



# THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

## Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Vol. 31, No. 9

November 2009

www.narfe-chapter1162.org

Louise Lloyd, Editor, lalloydks@yahoo.com



### Christmas Luncheon – December 15th



#### 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

Our Christmas Party Committee invites you to join us for the 2009 Chapter 1162 Christmas luncheon. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday afternoon, December 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:15 p.m. at the Lenexa Community Center in the AB-Room.

The buffet style luncheon will feature herb roasted pork loin and smoked brisket. Following the luncheon and installation of officers, the Christmas party committee is excited to report that entertainment will be provided by dancers from the Arthur Murray Dance Studio. We are looking forward to our own mini-version of "Dancing with the Stars", and hope you'll come be part of the festivities. And in addition to the entertainment, there will also be Door Prizes given away throughout the event.

The cost for all of this is only \$14. Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 1162. To make a reservation, you can purchase tickets at the November 24th Chapter meeting, or send your check so it is received by the December 8<sup>th</sup> deadline to: Eunice Jones at 15326 W. 82nd Street, Lenexa, KS 66219-1520. Contact Eunice with any questions at 913-541-0807.

Directions: I-35, Exit at 95<sup>th</sup> Street and go west to Pflumm. Approximately 1/4 mile. Go north on Pflumm to approximately 93<sup>rd</sup> and Pflumm, the Lenexa Community Center will be on the east side of the street, next to the Lenexa Senior Center.

To get to the AB-Room, after entering the main doors, turn right just past the reception desk, and take the steps or ramp down to the AB-Room, located straight ahead at the bottom of the steps. For those who the ramp or steps maybe a problem, you can enter through the door to the Parks and Recreation Office located to the east of the main entrance. This door will bring you in on the meeting room level.

#### Federal Health Insurance and Federal Long Term Care Insurance Deadlines

At the October 27<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting there was some discussion about the Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). Just to be sure there is no confusion, the timeframe for the FEHBP Open Season is November 9<sup>th</sup> through December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Per an October 22, 2009 memorandum released by NARFE and published on the NARFE website, the Office of Personnel Management extended the deadline for Federal Long Term Care enrollees to make changes in their coverage to avoid or mitigate a 25 per cent premium increase. Most enrollees who added the automatic compound inflation (ACI) option to their FLTCIP plan are subject to the rate hike. OPM has moved the deadline from December 14, 2009 to February 15, 2010.

Note: No newsletter will be mailed in December. The next newsletter will be published in January.

Flo Biehl, Chapter President

The referendum on dues passed in our chapter. Our results are sent in. If you want to save money on dues, do dues withholding. Not only will you save money but you are spared the trouble of needing to send them in each year. Saves time, saves money.

Do you have any thoughts on programs you would like? They could be educational or entertaining. Think on it.

We will have election of officers and board members at the next meeting. The nominating committee has a slate of officers to nominate. If you or someone you know would like to be on the board, they can be nominated from the floor. You need only someone's permission. In addition to the officers, 3 board members will be elected. Two of them for a two year period, and one to fill an unexpired term of one year. When elected, these people meet monthly at Denny's (close to 95th street) on the first Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m. (earlier if they want breakfast). I hope some of you will consider this.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>		
January 1, 2009 – November 6, 2009		
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>	→	\$5,322
Chapter Dues	\$5,193	
Recruiting-Fee	2	
Interest - Money Market	2	
Interest - CD	124	
Ticket Sales	0	
Donations/Refunds	0	
<b>Expenses</b>	→	\$6,261
Newsletter & Web Site		
• Newsletter	2,616	
• Internet Web Site	165	
Meetings/Conferences:		
• Chapter	226	
• Federation	898	
• Region	767	
• National	0	
• Parties	0	
• Executive board	0	
Officers	17	
Committees	274	
Recruiting	0	
Federation Per Capita	1,103	
Donations	100	
Admin. Services	75	
Misc.	20	
<b>Cash increase or (decrease)</b>		\$ (939)
<b>Cash beginning of year</b>		<u>\$ 3,089</u>
<b>Cash Balance</b>		<u>\$ 2,149</u>
<b>Investment Activities</b>		
CD 14-month (matures Feb. 2010)		<u>\$ 5,155</u>
<b>Total Cash plus CD</b>		<u>\$ 7,305</u>

