



San Fernando Valley Chapter 61

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Regular meetings are the first Wednesday of each month except June, July, and August

March 2024 Meeting, Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Meeting Location: Lulu's Restaurant

16900 Roscoe Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91406

Please arrive at 11:30 am

Executive Board meeting at 10:30 am prior to the regular meeting

President's Report by Charles Feistman

We are a third of the way into the count toward the January 2025 federal retirement COLA, the count stands at 0.3%, following an increase in January of 0.5 percentage points in the inflation index used to set that COLA. The count had been negative in two of the three prior months in that count, which started with the inflation figures for last October. The annual count toward a January COLA is finalized each October when the figures for September are released, using a calculation comparing the average of the figures from one calendar year third quarter to the next.

In case you have not seen the following: An application was made by AT&T to do away with landline service in the San Francisco Bay area. This may possibly be a test by AT&T, and could potentially then come to other big cities like Los Angeles. I am still researching to get additional information on this issue.

FANTASTIC NEW ANNOUNCEMENT:

I am very pleased to announce that our NARFE chapter now has a new web site. We hope to be able to communicate and make announcements on our web pages. Our goal is to keep all members informed on important matters that affect active and retired federal employees. In addition, we hope to be able to recruit additional members to join our chapter. To view our web site please go to the following: "www.NARFE61SFV.org".

Please take a look at the new web site. Any comments or questions would be appreciated. We are looking to see what it is our members would like to see and learn.

Our next meeting will be Noon, at Lulu's restaurant on Wednesday March 6, 2024. We will start at noon so be early so you can order lunch.

Legislative Report by Amateo Salvador

As a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Sherman also fielded questions on several foreign policy matters, namely the U.S. response to the ongoing war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas terrorists. Congressman Sherman recently wrote in *Newsweek* “We all grieve the horrendous loss of life in the Israel-Hamas war. And it is imperative that news organizations provide an accurate description of who those casualties are—and who is responsible. Major news organizations including NPR, CNN, CBS, and NBC repeatedly state that over 20,000 have been killed in Gaza. Yet they usually omit that this figure comes from the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry and includes at least 8,000 Hamas terrorists. The Gaza Health Ministry, by its own admission, doesn't distinguish between combatant and civilian deaths. Instead, the Gaza Health Ministry includes combatants in its total death toll. In fact, that 8,000 figure, which accounts for 40 percent of the casualties, might be low; looking at the 2014 Israel-Hamas war, human rights organizations, including those that routinely criticize Israel, found that up to 60 percent of deaths had been combatants.” As for China, Congressman Sherman has seen concerns about the risk China poses to the American economy as there is growing engagement between U.S. investors and China-based companies, which have sought to raise capital by issuing registered and unregistered securities in the U.S., has produced several risks to investor protection, the American economy, and national security.

As a member of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus, Congressman Sherman seeks to continue to provide limited support to Ukraine so it may continue to effectively defend itself from the Russian invasion without further escalating the war.

Note: This article was drawn from multiple sources to provide context and supplement Congressman Sherman's remarks.

Public Relations by David Rittenberg

NARFE-Pac Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a PAC?

PAC stands for political action committee. A PAC raises and spends money to elect political candidates. PACs must register with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and file periodic reports disclosing the money raised and spent.

2. What is NARFE-PAC?

NARFE-PAC is an important way NARFE defends the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees. NARFE-PAC makes contributions to campaigns of congressional candidates who are supportive of the federal community. NARFE-PAC also builds and strengthens relationships with candidates by sending NARFE members and staff to fundraisers, allowing for face time and an opportunity to discuss NARFE's priorities. NARFE-PAC is a separate, segregated fund of the association, financed solely by voluntary and direct contributions from NARFE members. No membership dues or other non-dues revenue of the association funds NARFE-PAC.

3. How much money does NARFE-PAC disburse to candidates?

NARFE-PAC has a goal to disburse \$1.2 million in political contributions to candidates for Congress during the 2023-2024 election cycle.

4. Who decides which candidates receive NARFE-PAC funds?

The NARFE-PAC Board, made up of NARFE's two elected National Officers and the Staff Vice President of Policy and Programs, decides which candidates receive NARFE-PAC contributions, with input from NARFE members via NARFE-PAC's consultative process.

5. How does the NARFE-PAC Board make contribution decisions?

Numerous factors are considered when deciding which candidates receive NARFE-PAC funds, including: the candidate's support of NARFE issues; local feedback via a federation recommendation; influence the legislator can exert; competitiveness of the race; and the overall NARFE-PAC budget.

6. How can I see which candidates received NARFE-PAC funds?

This information is updated quarterly on the NARFE-PAC section of the NARFE website.

For more information on NARFE-PAC, go to

www.NARFE.org/advocacy

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