



**THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL**  
**Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas**  
**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**  
**May 2009**

Vol. 31, No. 3

www.narfe-chapter1162.org

Louise Lloyd, Editor, [lalloydks@yahoo.com](mailto:lalloydks@yahoo.com)

**Chapter  
Officers &  
Committees**

**President**

Flo Biehl  
913-631-5559

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Tom Raby  
913-829-6025

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**Flo Biehl, Chapter President**

May is here and it is nice to see the world in color! Exciting times. We had a wonderful Federation meeting in Manhattan. Richard Thissen, our Region V Vice President and Jacob Cassaday from the National Office (he's in the legislative department), were there. We had members on various committees--all of us working hard for you. We are just one big PAC, trying hard to preserve our benefits, regain some which were promised then taken away and gain that which is held by current federal employees. We also enjoy each others company. We come from so many different agencies and areas that it makes for fascinating conversations.

Every two years, College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) is held. Dates this year are August 24-26, 2009. Registration fee of \$60 includes Monday evening, Tuesday Noon and evening meals. Deadline for registration is August 15. Contact Elizabeth Bornman for a conference registration form. It is held at the Marina Inn, South Sioux City, NE. Call 1-800-798-7980. Room rate is \$82 (plus tax) for single or double room which includes buffet breakfast for up to two persons. Ask for the NARFE rate and request any special facility needs. Reservation deadline is August 1.

I like to go to CONK because I learn more about our organization. This year, Margaret Baptiste, our national president, plus some others from the Washington office will be there. Our region has several other states so we can learn from a great range of chapters.

Make plans to come to the June chapter meeting. It is our traditional pot luck lunch. We always have a good time then. We'll meet a little earlier--plan to eat at 12 noon so come in time to get your dish on the serving table before then.

**NARFE Kansas Federation – New Officers**

Tom Raby after serving 2 years as our Area 1 Vice-President chose not to run for reelection. Our very own President, Flo Biehl, submitted her name to fill the vacancy left by Tom, and she was unanimously elected. So the position of Area 1 Vice-President remains with a member of our chapter for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row, as Agnes Shellhammer had preceded Tom Raby in this position.

The newly elected officers at the state federation level include the following:

Robert Cranmer – President; Elizabeth Bornman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Cindy Blythe; Secretary – Carol Ek; and Treasurer, James Ketter.

**Role of Chapter Service Officer**

An important appointed position in every NARFE Chapter is the Chapter Service Officer. Howard Zion is the Service Officer for our Chapter. If you have a problem related to your retiree or survivor benefits, do not hesitate to call Howard. The service officer is there to help individual members, their families and survivors take the proper actions to obtain and retain their annuities, and health and federal group life insurance benefits.

**Welcome to the following new chapter members!**

Donald Albracht	Jerry Hoeven
James Blair	Carol Neill
David Christensen	Tom Nelson
Donald Grove	John Nimmo

**NARFE-PAC**

The contributions to NARFE-PAC at the KANSAS NARFE Annual Meeting in Manhattan was \$2,176. So Kansas did exceed the Missouri NARFE-PAC collection!

Congratulations to all.

Donald Cooper, NARFE-PAC Kansas Chairperson

**Future Meeting Dates/Activities:**

**May 26<sup>th</sup> -- Chapter meeting**, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79<sup>th</sup> & Lowell, **1:30 p.m.** .  
**Program:** *Roy Shenkel, WW II Veteran* **Topic:** **How the Experiences in a Prisoner of War Camp Changed my Life Forever.** Roy Shenkel was a waist gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress when his plane was shot down by a German fighter over Yugoslavia. He spent more than 13 months in a German prisoner of war camp. He lives in Shawnee with two great- grandchildren.

**June 10<sup>th</sup> – Social Meeting** at Hometown Buffet, 75<sup>th</sup> & Quivira, **1:00 p.m.** RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 492-0091.

