

Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board



eLAFED

formerly **News-At-A-Glance**

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This publication is prepared by the staff of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board. Its content is extracted from information received in the FEB Office and gleaned from public information sources. Please forward your agency newsletter or "news items" to the FEB Office for inclusion in future FEB News-at-a-Glance editions.

FEB LAUNCHES eLAFED

One of this year's FEB goals is to convert as many operations as possible to electronic form.

- Some of you may have noticed our web-site improvements, which are still progressing.
- Part of the conversion is an electronic newsletter.

Why go electronic?

- **eLAFED** will save financial resources for member agencies, like INS, IRS, and FAA, who generously support FEB operations. The FEB has no independent budget.
- **eLAFED** will save natural resources (trees) by reducing paper use. Our mailing list is expanding. Electronically, we can reach more people while helping the environment.
- **eLAFED** will save staff resources as a less labor intensive method than copying and mailing hundreds of quarterly newsletters. Our limited FEB staff will be available for other projects. Our newsletter will continue to be edited and designed by IRS detailee Andrea Winkler, who will e-mail **eLAFED** to you.

What do you think?

This newsletter is a transition issue.

- If we have a current e-mail address for you, you should receive both paper and e-mail copies.
- If you do not receive an e-mail copy, please provide your e-mail address as part of the following survey.
- To help assure that the e-newsletter conversion meets customer preferences, please complete the following items and return them, preferably by e-mail or fax, by **August 22, 2001**.

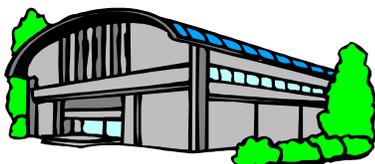
Survey

1. Given a choice, I prefer A. paper newsletter __; B. e-mail newsletter __; C. web-newsletter __.
2. If **eLAFED** is sent as an e-mail attachment, I prefer the following format:
A. Microsoft Word 97 __
B. Adobe Acrobat (pdf) __
C. Other (specify) __.
3. Regarding the FEB newsletter, I read:
A. all __; B. some __; C. none __.
4. I pass it along to staff.
A. yes __; B. no __.
5. Favorite newsletter features:
_____.
6. Please add to the **eLAFED** distribution list: name __; agency __; address __; phone __; e-mail __; fax __.
7. My latest contact information is name __; agency __; address __; phone __; e-mail __; fax __.
8. My **INTRANET Coordinator** is name __; agency __; address __; phone __; e-mail __; fax __.
9. Suggestions & Comments:
_____.

Please e-mail survey responses to andrea.winkler@irs.gov or fax to 213 576 3092. **THANK YOU!!**

NARA's Challenge: So Much E-Mail, So Little Space!

This year's change in Presidential administrations has had an impact on many of our agencies, but have you considered that **NARA (National Archives and Records Administration)** faced the biggest avalanche in history, a staggering 40 million e-mails from the retiring Clinton administration? The law requires and experts agree that historically valuable documents must be preserved, but **NARA** does not yet have the ability to handle the flood, which includes traffic from all



Federal agencies. **The U.S. State Department**, for instance, has 25 million electronic diplomatic cables for **NARA** storage. "It's just a huge problem," said Ken Thibodeau, **NARA's** director of electronic programs.

Professional archivists and historians fear the loss of significant historical records, unless a way to store and save mountains of digital data is developed. Hofstra University archivist, Susan Lukesh said, "What people have written among themselves has been crucial to understanding the tenor of the times."

A commercial archiving executive, Peter Smails, noted that a third of all corporate dealings are via e-mail and that storage-growth requirements are increasing

80% to 150% a year. This rate applies to government as well.

NARA is hopeful that \$130 million allocated by Congress will solve the digital dilemma. Because of rapidly-changing computer technology, much digital data already preserved can no longer be read. Working with UC San Diego's Supercomputer Center, which is at the forefront of high-performance computing and networking technology, **NARA** hopes for a system to read hundreds of formats from punch cards to DVDs. Deputy archivist of the U.S., Lewis Bellardo, said, "We're making dramatic progress."

UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies Assistant Professor Anne Gilliland-Swetland said **NARA** archives are "light years ahead of where they were four years ago." But, she noted, it is still easier to examine documents of Thomas Jefferson than William Jefferson Clinton.

Besides preserving documents, **NARA** has a "central duty...to make the decision about which records are important, and devote the resources to preserve them," said Michael Tankersley, a lawyer and electronic data expert with the Public Citizen Litigation Group. He considers the appropriate management of government records a "key mission" of **NARA**.

Tom Blanton, executive director of National Security Archive, which has the largest

collection of national security information outside the Federal government, said, "History will be better for the electronic data, particularly the e-mails...We are getting a vastly expanded historical record and a level of quicker governmental accountability. We started losing history with the advent of the telephone. E-mail has brought us to a level of correspondence that Jefferson and Adams could never dream up...If we are just proactive, those messages will be savable, searchable and retrievable for history."

NARA's Thibodeau envisions a time when all data stored electronically will be available at the touch of a button.

Did you ever think that the e-mail you wrote today could be this important?

The next time your agency ships a box of records off to **NARA** in Laguna Niguel,



perhaps you will breathe a sigh of relief that you do not have the challenges and responsibilities of our **NARA** colleagues in the new millennium.

"I Love JUMP and I Love My Mentor!"

This is the enthusiastic response of one of 100 *Samuel Gompers Middle School* students helped by **JUMP (Juvenile Urban Mentoring Program)**, sponsored by our **FEB** and *Communities in Schools/The L.A. Mentoring Partnership* and funded by a **U.S. Justice Department** grant. Eight Federal employees have volunteered a total of over 312 hours in the first two years of **JUMP**.

Albano and Poz

Albano had to wait after school for his sister, Maria, who was in **JUMP**. Although it was too late to enroll in **JUMP** the first year, Albano attended almost all the workshops, participated in activities and games and waited an entire year for a mentor. He was shy, neither a trouble maker nor a high achiever, but the kind of student who may be overlooked and get in trouble. The second year Albano was rewarded with **Michael Poznikovich**, a dedicated mentor who listened, was supportive, and was steadfast in his commitment to Albano. Initially, Albano squirmed in his seat or stared blankly into space when asked to share his opinion in front of a group. After Poz and Albano became buddies, Albano began talking in a group. Now Albano volunteers to participate 100% more than in the first year! In addition, his GPA has improved an entire point from a low last year.

Amaury and Carlos

Carlos came from the **Air Force** ready to do and be whatever his mentee, **Amaury**, needed. These two fun-loving guys were first matched in 1999. Their second year together brought the unexpected accidental death of Amaury's father. Carlos remained by Amaury's side as the young man dealt with this devastating loss. After Amaury's GPA dropped from 3.5 to less than 2.0, Carlos' support helped Amaury improve to 2.8. Carlos said, "I've learned true strength from Amaury; he's an amazing young man."

Other Mentors

Mentees benefited from the consistency of the Federal mentors, who have embraced the idea of listening without judging. The mentees voted **Marine Major Mike Trahar** the "mentor from

whom they learned the most." He conveys words of wisdom without talking down to the mentees. **Sheena Fountain** of the **Army**, voted the "most polite mentor" by the mentees, is an excellent role model of a "strong, feminine woman of color," according to **JUMP** staffer **Rachel Chapple**, who added, "**Poz** has an amazing sense of humor that allows kids to relax around him. **JUMP** staff and participants are truly fortunate to partner with these amazing volunteers to help kids!"

Mentor Quotes

- "I look at you [mentees] and think I know your goals and your background. Then you say something that shatters my whole image of you and surpasses my expectations."
- "You [mentees] are just amazing! You make it worth it to drive here once a month and leave my reality, spend time with you and then see my reality from a completely new perspective."

Volunteer Now

JUMP is recruiting Federal mentors for the final grant year (fall 2001). Mentors attend **two-hour workshops** on the first Wednesday of each month and individually spend **two more hours** with mentees monthly. Mentors call mentees by phone at least **biweekly**. For information, call **Rachel Chapple** or **Vince Guerra** at **323 857 8995**.



FEDBEAR

Dad, is it O.K. if I make our vacation reservations at the **Goldilox Bed & Breakfast?**



KUDOS

- **Edward's Air Force Base** has voluntarily cut its use of natural gas and electricity, e.g., 11 – 12% in some areas.
- The **FBI** SWAT team arrest of a stressed Chevron employee prevented a significant workplace tragedy, the bombing of an El Segundo jet fuel refinery.
- Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards went to over 100 local Federal agencies at the annual **Greater L.A. CFC (Combined Federal Campaign) Awards Breakfast**.
- **L.A. Passport Agency** held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in March. Fraud has been cut by digitizing passport photos. A *Hammer Award* went to the *Naturalization Program* for on-the-spot passport processing.
- **Customs Service** now works at the Long Beach Airport to better serve customers and to reduce unnecessary air traffic.
- The **National Letter Carrier** Food Drive in May replenished local food banks.
- **Navy Capt. James McConnell**, who retired as commanding officer of *Port Hueneme Construction Battalion Center*, now heads the L.A. Unified School District school building program.
- Of the 24 largest Federal agencies, **Transportation, Social Security Administration and Veterans Administration** were rated highest on the first *Results Act Performance Reports* on Performance, Management and Usefulness.
- The **Navy's Sea Shadow** (home port San Diego), an advanced surface test ship featuring modular construction, provides exceptional stability in high seas, minimal staff due to automation, stealth, and low support costs.
- At the annual United Way of Greater L.A. award ceremony, the **Greater L.A. CFC** repeated as the largest work-place campaign in L.A. County by a huge margin, winning Medallion and Spirit of L.A. Awards.
- The **FBI** stopped an MEK (a Marxist-Islam terrorist organization) scam at LAX by arresting five Iranians and two Iranian Americans, who are accused of collecting over \$1 million from unsuspecting travelers, for the Committee for Human Rights, a sham charity. The donations funded armed military attacks on Iran from Iraq.
- The **VA Long Beach Healthcare System's Honoring Veterans Ceremony** in June highlighted the *Honoring Veterans, Continuing to Serve* **U.S. Postal Service** stamp, for 25 million current veterans.
- With 11 May arrests, **FBI** stopped a ring smuggling hundreds of Ukrainians into the U.S. via Mexico. Some women immigrants were sold into prostitution.
- The L.A. Chamber of Commerce helped attain funding for a new downtown **L.A. Federal courthouse**. Not only will the larger space reduce court delays and inefficiencies, but this largest public works project ever in downtown L.A. will also help the economy.

WEB SITES

- www.dodtransportal.org helps service members leaving active duty, with job assistance and other services.
- Black History Database at <http://seditionists.org/black/bhist.html> is a searchable, massive repository of information.

----- QUOTE

"The story of America...is the story of the ever-widening circle of inclusion... Because of the Americans with Disabilities Act, discrimination against a person with a disability is not just unkind or cruel or wrong: it is an infringement of Federal law, and a violation of civil rights... Too many barriers remain... I am sending to Congress my 'New Freedom Initiative' (to) increase investment in and access to assistive technologies and a quality education, and help integrate Americans with disabilities into the workforce and into community life."

President George W. Bush

IRS FACTS

- More taxpayers are filing tax returns electronically, primarily for refunds as fast as 10 days with direct deposit.
- 88 million taxpayers got refunds.
- In 2001, 42 million individual returns were e-filed, up from 25 million in 1998.
- In 2001, 34% of returns were e-filed versus 22% in 1998.
- IRS collects over \$1.5 trillion annually.
- The IRS administers 3,500 pages of tax law.
- Most business returns come from small businesses that account for 53% of private sector jobs.
- IRS employs about 100,000.
- In 2000, IRS answered 120 million toll-free calls.
- The wealthiest 5% of America pays 54% of Federal income taxes.
- Federal tax rates have gone down over the last 20 years.
- The distribution of each tax dollar:
 - 23 cents Social Security
 - 21 cents Health & Medical
 - 16 cents National Defense
 - 14 cents Income Security
 - 11 cents Net Interest
 - 4 cents Education & Training
 - 3 cents Veterans Benefits & Services
 - 3 cents Transportation
 - 5 cents Other.