Tom Raby; 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Membership, Alzheimer's

We had a great day at the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk in Corporate Woods. Four of us participated in the party atmosphere of the walk while remembering why we take part. Businesses and organizations provided food and drink and there were several entertainment groups on stage. Our gang of four raised \$505.00 and the chapter donated \$100.00 for a total of \$605.00. Ruth Farwell, Cal Moore, Wayne Smutz and Tom Raby were the walkers. Thanks to all of you that contributed to the memory walk, as well as those of you who continue to support NARFE/Alzheimer's.

Don't forget to keep recruiting those you know that are not members. If you're still in touch at an agency provide them with the brochures and applications that we have. I have them available at each meeting and they are not rationed. If you have a relative that is a government employee, give them a gift membership for Christmas. Also, I have plenty of "Dues Withholding" forms also. You'll never get another renewal notice if you take advantage of this feature. (Current Federal Employees cannot use dues withholding because of the variety of payroll systems)

Make sure to attend the November meeting for our annual election of officers. We continue to have a cadre of competent members willing to serve our chapter. Also, any member, in good standing, is eligible to hold chapter office. If you are interested in running for office just let me, or anyone else, know. We will be happy to nominate you at the election. We have at least one candidate for each office, but competition is good for us, so make yourself available.

This will be the last newsletter this year so:

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, HAPPY CHANUKAH, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## Home Page



**NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas**

Federal employees and federal retirees living within the Kansas City Metropolitan Area.

You're welcome to visit our chapter. We're the largest NARFE chapter in the metro area. We have nearly 800 federal employees and federal retirees who are members of our chapter.

Our beat is Johnson County, Kansas which in the metro area. Our members come from Overland Park, Leawood, Lenexa, Olathe, Shawnee, Shawnee Mission, Gardner, and Stillwell. Although some members have migrated to where the weather is warmer.

For more information on our chapter and other chapters in the metropolitan area visit: Local Chapters on the adjacent menu.

What is **NARFE**? — If your not familiar with the term, **here's** a brief explanation.

NARFE® is a national nonprofit association of federal employees and retirees advocating for the protection and improvement of their earned benefits. NARFE is not a union, but it works with federal unions on mutual legislative agendas.

The NARFE Association pursues its legislative agenda with federally registered advocates (aka lobbyists) to promote its positions before Congress and the White House.

Chapter members also act as advocates a by personally contacting their local congressional senators and representatives to support passage of federal legislation that benefits federal employees and federal retirees.

NARFE has some 300,000 members. And it's been active on the national scene since 1921.

NARFE has years of experience on Capitol Hill and in federal agencies that have made NARFE a respected name among members of Congress and a key player in the federal community.

NARFE has a monthly magazine that covers what federal employees and retirees should know about news affecting your retirement and health care benefits. The magazine alone is worth the price of membership.

\* National Active and Retiree Federal Employees Association

**NARFE IS YOUR LEGISLATIVE VOICE ON CAPITOL HILL.**

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## OTHER PAGES

Local Chapters.  
About Chapter 1162 and other NARFE chapters within the Kansas City metro area.

Chapter 1162 Meetings.  
dates, location, time and purpose.

Staff  
Chapter Officers and  
Committees.

Chapter Newsletter  
Read the chapter's newsletter,  
The Shawnee Signal.

Kansas Federation Newsletter  
Articles by federation of BERS.

Senior's  
A Johnson County web site for  
senior citizens' activities and  
activities.

