



## Chapter Chatter — The Monthly NARFE Chapter Newsletter

### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING — JULY 28th 2008 @ 2:00 p.m. Heather Farms Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek

Mr. Eric Anderson will talk to us about the *Jeremiah O'Brien* —a World War II Liberty ship in operating condition. It was taken from the Mothball Fleet and reconditioned by volunteers. It sailed to Europe for D Day 50th year celebrations and is now berthed at Pier 45 in San Francisco and maintained by volunteers. Tours of the ship are available at the pier (and cruises on a limited basis).

Come early to enjoy refreshments and socialize. Bring a neighbor or friend. There is ample free parking.

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

At our Membership Meeting of June 23rd, I mentioned the "behind the scenes activities" that take place in our Chapter. Things do not just happen, it takes effort and a considerable amount of time for those members involved. I mentioned this as I presented Duane Peterson the award for his constant and dedicated performance as our Chapter Service Officer. Duane has been at this job on almost a daily basis for more years than I can remember. Fortunately, he now has a capable assistant, Richard Tsjuj who has recently volunteered.

It is mid-year and I feel accolades should be sent to other members as well. As I mentioned in our earlier issues of the Chatter, Phil Waggoner volunteered to be our new Sergeant-at-arms. At our meeting of the 23rd Phil appeared with beautiful (Redwood) stands for the American Flag and our Chapter Banner, the other stands were lost somewhere between the passing of Art Carter and Phil's arrival. Good Job Phil.

We also receive support from outside of our membership as well as our hard working members. Monthly the Executive Board meets to make many decisions that carry us through

the year. We meet at the Chalet on Pleasant Hill Road which is an exceptionally fine facility. The Chalet not only makes a meeting room available but also provides us with coffee and a snack. We have been meeting there as long as I have been on the board and at no charge to our Chapter. I personally feel that an organization such as the Chalet should be well publicized and the membership should be aware of their service to the community and especially to our Chapter.

These are just several of the behind the scenes activities. Every Board Member has a specific project or projects. Alzheimer fund raising and awareness, Treasurer, Convention planning, Group Outings, Speakers panel, the Chatter, Secretary, plus those working for our District and the California Federation. But most of all I want to thank all of you that attend the meetings. I see many of the same people at each meeting and your participation and support is extremely important.

#### **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**



#### **CHAPTER SPONSORED TRIP: Joan Byrens**

Come join us for a mini-vacation; a two-hour historic Bay cruise on President Roosevelt's "Floating White House", the Presidential Yacht Potomac, on Thursday, August 21.

The Potomac is berthed at Jack London Square in Oakland. We will meet at the Potomac Association Office at 540 Water Street on the Oakland waterfront at 10:15 A.M. We will see a short video there and collect our boarding passes. Boarding will begin at 10:45 and departure will be promptly at 11:00. The Potomac will take us to San Francisco, cruising past Treasure Island and Angel Island, out to the Golden Gate Bridge and along the San Francisco waterfront. The exact itinerary, however, will depend on the weather. Docents will be aboard to give us tours of the ship and to answer any questions we may have. Complementary hot and cold beverages will be provided. The Potomac will return to Jack London Square at approximately 1:00 P.M. We encourage you to make it a day and enjoy the many shops and restaurants at Jack London Square after the cruise.

#### Other details:

Cost: \$35. Reservations must be received by August 4. Please use the coupon provided. Send reservations to Werner Gumpert as indicated on the coupon.

Parking is plentiful at Jack London Square. One of the parking garages is directly behind the Potomac Association office.

Driving directions are available from Joan Byrens (944-0466) and will be available at the July chapter meeting.

Handicapped Accessibility is available. Wheelchairs up to 24 inches are accommodated in accessing the ship. Persons with limited mobility can walk onto the ship and enjoy the cruise from the middle deck.

Warm, layered clothing and flat shoes with non-skid soles are advised.