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> - Chapter Meeting – Potluck Luncheon**, Noon luncheon, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79<sup>th</sup> and Lowell

## Legislation, Louis Bornman

On Friday, April 24, Sen. Brownback (R, KS) signed on as a cosponsor of the NARFE priority legislative action called Premium Conversion. This legislation, H.R. 1203 and S. 491, sponsored by Rep. Chris Van Hollen and Sen. Jim Webb respectively, would allow civilian and military retirees to pay certain health care premiums on a pre-tax basis. Enactment would mean a substantial tax savings for retirees enrolled in FEHBP. If you send a prompt message of appreciation, Senator Brownback will certainly note that you are paying close attention. Saying thank you is a nearly lost common courtesy and consequently greatly appreciated.

Use any of three paths to say thanks: **1)** the NARFE sponsored toll free number for the Capitol switchboard, 1-866-220-0044 (ask for your Member by name), **2)** the NARFE Legislative Action Center, <http://capwiz.com/narfe/dbq/officials/>, or **3)** the House and Senate gateways to individual Members' "web forms" ([www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)).

If you phone, e-mail or write your Representative or Senator, please let NARFE Headquarters know by emailing [cfarrell@narfe.org](mailto:cfarrell@narfe.org) and place Senator Brownback's Name in the Subject line. If you know what or who recruited Senator Brownback let them know that too. Also please encourage Senator Brownback to support repeal of the WEP/GPO as he currently has not shown any interest in doing so and is not a cosponsor of that legislation

( From NARFE Legislative Dept.)

## Alzheimer's, Tom Raby

I want to thank all of those individuals who donated items for the annual Kansas Federation Alzheimer's Silent Auction. Overall both the live auction and silent auction were a success, with a little more money raised this year than last year, and considering the economy, that speaks well about the generosity of our NARFE family. I am pleased to report that our chapter was awarded a certificate for the chapter that raised the most money from the federation Alzheimer's auctions held at the conference in 2008. We don't as yet have the results for this year's conference by chapter. On an overall chapter by chapter comparison relative to the annual amounts contributed per capita, we do not fare as well. The goal set by the federation is \$5.00 per person, but with a chapter our size, this is a difficult goal to reach. I encourage each of you, if your finances permit, to consider including NARFE/Alzheimer's Research as one of the charities you donate to this year. I know that there are few people who do not know someone personally who have been impacted by Alzheimer's or dementia, so this is disease that ultimately effects all of us in one way or another. You can make a donation to NARFE/ALZHEIMER'S at any time. Bring your check to a meeting or mail to: **Tom Raby; 15117 S Symphony Dr. Apt 1203; Olathe, KS 66062**

Thanks to all those who keep bringing "best choice" UPC's to meetings. As soon as we get 1,000 I'll be able to send them off for this year's \$60.00 donation from Associated Wholesale Grocers.

## Memorial Weekend Concert, May 22, 2009

In case you haven't seen it advertised, the Brown and Gold Club of Johnson County Community College is sponsoring a World War II May Gala. The event is Friday night, May 22, 2009 at the Carlsen Center. The event is **free**, and open to the public, no reservations required. A reception will be held in the Carlsen Center Lobby at 7 p.m. **At 8 p.m.** in the Yardley Hall, the Moonlight Serenade Orchestra, a 12 piece band, will play hits reminiscent of the great bands of the WWII era, as well as some contemporary sounds. Be sure to arrive early for a good seat, as the hall was completely filled for last year's performance. And for those of you who like to dance, you'll want to sit down front as there is room to dance on the floor close to the orchestra.

## Post Office Change in Bulk Mail Requirements

Due to recent changes by the U.S. Postal Service, specific formats for mailing addresses for documents categorized as bulk mail are required and are being more strictly enforced, which includes providing a 9 digit zipcode. We do not typically receive notification from the post office when they consider a document undeliverable. To help make sure that our newsletter addresses are correct, if your address changes, please be sure to notify the Post Office, and it would be appreciated if you could also contact me as the newsletter editor, so that I can be sure I have the correct address to mail the newsletter. You can email me at [lalloydks@yahoo.com](mailto:lalloydks@yahoo.com) or phone me 913-661-1720.

---

## Your May Shawnee Signal

National Active and Retired Federal  
Employees Assoc. 1162  
16219 W 136th Street  
Olathe KS 66062-1960

Nonprofit Org. U. S. Postage <b>PAID</b> Permit No. 532. Olathe, KS 66061
---



NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas