



# **NARFE NEWSLETTER**

## **PETALUMA CHAPTER 1077**

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

**May - June 2010**

### **MAY MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2010**

**1:30 PM**

**VALLEY ORCHARDS (Banquet Room)  
2100 E. WASHINGTON ST, PETALUMA**

### **JUNE MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 9, 2010**

**12 NOON**

**BOULEVARD CAFE  
1096 Petaluma Blvd North, Petaluma  
(Across from Police Station)  
Cost: Food you order plus 15% Tip**

**NOTE: There will be no Petaluma NARFE meetings or Newsletter for July and August.**

### **SUMMARY OF MARCH 10 MEETING**

**By Charlotte Merry**

Petaluma Chapter 1077, NARFE, met at 12 noon for a luncheon meeting at Mary's Pizza Shack in Petaluma. No formal business was conducted. The Chapter welcomed **Dan and Joyce Sunia**. Dan's membership is being transferred from the Santa Rosa NARFE chapter. **Joyce Sunia** is renewing her membership in NARFE and will become our new Secretary. Sixteen members and guests were present.

### **SUMMARY OF APRIL 14 MEETING**

**By Joyce Sunia**

Petaluma Chapter 1077, NARFE, met at 1:30pm at Valley Orchards, President **Darold Graves** presiding. The pledge to the flag was led by President Graves. The minutes were read from the March 10 meeting. Treasurer **John Rapa** reported a treasury balance of \$1,397.04 as of April 1, 2010. A summary of the April 8 District VII meeting was given; see the next page for details. Twelve members were present.

### **VALLEJO CHAPTER LUNCHEON, MAY 11**

**By Darold Graves**

The Vallejo Chapter is having a luncheon meeting at **11:00 AM on Tuesday, May 11 at the Mare Island Historic Park Museum**. The luncheon cost is \$14.00 for a complete chicken dinner with dessert. Also included is a visit to the museum containing hundreds of Naval Artifacts. Attendance is open to all members. **To make a reservation**, please call **Claudia Gardner at 707-747-6122 by Tuesday, May 4**. You can send your check to her at **147 Dartmouth Place, Benicia, 94510** or pay at the door. Please make check payable to **Vallejo Chapter 16**. (See last page of Newsletter for map and directions.)

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**STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE, MAY 8**  
**By Ken Phillippi**

The **Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive** is sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and supported by NARFE. To donate, please **leave non-perishable food items by your mailbox** for your USPS mail carrier to pick up **on Saturday, May 8, 2010**. **Your participation is requested.**

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
**By Ken Phillippi**

During the first session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, NARFE led the charge to defeat an amendment that would have cost civil service retirees \$10 billion in retirement and health benefits.

“**Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty!**” These words penned by **Thomas Paine** during the Revolutionary War are no less true today. It seems as if every week someone in Congress introduces a bill which negatively affects retirees. Case in point, **HR 4529, the so-called “Roadmap For America’s Future”**, which is nothing more than another blatant attempt to tie social security to the stock market. Given the debacle of Wall Street in 2008, this could become a huge disaster. It is imperative to **contact your representatives in Congress and voice your opposition to this bill**. Now is a good time to **support NARFE-PAC**. Please use the coupon found in every issue of NARFE magazine.

**CONTACTS FOR CONGRESS:**

**Senator Barbara Boxer**,  
1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240,  
San Francisco, CA 94111, (415) 403-0100  
Fax (202) 224-0454  
Web Site: [boxer.senate.gov](http://boxer.senate.gov)

**Senator Dianne Feinstein**,  
One Post Street, Suite 2450,  
San Francisco, CA 94104, (415) 393-0707  
Fax (415) 393-0710  
Web Site: [feinstein.senate.gov](http://feinstein.senate.gov)

**Representative Lynn Woolsey**,  
1101 College Avenue, Suite 200,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404, (707) 542-7182  
Fax (707) 542-2745  
Web Site: [woolsey.house.gov](http://woolsey.house.gov)

**NARFE Toll Free Number to Contact Federal Legislators: 1-866-220-0044** (Give operator the Senator’s or Representative’s name, then leave your message with the aide who answers the phone.)

