that you urge the Congressional leadership to include the federal civilian and military Premium Conversion legislation in the stimulus package. In the last Congress this legislation was introduced as HR-1110 and S-773."**

Be ready with the names of your Senators and Representative, or your ZIP Code, which you give to the operator or to the recording if you are calling other than during their office hours. Please do yourself a favor and phone now.

**Mt. Diablo Chapter 531 Officers**  
*President:* Herb Roth, 828-1299  
*Secretary:* Rosemary Bondi, 828-4022  
*Treasurer :* Werner Gumpert, 934-0288  
***Immed. Past President and Membership Chair***  
Paul Andrews, 687-5162  
***1st Vice President:*** Phil Bondi, 828-4022  
***2nd Vice President, & Alzheimer's Coordinator:***  
June Duncan, 228-5036  
***Vice President for Service & NARFE-NET Coordinator:***  
Duane Peterson, 825-2109, duane428@astound.net  
***Parliamentarian, Federal Legislative Chair & PAC Coordinator:*** Rolland Hamilton, 935-0395  
***Program Chair:*** Carole Roth, 828-1299  
***Ways and Means & Sunshine:***  
June Zaloumis, 676-6759  
***Community Relations & Chapter Historian:***  
Joan Byrens, 944-0466  
***Public Relations Chair:*** Fred Mewes, 932-2626  
***Chapter Chatter Editor:***  
Betty & Duane Peterson, 825-2109  
***Sgt at Arms/Set up:*** Phil Waggoner, 228-6637

Time Sensitive Material

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



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