



Chapter Chatter — The Monthly NARFE Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING — MONDAY 23 MARCH 2009 @ 2:00 pm

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

Our speaker is Harvey Brosler (a Chapter 531 member) who retired from the U.S. Department of Energy after 32 years of federal service. He has spoken to us once before.

His topic this time will be "Some Practical Considerations Concerning Stroke, Diabetes, and Heart Disease." One of Harvey's volunteer activities for the past three years is as the Publicity and Outreach Coordinator for the Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County.

Come out and get some good information. There is ample free parking at Heather Farms. We will have coffee, tea and goodies before and after the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Herb Roth

MEMBERSHIP is the key word in this month's President's Message. Paul Andrews, our current membership Chairperson, has been working diligently to keep our Chapter's membership at the highest level possible. You have read his messages in the Chatter and heard his reports at our Chapter Meetings. Beside all of these duties Paul is Chairing our 2009 Convention Host Committee

This responsibility should not fall on the shoulders of one person. If we want a Chapter with a full, active membership it should be our responsibility not just Paul's. This past year has been somewhat of a disaster in regards to maintaining membership, not only in our Chapter but Nationally as well.

We can identify numerous reasons for this:

1) an aging population that is evident throughout our NARFE membership, 2) closing of military installations, especially in the Bay Area, 3) contracting out of federal jobs, and 4) maybe we're not having contact with recent retirees. However, in reality, there are still many retirees from a multitude of agencies that are prospective NARFE Members,—including spouses of retirees.

Fortunately we have members that come through with good ideas. This is our grass roots part of the organization at work. I received a telephone call from Fred Mewes suggesting that our membership can do something about this situation. Fred suggested that we start a program whereby every member attempts to contact a former employee of the agency we retired from. If they are not current NARFE members, encourage them to join.

I found this to be the kind of idea that will work if we can convey the importance of the message to our membership. Once we identify the prospective member we can encourage them to join and participate. We can invite them to a meeting and accompany them to the meeting for an introduction.

Once we invite them and hopefully they join, then it is important to open ourselves to each new member and give them a feeling of welcome. I believe this is worth a try — and thank you Fred Mewes.

THE CONVENTION IS COMING!!

* On May 1-3 our Chapter hosts the California Federation Convention at the Concord Hilton Hotel. Chapters from all over California are coming—and just think! — you can attend in your own back yard!

* The Convention will be called to order at noon on Friday, 1 May, with sessions continuing Saturday and Sunday. Not all will be business—music, entertainment, and fun is planned.

**CALL PAUL ANDREWS (687-5162)
OR ANY CHAPTER OFFICER IF
YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AT-
TENDING.**

* If you sign up to be a Delegate from our Chapter your registration fee, lunch on Saturday and dinner on Sunday are paid from Chapter funds.

* If you just want to sample what is going on you can come as a visitor and attend as much as you have time for.

* As Host Chapter there are many details to take care of leading up to, and during, the Convention. If you have a few hours to spare, we'll find a job for you.

MEMBERSHIP: Paul Andrews

By the time you get to this page you have, hopefully, read Herb's take on "the power of one" in his column on page 1.

2008 was a coming to reality year for us. While almost all NARFE Chapters have had major membership declines in the last decade, our chapter's losses were minimal until last year. There are lots of theories and explanations as to why this membership decline is happening, but few, if any, workable solutions to stop it. In the end, it comes down to each of us to act to preserve this organization if we want it to continue.

With the national economic meltdown underway, I have no doubt we will need NARFE more in the coming years than we ever have. It's up to us, each of us individually, to see that NARFE continues

As Herb notes, we all know many potential NARFE recruits from our past work and current retiree friends. If just 5% of us had recruited one new member last year, we would have had a small membership gain, rather than a big loss. Lay down this news letter and pick up the phone and contact "your one" now. Then contact a few more. Bring "your one" (or "two" or "three") home in 2009.

New Members

Tom Danielson and Maryann Sheridan

Reinstatements

Seymour Block, Janet Dwight, David Klement and Fred Lopez

In Memory

Robert Ness, Judith Newman and Stanton Pieratt

NARFE-NET COORDINATOR: Duane Peterson

Are you a CYBER Senior?

HQ NARFE has developed GEMS, a way to get info to members by e-mail. **This system is free** and accurate (not having passed through many hands). Just let NARFE Headquarters know you are interested and provide your e-mail address. Usually when Congress is in session, weekly GEMS messages are sent to provide an update on activities in the Congress. Because of the many items being considered in Congress currently this is a valuable information source.

At the present time only about 10% of our members have registered their e-mail addresses with NARFE. As Coordinator I would encourage any e-mail user to send me an e-mail (duane428@astound.net) and I'll enroll you or update your e-mail address with GEMS.

If you're not a computer user—a weekly legislative message is available at 1-877-217-8234 (toll free).

NATIONAL LEGISLATION: Rolland Hamilton

Requests by NARFE members to include in the economic recovery/stimulus legislation correction for ineq-

uities in Premium Conversion (to allow payments for health insurance with pre-tax dollars) was not successful. 3,608 NARFE activists sent 10,589 e-mail messages to Representatives and Senators. Efforts by NARFE will continue to push for legislation to correct this unfair situation which would save you about \$400 or \$800 yearly.

ALZHEIMER'S: June Duncan

NARFE Headquarters is heavily involved in funding promising Alzheimer's research. YOU and ALL NARFE MEMBERS across the U.S. together have donated \$7,757,449 as of December 31, 2008.

In addition, our chapter donates a portion of money contributed to local Alzheimer's Care Facilities. For 2008, checks were sent to:

- 1) \$265 to Contra Costa County Jewish Community Center, Walnut Creek
- 2) \$265 to Lamorinda Adult Day Care, Orinda
- 3) \$375 to Mt. Diablo Day Care & Respite, Pleasant Hill

Also we participated in three special drives in 2008, from which money went directly to the National Alzheimer Organization.

- 1) \$550—Memory Walk on Treasure Island in Oct
- 2) \$1400—\$700 from members special drive, matched by \$700 from Kindercare Healthcare
- 3) \$100—Alzheimer Rally at Sacramento, State Capital Building

TOTAL FOR YEAR \$2,955

On behalf of families living with Alzheimer's disease, thanks for your generosity and support.

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:

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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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Chapter 531

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