

THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL
Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
November 2008



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Louise Lloyd, Editor, lalloydks@yahoo.com

www.narfe-chapter1162.org



December 16, Chapter Meeting is the annual Christmas luncheon.

Note the new location for the meeting, and time.

Where: Community Covenant Church, 15700 87th Street, Lenexa, KS



(Here's a view of the church from 87th Street, looking West.)

Luncheon starts at **Noon**. A buffet dinner will be furnished by Hy-Vee. Cost is **\$14**, make checks to NARFE Chapter 1162. Door Prizes provided by the chapter. Installation of officers for 2009 will take place.

To make a reservation, send your check to Tom Raby by **December 8th**, or pay at the November chapter meeting. Tom's address is 15117 S. Symphony Drive, Apt. 1203, Olathe, KS 66062-6126.

Menu: Watergate salad, Chicken Marinade, Beef Strogan-off, green beans, glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, rolls, dessert, and tea or coffee.

Luncheon will be in the Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor, Room 212; an elevator is available, located via the east entrance.

Directions: I-35, Exit 87th Street West. Proceed west for approximately 2 miles. Church is on the right hand side. Or another way — I-435, Exit 87th Street East. Precede ¼ mile, church is on the left.

Elizabeth Bornman, Chapter President

As you read this we have a new President elected, Barack Obama. There will be significant changes with the administration next year. Kansas again will have Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Dennis Moore. They both continue to support our issues. Because of the economic status of our country, we most likely will be fighting for our entitlements. Even the current federal work force will be vulnerable to changes in future retirement benefits.

To keep our organization strong all of you need to keep your membership current. Check out the new NARFE website. It is more user friendly and provides information you may not have known was available to you previously. The organization and chapter is there to support all federal retiree and active current workers. Again if you are a current employee we would love to recruit within your organizational agency. We need your help in providing a name and phone number so Tom Raby, the chapter membership chair can make arrangements to set up a recruitment day at your place of employment.

We are currently planning the programs for 2009. Any suggestions are appreciated. They can be informative or entertaining. We accept all suggestions.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

Nov, 25th - Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m. Program will be on Health Benefits.

Dec. - No Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet.

Dec. 16th - Chapter Meeting and annual Christmas luncheon, Noon, at Community Covenant Church, 15700 W. 87th Street.

Prepaid reservations required, Last day to make reservations is December 8th. Contact Tom Raby 913-819-6025.

January 14th - Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 1:00 PM, RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 492-0091.

January 26th - Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m.

**Chapter
Officers &
Committees**

President

Elizabeth
Bornman
913 268-8526

1st Vice

President

Flo Biehl
913 631-5559

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

OPEN SEASON COMING UP

Starting November 10 and running through December 8 the government is conducting its annual benefits open season enrollment period, affecting the FEHB, FEDVIP and flexible spending account programs. For most employees and retirees, most of the focus is on FEHB, where the enrollee share of premiums rates is increasing by about 8% on average for the 2008 plan year. However, there is substantial variation within that average and several popular plans are increasing their premiums at a higher rate.

The primary driver for the increases is the combination of utilization, technology and medical inflation, although other contributories include the need to make up for underestimating costs in the program last year and a generally aging enrollee population. Offsetting those factors somewhat were some savings on benefits, enrollee movement to lower cost plans and a drawdown of financial reserves. We are however below what other employer-sponsored plans will see for 2009. The open season also is an opportunity to enroll in the flexible spending account program, where employees may designate up to \$5,000 of pre-tax salary to each of a health care account and/or a dependent care account.

In general, those eligible for FEHB also are eligible under the Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program whose carriers are remaining the same for 2009 and whose premiums are increasing by about 1 percent of average for vision plans and about 6% for dental plans.

