

THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL
Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



Vol. 31, No. 1

January 2009

www.narfe-chapter1162.org

Louise Lloyd, Editor, lalloydks@yahoo.com

Flo Biehl, Chapter President

It's a new year with new officers in some cases. I thank everyone for your support in voting for me. Now I want your help. It is a learning time for me. Please share your thoughts. Help in any way you can whether it is bringing refreshments or suggesting programs or working on a committee. Howard Zion will continue to be our service officer. This is a good time to work with families so that the surviving spouse can know that they still need to be involved in NARFE so that their benefits are protected. Agnes Shellhammer will serve as parliamentarian. She has extensive experience in this having grown up with Roberts Rules of Order. When I went to the post office Saturday to buy stamps I found a wonderful surprise. The Alzheimer's stamp that many of us have worked for was there! WOW! I bought some and will use them proudly. I look forward to the next year and hope to see many of you at the meeting. Introduce yourself to me. I'd like to know all of you.

Elizabeth Bornman, Past President

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. I have enjoyed being your chapter President the last two years. I know Flo will carry on with her new leadership team for the coming year. We as a chapter have a lot to look forward to with a new administration and party leading this country. After the new administration is in place, we will have new challenges before us to tackle. We are fortunate that we still have the same Congressman and Senators in place. However, we don't want them to forget our issues. We still need to remind them we are important to them as voters. We need their continued support on our many issues, especially health care and social security. Continue to make contact with your representatives when they are home. I am looking forward to seeing you at our monthly chapter meetings.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

January 27th - Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m. **Program – Courtney Scherer, Registered Dietitian**
Topic: Eating to lower blood pressure and cholesterol

February 11th – Social meeting at Hometown Buffet, RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 492-0091.

February 24th – Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m. **Program – Dr, Jennifer Gryska, Audiologist**
Topic: Hearing and Balance/Dizziness

March 11th – Social meeting at Hometown Buffet, RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 492-0091.

April 26th – 28th – Kansas Federal Annual Meeting, Manhattan, KS

NOTE: Meeting Cancellation Policy for Chapter Meetings - A monthly meeting of the NARFE Chapter will be canceled during the winter months if Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes due to inclement weather.

Chapter
Officers &
Committees

President
Flo Biehl
913-631-5559

1st Vice President
Tom Raby-
8296025

2nd Vice President
Harold
Hutcheson
913-780-3073

Secretary
Wayne Smutz
913 888-3423

Treasurer
Bob Steinert
913 764-7456

Service Officer
Howard Zion
913 236-8131

Alzheimer's
Tom Raby
913 829-6025

Legislative
Louis Bornman
913 268-8526

Membership
Tom Raby
913 829-6025

NARFE-PAC
Flo Biehl
913 631-5559

Newsletter
Louise Lloyd
913 661-1720

Webmaster
Bob Steinert
913 764-7456

Note: No newsletter will be published in February

HELP WANTED

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

If you can make arrangements and think of ideas for interesting topics at our monthly meetings, we are looking for you to be part of the executive board. Call Flo Biehl

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN

To help with the June meeting potluck and Christmas dinner, call Flo Biehl if you can be a part of the executive team.

CALLING COMMITTEE

We need to increase the number of members on our calling committee. If you are not able to attend the monthly meetings, but want to get involved, then this is a job for you. Call about 20 members a month to remind them of the meeting and or find out why they don't won't to attend. If you feel you can do this each month call Harold Hutcheson, the 2nd Vice President.

AUCTION ITEMS FOR ALZHEIMER'S FUND RAISER

for the Kansas Federation State Convention. Bring to the monthly meetings in February, March and April. Items must be worth at least three dollars and be new or antique quality.

Delegates to the Kansas State Convention 26 April to 28 April 2009 in Manhattan, KS.

See Wayne Smutz, Secretary, after the monthly meeting or give him a call if interested. We have room for at least 30 individuals.

