



NARFE

January 2009
Vol. 56 No. 1

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Mt. Diablo Chapter 531



Concord, CA

Chapter Chatter — The Monthly NARFE Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING — 26 JANUARY 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.

Heather Farms Community Center
301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek

Our speaker will be Mr. Jeremy Tendrey from the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) in San Francisco. He will speak to us about what the SEC can and can not do (i.e., they can't tell us what stocks to invest in). He also has information on Scams, especially those aimed toward senior citizens.

We will have coffee, tea and goodies—and getting together with a group of friends and fellow members is a nice way to start the new year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Herb Roth

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Another year is beginning and my first comment on this message is to thank Chapter 531 Membership for selecting yours truly as your Chapter President for another year. If you attended our Holiday Luncheon you witnessed the installation of not only myself but also Phil Bondi as First Vice-President, June Duncan as Second Vice-President, Rosemary Bondi as Secretary, and our faithful Werner Gumpert as Treasurer. With this cast of Officers we should have a very good 2009. We also have numerous members taking on committee chairmanships and we are ready to roll.

I want to thank the outgoing Officers who have served our Chapter faithfully during the past two years. Carole Roth as Secretary, Joan Byrens as First Vice-President, June Zaloumis as Second Vice-President. Also the Past Presidents that attended Executive Board meetings regularly especially Paul Andrews, Fred Mewes, and Rolland Hamilton. Duane and Betty Peterson are always either at the meetings and also busy with Service Officer duties or with providing us with the Chatter. Werner Gumpert (also a Past President) not only serves the Chapter as Treasurer but also serves the California Federation as Treasurer. Fil Fong (also a Past President) and as our District IV Vice-President, Phil Waggoner as Sergeant at Arms plus all the members that help with all the years activities.

For those members that did not attend our Holiday Luncheon I must say you missed one of the best social functions of the year. June Zaloumis and her committee provided us with an excellent party in a warm and welcoming atmosphere at the Oakhurst Country Club. The room was bright and cheerful with a beautiful view and unique table decorations that were made by Hanako Andrews. I found the

meal to be very high quality plus excellent service. We had entertainment by Fil and Mildred Fong plus the drawing of numerous prizes.

For the Installation, our Installing Officer was Helen Zajac accompanied by her husband Lee Zajac. Helen as most of you know is the Regional Vice-President and it was a privilege to have Helen install our Officers and also address our Chapter as a representative of the National Level of NARFE. Helen gave an excellent talk and prepared us for the forthcoming changes in our Government when our newly elected President and Congress take office this month. These are going to be important times for each NARFE Member and their families. Let us remember this throughout the year and resolve to support NARFE and encourage our fellow members to do the same.

A Happy, Prosperous, and Peaceful 2009 to each of you.

SERVICE: Duane Peterson

FEHB "OPEN SEASON" EXTENDED

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has extended the "Open Season" for Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) until Jan 31, 2009. Employees who take advantage of this extended period should be aware that changes made during this period will be effective Jan 1, 2009, just like the regular open season changes. Any medical services after Jan 1, 2009, should be billed to your new plan, if you made an open season change. Your new health plan ID cards will be mailed to you by the plan within 30 days after they receive your new enrollment change from OPM.

If you have questions on the above, please contact me: Duane A. Peterson, NARFE Chapter 0531. I can be reached at (925) 825-2109 or e-mail at <duane428@astound.net>

MEMBERSHIP Paul Andrews

November was a month of sixes.
We had six new members,
six members passed away and
six were dropped for non-renewal of dues.

Since the membership of one of the members who died was transferred to his wife and we had one reinstatement, we had a net loss of four members in the month. This has reduced our number of dues paying members to 674. We also have 70 National only members

Please welcome or welcome back our new or reinstated members.

New Members

James Davis, Gladys Gibson, William Walker, Katherine Crane, Kathryn Hardy and Thomas Lundy

Reinstatements

Gloria Shaw

In Memory

Janith Bleskey, Margaret Duke, Thomas Hart, Sylvia Kucera, Mary Leber-Anderson and Charles Clover

NATIONAL LEGISLATION; Rolland Hamilton

It is an old custom, a tradition probably beginning with the early Pilgrims, that in the late days of November after harvest, Americans consider all the things for which they are Thankful. Did you realize how thankful you must be for the retirement program you have from your marvelous choice of working many years in Federal Service? You worked to earn it, and you paid for it with each pay check.

Each day's news reports more jobs disappearing, more companies in dire straits and even bankruptcy, foreclosures of real estate and particularly homes, among national and world wide economic problems. So far, thankfully, the Federal retirement programs are solid.

There are many reasons to expect current

world difficulties will not reach a comfortable balance for several years, so hang in there until 2010 or 2011, at least.

COLAs (Cost Of Living Adjustments) are in place for payments scheduled for January. And current laws do not allow a decrease in your annuity as a result of negative monthly COLA calculations such as has occurred since October 1st following many months of rapidly rising costs.

Be thankful that you are financially better positioned than so many people are, but remember that laws are made, and laws can be amended. Whether your Congressional representatives were reelected in November elections or if new faces are to be installed in January, NOW would be a good time to write a letter congratulating the people who will be representing you the next two years. Let them know you want to help them represent their constituents.

ALZHEIMERS: June Duncan

There is an excellent article on Alzheimer's on page 26 of the December NARFE magazine. They include a picture of the new 42-cent Alzheimer's Awareness stamp. Using these stamps is a way to show support to those who battle the disease and those who care for them.

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

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