NARFE/PAC, Flo Biehl

Thanks to all who have contributed to NARFE/PAC this year. Money is needed year around but it was especially appreciated this election year. We do not buy pins but if you give \$20 or more you may receive a pin to wear proudly. Your magazine has a coupon. Just fill it out and send it in with your donation. Your donation is not tax deductible but goes for a very worthwhile cause. A cause that helps with the rights we have as federal workers--those that were promised to us when we hired on.

Membership, Tom Raby

On November 1, two of our members, Louis Bornman and Tom Raby represented the Federation at Fort Leavenworth for their annual Retiree Appreciation Day. Also, Eugene Harter, Area 1A Vice President was there. We handed out magazines, applications and brochures to civilian employees and retirees of the Fort. We introduced ourselves to employees of the VA and SSA that were there as vendors, also. I feel that we reached a lot more people this year than we did in 2007. I also have left several magazines at the Olathe Senior Center and at my doctor's office. It takes quite a few new members, each year, just to keep up with attrition. We then take a real hit when someone drops their membership. Remember that I have, or can get, any number of publications to help with new members. See me at our meeting on November 25.

Alzheimer's, Tom Raby

On October 4, we were represented in the "Memory Walk" by Ruth Farwell, Cal Moore, and myself. Wayne Smutz became ill just before the walk. We raised \$550.00 for the local chapter of the Alzheimers Association. Thank all of you that have responded with donations to our NARFE/ALZHEIMERS plea. 2008 is almost over and we have raised over \$1000.00 for this cause. Also the Best Choice labels were turned in and we received \$60.00 from Associated Wholesale Grocers for those. We have about 300-400 already for next year. You can send your check for NARFE/ALZHEIMER'S to my address at any time:

15117 S Symphony Dr. Apt 1203; Olathe KS 66062. If you have any questions call me at 913-829-6025 or e-mail thomasraby1@comcast.net

The NARFE Photo Contest

The annual NARFE photo contest has begun. The photos will be used for the 2010 NARFE Photo Contest calendar. No photos of pets or children, please. Neither e-mail nor Polaroid pictures will be accepted. Photos should be horizontal. Photos are accepted until February 12, 2009. You must be a NARFE member to enter. Only the work of amateurs will be accepted. Please limit your submissions to no more than five photos. Send your photos to NARFE Headquarters, Public Relations Department, and 606 N. WASHINGTON Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Include your name, chapter number, address and phone number with your submission.

Legislation, Louis Bornman

On October 28th we hosted Congressman Dennis Moore and Democratic Senate candidate Jim Slattery at our monthly meeting at the Overland Park Lutheran Church. We extended an invitation to the chapters in Lawrence and Wyandotte County. Two visitors from Lawrence came to the event. We had about 33 members present to enjoy what the candidates had to say and participate in the question and answer session.

Congressman Moore and Mr. Slattery talked briefly about issues of concern to the elderly and NARFE that they support.

They both support the repeal of GOP and WEP. They also support premium conversion for retirees and sick leave conversion for FERS retirees.

This action was added to unrelated House Resolution 1108, which dealt with the regulation of tobacco products, and passed a house vote on July 30th on a vote of 326 to 102. It has yet to go for a senate vote. This bill proposes giving FERS retirees credit for service for unused sick leave the same as for CSRS retirees. Those who retire within the next three years would receive credit for 75% of unused sick leave and those retiring after that would receive 100% credit.

They also answered questions about the recent \$700 Billion rescue package, how it was an initial \$350 Billion with supplemental funding requiring separate action and Congressional oversight.

They also explained how the situation came about through the packaging and selling of mortgage investment instruments in the unregulated derivatives market. They also talked about the need for Medicare to negotiate drug prices with suppliers and manufacturers to reduce government and user costs. There was also a question about taxes and marriage penalties.

Overall the event went very well and all the members who attended appreciated what the candidates had to say. I only wish more of you could have attended.

A Member Responds to Our Meeting. A letter to the editor of the Shawnee Signal was submitted from one couple about the announcement of the Democratic candidates visit:

The text of the letter and our response follows:

We just received the invitation to hear Dennis Moore and Jim Slattery with no mention of the alternative views of Nick Jordan and Pat Roberts.