#### **RESERVATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL YACHT POTOMAC**

**August 21, 2008 from 10:15—1: 00**

Please make checks out to NARFE Chapter 531 and send (with this coupon) to our Treasurer, Mr. Werner Gumpert, 50 Picardy Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94597-3110. For information about the trip, call Joan Byrens at 944-0466. **The deadline for reservations or refunds is 4 August 2008**

A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at \$35.00 each is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION: Rolland Hamilton**

Caution Advised ! Things will likely get worse before they get better. Many members of NARFE will recall circumstances, or at least know from history, the Depression years of 1929 and the early 1930s A lot of worrisome problems seem to be appearing in 2008.

- In the Midwest, the "bread basket", the small grain harvest (wheat, oats, rye, barley, etc.) normally begins in early June in Texas gradually working northward until the crops in Minnesota are in by mid-July. This year the weather has utterly destroyed much of the harvest by rains and floods, a shortage which is sure to raise prices of food throughout the economy.
- The auto industry, perhaps the backbone of USA production, reports severe declines in sales.
- California is the ninth largest economy in the world of States and Nations and is reporting huge increases in unemployment; over 18,000 jobs in the past twelve months— just in the East Bay where you live over 12,000 jobs have disappeared, heavily in the construction and financial services industries
- Real Estate sales of homes in Southern California are reported as a 27% price drop.
- You well know first hand that fuel for your vehicle and to transport foods and goods to market is approaching \$5.00 per gallon.
- Some Food processors are reducing the amount of product in each package rather than increase the price per package.

November, only about four months away, will see elections by the People in most levels of government. Across the Nation 435 Representatives and about a third of the 100 Senators will be elected, as well as a new President and Vice President . No matter what campaign "promises" may be made, none of the elected can unilaterally deliver without majority support. YOU can make a difference by registering and voting intelligently in the election. Between now and Election Day you can study the issues and the candidates and campaign for those most likely to improve the current situations.

Contributing to NARFE-PAC is one of the ways you can legally influence legislative actions. A contribution of at least \$20 by a member of NARFE will get you a pin to show you have supported the efforts. NARFE-PAC is discussed in every issue of

NARFE Magazine, with instructions to mail your contribution, or you may bring your check to your next chapter meeting and receive your pin "now". .

The Cost of Living Adjustment statistic (CPI-W) through May will require 4.5% increase in December for most Federal Civil Service Retirees, Military Retirees, Social Security Retirees, etc. FECA Retirees (work related injuries or illness) are looking for 3.4% increase.

Look in your July issue, pages 16 and 17, of NARFE Magazine for current info of the Social Security offsets

**MEMBERSHIP: Paul Andrews**

Please welcome the following new members and remember fondly those who have gone ahead of us.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Craig Kauffman, Timothy Shindelus, Eileen Alfonsi and Isaac Aronow

**IN MEMORY:** Therese Amidon, Robert Barrett, May Conner and Constance McVey

**ALZHEIMERS: June Duncan**

Congratulations and thank you! Chapter members sent in \$650 in June 08 in response to the matching fund offer in the June *Chapter Chatter*. This will be matched by Kindred Health-care—resulting in \$1300 for Alzheimer research and care.

**DISTRICT WIDE NARFE PICNIC: Fil Fong**

YOU ALL COME AND MEET YOUR DISTRICT RELATIVES: Mt. Diablo Chapter is one of ten chapters in District IV of the California State Federation of Chapters. There will be a District IV BBQ/Picnic to be held for the purpose to get together, meet each other and share our NARFE experiences. There will be food, drinks, games and maybe even a sing-along. You come! You hear!

**What:** District IV BBQ/Picnic

**Where:** Antioch Community Park, Antioch. (From Highway 4 go south on Lone Tree Road for 2 mi. Take a right onto Donlon Blvd for 1 mile. Turn left into the Antioch Community Park.)

**When:** Saturday, August 16, 2008 (Saturday was selected to encourage the attendance of Current Federal Employees and your family members)

**Time:** 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**How:** Notify President Herb Roth, by postal mail, v-mail, airmail, email, telephone or whatever that you and how many in your group will be going to the picnic. We need this information to know how much food

Time Sensitive Material

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



Walnut Creek, CA 94597-3110

50 Picardy Ct.

Chapter 531

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