NARFE's MAGAZINE

To reduce costs the NARFE magazine will under go some changes. Paper and postage costs have risen significantly in the last several months; while advertising revenue has dropped (mainly due to reduced circulation numbers). Beginning in January 2009 all issues will be 52 pages or less. Several features will be eliminated: Faces of NARFE, Personal Milestones; the Way We Worked are some examples. In addition, the contact info page will be reduced to 1/2 page; RVP articles will be reduced to 1/2 page; National Officers will rotate rather than each having a column each month, except for the President.

If you currently only receive one copy in a household and are entitled to receive two, the NARFE headquarters would like for you to receive the second copy. You can use that second copy as a recruiting item. You can even leave it in a Senior Center, Doctors office or Retirement Center. The reasons for this is that over 5600 household have requested only one magazine; this reduces circulation numbers which reduces advertising revenue. The savings generated from mailing only one magazine was more than offset by losses in advertising revenue. You would be doing a great service if you agree to receive multiple copies of the magazine.

**NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission
Financial Statement
For the Year Ending December 31, 2008**

Revenue	
Chapter Dues	6,697
Recruiting-Fee	2
Interest MoneyMarket	20
Interest 10-month CD	155
Interest 14-month CD	11
Ticket Sales	406
Donations/Refunds	175
Total Income	7,466

Expenses	
Newsletter & Web Site	
• Newsletter	\$2,540
• Internet Web Site	\$146
Meetings/Conferences/Party	
• Chapter meetings	\$285
• Federation Convention	\$806
• National Convention	\$1,700
• Parties - Christmas	\$457
• Executive Board	\$0
Officers	\$25
Committees	\$133
Recruiting	\$57
Federation Per Capita Fee	\$751
Donations - Alzheimer's	\$100
Total Expenses	\$7,000

Net Increase in Cash	\$466
Cash Beginning of year	\$7,789
Cash End of Year	\$8,255

Notes:

1. Rollover matured 10-month CD to 14-month CD on 12/7/2008, amount \$5,155.
2. Refund (\$175) cancel bulk mail account.
3. Ticket Sales for Christmas party.

NARFE-PAC'S Successful Cycle

NARFE-PAC enjoyed a successful election cycle. Guided by advice from federation NARFE-PAC coordinators and tempered by closely watched candidate disclosure, NARFE-PAC racked up 254 wins (disbursements to winning candidates), 15 losses (disbursements to losing candidates), with four races still to be decided. Remember, it is never too late to make a NARFE-PAC contribution. We do make a difference. Flo Biehl

IRS 2009 Optional standard mileage rates

Rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes:
55 cents per mile for business miles driven
24 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

Legislative News by Louis Bornman

FEHB Belated Open Season

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has reached an agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) on revised 2009 benefits for non-emergency surgical procedures provided by out-of-network physicians. The agency will also allow "belated" Open Season enrollments/changes that stem from this policy change through 31 January 2009.

The decision was made in response to calls made by NARFE and the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia to reverse Blue Cross/Blue Shield's (BC/BS) and OPM's decision to require federal employees and annuitants enrolled in the insurance carrier's "Standard Option" to **pay 100% for out-of-network surgical services up to a separate per episode \$7,500 catastrophic limit starting in 2009.**

Go to the NARFE national website to get the details of exactly how the program from BCBS has changed. The revised benefit is similar to the benefit Blue Cross offered in 2008, but the coinsurance increases from 25% to 30% for 2009.

The problem with coinsurance has always been not knowing what dollar amount the percentage, in the above case 30%, is applied to. To address this, Blue Cross will offer a new service next year for planned out-of-network surgeries costing \$5,000 or more. Using a telephone number on the back of their ID card, enrollees will obtain the plan's allowance amount for the surgery being scheduled. This information together with the cost of the surgery the enrollee obtains from the surgeon, provides a way enrollees can estimate their out-of-pocket costs for the surgery. Blue Cross will send a letter explaining the benefit changes and updated brochure information to all of their enrollees.