We do not wish to contribute money to any organization that represents or donates money only to individuals who are neither trustworthy nor represent our views on government.

We will no longer sign up for membership with NARFE. We will definitely not vote nor contribute to the democratic party.

Sincerely,
(names withheld)

Louis Bornman's Response. I gather by your email that you might not have read paragraphs 5 and 6 of the news letter where I stated that we had invited both Republican candidates Nick Jordan and Senator Pat Roberts to attend our September meeting but they were unable to attend and present their positions. (continued)

I started this process in August. Mr. Jordan accepted our invitation after initially declining. After another NARFE member talked with him at another local event I was called to ask him again and I did. Mr. Jordan accepted and was scheduled to present at our September event. The day of the event Mr. Jordan's office called and canceled his participation because Nick had become ill and had gone home. I have no control over such occurrences.

We have invited Senator Roberts however his office has yet to accept. Since we only meet once a month our request for their attendance and presentation of their views has not fit in with their schedule. No one has proposed a new date, or an additional meeting date for October for these two candidates to attend and present their views if their schedules might fit.

At this time I doubt that we could schedule an additional meeting and coordinate the two Republican candidates attendance before the November election.

This is truly regrettable. We would have liked very much to have the two Republican candidates come and present their views on issues that are of major concern to the NARFE membership as a whole.

We have written to Senator Roberts and asked him about his positions on major NARFE issues such as repeal of GPO and WEP, and including retirees in the health insurance Premium Conversion Program enjoyed by current employees. Senator Roberts has replied and stated that he does support the Premium Conversion issue but that he does not support repeal of the GPO and WEP because he feels that would be detrimental to Social Security and that, in his opinion, it would not be something any members in the Senate would support. Jordan's campaign for Congress was contacted and asked for his position on these same issues but they never responded.

We have not nor will we ever request campaign contributions from chapter members on the behalf of any political candidate Democrat, Republican, or otherwise.

We will recommend that the NARFE headquarters review candidate requests for contributions and support those candidates who support NARFE issues.

Please feel free to come to any NARFE meeting and express your views and opinions in person.

We are currently looking for individuals interested in actively participating in chapter activities and running for chapter offices.

Your email letter to the editor of the chapter news letter will be included in our November news letter as well as a copy of this response.

Sincerely, Louis G. Bornman, Jr. Chapter 1162
Legislative Chair

Chapter Elections

We will be electing your chapter officers at the November meeting. We are still in need of a nomination for Secretary and a member to serve as a Board of Director.

CobWeb Corner,



NARFE Headquarters updates their Website. The waiting is over – Headquarters unveiled the new Web site Sunday, November 1st. After living with an outdated web site, we now have one that looks great. Whether you like or dislike the appearance of a Web site it's a subjective call.

But, by today's Web design practices, the designers of the new site made the right decisions in laying out the site using today's web design practices for visual and functional presentation. Although the designers used chunks of the old Web site's code, they repackaged it with a slick new look. It's all put together in a logical user-friendly manner.

Like all new Web sites that go up on the Internet, there's a period where it may need a little tweaking here and there and some bugs to get rid of. Now, we no longer have a meandering Web site that did not live up to a user's expectations for the largest organization that boasts of protecting federal employee rights since 1914. The old site probably discouraged more potential members from joining NARFE than it brought in. It was not a good recruiting tool. This one may be the one we're looking for

Bob Steinert, Chapter Webmaster

New Chapter Members for November

John	Church
Randell	Daughenbaugh
Herbert	Haggett
Abbie	Rasmussen
Mary	Robards
Connie	Ward

Welcome Back!

Marcia	Huslig
Clarence	Newbern
Loren	Scrivner

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.

NOTE: No newsletter will be mailed in December.

Your November Shawnee Signal

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Olathe KS 66062-1960



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