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
**By Charlotte Merry**

**New Members: Robert Garrison, Oscar McGregor, Dan Sunia, Joyce Sunia.**

**In Memoriam:** The following NARFE member passed away recently:

**Arthur Hagopian** (3/14/10)  
We extend our condolences to his family.

**NOTES FROM DISTRICT VII MEETING**  
**By Darold Graves and Joyce Sunia**

**Discussions:** The April 8th District VII meeting (see presidents photo on next page) had several interesting discussions. A representative from Kaiser Permanente Health Plan, **Joanne C. Haggerty**, spoke on Senior Advantage. A packet was passed out explaining Medicare and Kaiser.

Representative **Lynn Woolsey’s** staff assistant, **Niall Roberts**, gave a good presentation on premium conversion (HR 1203) which would allow federal civilian and military retirees to pay health premiums on a pre-tax basis. He also discussed how to communicate with members of Congress, and on “Feds Exempt from Health Tax Until 2018”, an article in the March 2010 NARFE magazine.

**Hotline:** A weekly NARFE legislative message is available to telephone callers (toll free at 1-877-217-8234). It is also posted on NARFE’s Internet site ([www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)), made available to NARFE-Net Coordinators, and sent to over 53,000 GEMS e-mail addresses.

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**How to Increase Membership:** Suggestions were made at the meeting to have a raffle or get on Facebook or Twitter as methods of increasing membership. Always carry a NARFE application in your car to pass out. If you have other ideas on how to increase membership or meeting attendance, please let us know.

**Best of the Web:** Congressional Quarterly and Roll Call have formed the CQ-Roll Call Group. Much of the policy and politics content they sell to deep-pocketed organizations around Washington is available for free on their web site, [www.CQpolitics.com](http://www.CQpolitics.com). To get daily updates from CQ-Roll Call by e-mail, sign up or view a sample at <http://corporate.cq.com/wmspage.cfm?parm1=237>

**Health Care Reform:** There is much confusion about what is in the new law, and even more about what it means. eHealthinsurance, the largest online health insurance broker, has been inundated with calls from customers wanting to know where they sign up for their free health care insurance. Not only is the insurance not free, most of the insurance reforms and benefits do not start until 2014. Other important provisions, many of them tax related, may start very soon, while others will be delayed until 2018. Further, the new mandates on states to provide health care now affect the Medicare and Medicaid programs in ways still to be revealed.

With that in mind, NARFE is attempting to answer your most pertinent questions with what we know about the current facts. Of course, any new regulation, lawsuit, or further changes by Congress could establish a completely new policy on any of the evolving pieces of health care reform.

As the new law becomes clearer, NARFE will be looking at the issues as to how they affect federal workers and annuitants, and keeping you informed as to what the changes could mean for you.



**District VII Chapter Presidents 2010**

**PETALUMA CH. 1077 ROSTER FOR 2010**

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
|                                    | (707)    |
| President, Darold Graves           | 762-5044 |
| Vice President, Rudy Balli         | 763-2191 |
| Secretary, Joyce Sunia             | 996-4449 |
| Treasurer, John Rapa               | 762-1096 |
| Legislative Chair, Ken Phillippi   | 763-4926 |
| Membership Chair, Charlotte Merry  | 763-8482 |
| Service Officer, Jessie Sam        | 585-0427 |
| Newsletter Editor, David Baker     | 762-9100 |
| Alzheimer's Chair, Charlotte Merry | 763-8482 |
| NARFE-NET Chair, Calvin Sam        | 585-0427 |
| Sunshine Chair, Elinor Lyon        | 763-1638 |

**Contacts for Newsletter**

**Phone:** 707-762-5044 (Darold Graves)  
**US Mail:** 73 Eastside Cir, Petaluma CA 94954  
**E-Mail:** [darold@4u.net](mailto:darold@4u.net) (Darold Graves)  
**IMPORTANT:** If you would like to receive the Petaluma NARFE Newsletter by e-mail instead of regular mail, please send your request to:  
[darold@4u.net](mailto:darold@4u.net)

**This will save your Chapter much needed funds .**  
**Thank you.** (Note: If you receive the Newsletter by e-mail and want a paper copy, you can print one from your e-mail copy.)

**Contacts for OPM Retirement**

**Phone:** 1-888-767-6738, weekdays, 4:30am to 4:45pm (Pacific Time)  
**US Mail:** OPM-ROC, Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017  
**Internet:** [www.servicsonline.opm.gov](http://www.servicsonline.opm.gov)

**(Have your CSA or CSF claim number ready.)**