Please note: while enrollees can make a late open season change in health insurance coverage, **the effective date of open season changes is January 1, 2009 for retirees**

and first pay period beginning on or after January 1 for active employees which is January 4 in most cases.

Claims for medical services performed after these dates should be submitted to the new insurance carrier. For retirees, premiums in their annuities reflecting their new health insurance coverage may not show in their February 1 payments. If their open season change was not processed by OPM before mid-January in time for February 1 payment data sent to the Treasury, the February 1 annuity payment will show the 2009 premium for their current plan, not the plan they changed to. The new premium along with any adjustment between the old and new premium will first show in the March 1 annuity payment. Belated enrollments may be done using Open Season websites, call centers or via agency human resources departments.

Educating/Re-educating Members of Congress

New legislators and even some of our old legislators need to be educated or reminded that we need their support for NARFE legislative actions including the repeal of GPO and WEP as well as the defense of our federal pay and retirement benefits. With the current financial crisis there will be great pressure in the new congressional session to cut federal benefits as another entitlement program that needs to be reigned in. Write to your congressman and senators and impress upon them the need to support the preservation and enhancement of federal worker and annuitant benefits.

Membership

Region V continues to be a leader in Active federal Employee membership. However we also continue to lose members. Please encourage retired friends you know and active federal employees to join NARFE. Remember that a portion of your dues goes to support our legislative action at the national level to preserve and enhance both active federal employee and retired annuitant pay and benefits. Also the more members we have who also write or call our legislators and encourage them to support NARFE legislative action the greater influence we will have in gaining their support.



CobWeb Corner.

By Bob Steinert, Webmaster

The chapter's Web site(narfe-chapter1162.org) has been revised again. It has a new look and some stuff about what NARFE is all about has been removed. Why? The viewer while on our site can go directly to NARFE's new Web site and read about the Association. Whereas, our Web site's purpose is to tell federal workers and retirees about our chapter.

Kansas Federation – Raffle for Alzheimer’s Research

A quilt has been donated for a raffle to raise funds to benefit NARFE, Alzheimer’s Research Project. The quilt is machine pieced and quilted, primarily blue and cream colored blocks. *Proceeds from the sale of tickets, along with the left side of the ticket/s should be mailed to: Elaine Liddell, 701 Canfield Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502.* Make checks payable to NARFE, Kaw-Blue Chapter. Make copies of the raffle ticket as needed. Also, additional copies will be available at our chapter meetings.

*Net proceeds benefit NARFE, Alzheimer’s Research project	*Net proceeds benefit NARFE, Alzheimer’s Research Project
Name:	National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) – Alzheimer’s Research
Address:	Suggested Donation: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 Make Checks Payable to NARFE, Kaw-Blue Chapter
Telephone:	Quilt is 96x96, pattern is Minnesota Chain, donated by Kenneth & Marjory Osbourn, NARFE, Kaw-Blue, Chapter 0366
Drawing to be held at Kansas Federation Convention, Manhattan, KS, April 26-28, 2009 DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN	Drawing to be held at Kansas Federation Convention, Manhattan, KS, April 26-28, 2009 DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN
NARFE Copy	Purchaser Copy

Regular Monthly Meeting 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM at Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell, Overland Park. Features: chapter business, refreshments and entertainment. No meeting in July,	Monthly Social Meeting 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Hometown Buffet, 73rd and Quivira at 1:00 PM. Call Clyde Shellhammer (913 432-0091) for reservations. Luncheon cafeteria-style food service.	Executive Board Meeting 1st Friday of the month. Breakfast at 9:00 AM, meeting 9:30 AM. Location Denny’s Restaurant, 95th and I-35 exit, Lenexa - adjacent to La Quinta Motel.
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Your January Shawnee Signal

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Olathe KS 66062-1960

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