NARFE Headquarters.  
Jumping off page to NARFE's  
official Web site. Join NARFE  
online.

Health Care Reform.  
NARFE's position paper on health  
care reform.

Poem by James Elliot Freeman.  
His poem fell on the moon by an  
Apollo 17 astronaut. Inspiration  
for NARFE members.

NARFE Magazine  
November 2009 issue  
"PURSUING YOUR PASSION"



NARFE's award-winning monthly  
magazine is filled with information  
you won't find anywhere else on  
legislation affecting your retirement  
benefits, readers' questions and  
answers on retirement, benefits,  
articles on financial planning,  
seniors' health, retirement choices,  
lifestyles features and so on.

## Our Chapter's Web Site

[www.narfe-chapter1162.org](http://www.narfe-chapter1162.org)

What's new on our website?

1) Now, you can read the Kansas Federation newsletter on our chapter web site.

Our Kansas Federation has published a newsletter for years. And it is mailed to all federation officers and chapter presidents in the Kansas federation. The federation's policy has been for chapter presidents to share important information in the newsletter with members of their chapter at their meetings and newsletters. It's a good idea, however, it was never fully implemented for very practical reasons.

But that time has changed with the coming of our chapter website. Now, the federation secretary sends us a copy to post on our website for you to read. That's progress. We're becoming more transparent. When you access the federation newsletter on our website, there's a picture of the officer along with their article. It's good reading, and it's time you got acquainted with the rest of the NARFE family that you've rarely heard about.

2) Our website's homepage, which you see on the left, has had a course change by the opening text that a person sees when first viewing the page – "You're welcome to visit our chapter."

The focus is now on our chapter in the KC metro area. Before, it was all NARFE chapters in the metro area, and we were just one of the chapters there. This change will affect the description of our website that appears on, for example, Google and Yahoo search pages when someone is looking for a NARFE chapter on the Web. Hopefully, it'll increase visitor traffic to our site.

It may have appeared to a chapter member that our website was only directed at those individuals searching for information on some chapter within their area. That's not the case. Check the menu on the homepage and you'll find pages that are of interest to you, such as our chapter newsletter, chapter meetings, chapter officers, and so on.

Bob Steinert, Webmaster, email: [steinertj@att.net](mailto:steinertj@att.net)

The following tip may be helpful to many of you to reduce computer virus issues on your computers. This tip is from the Senior Computers Users Group of Greater Kansas City that holds monthly meetings at the Johnson County Community College. Their website is [www.kcseniornet.com](http://www.kcseniornet.com).

"Do not open unknown sources. Do not press OK or CANCEL on any popup ad. (Close with X).

Do not open any website that offers free antivirus scan, free software or free services of any kind.

Verify e-mails from friends recommending hardware." Louise Lloyd, Editor

### Future Meeting Dates/Activities

**November 24<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m.**, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79<sup>th</sup> & Lowell. Election of Officers. Program: Discussion on Health Benefits

**December 15<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Christmas Luncheon, 1:15 p.m.**, Lenexa Community Center, 93rd & Pflumm, next to the Lenexa Senior Center. Cost \$14. Installation of officers, entertainment & door prizes. See front page article for further details.

**Note:** No Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet in December. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Chapter Christmas Luncheon.

**January 8<sup>th</sup> - Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.** at Denny's Restaurant, 95<sup>th</sup> & I-35 Exit, Lenexa, adjacent to LaQuinta Hotel.

**January 13<sup>th</sup> - Social Meeting** at Hometown Buffet, 73<sup>rd</sup> & Quivira at 1:00 p.m. RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 432-0091.

**January 26<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m.**, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79<sup>th</sup> & Lowell, Program, Sandra Sullivan Shira, "How to Live to be 100 and Feel Great"

**Note: Meeting Cancellation Policy:** A regular chapter monthly meeting will be canceled during the winter months if Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes due to inclement weather.

11/03/09 - This special NARFE ACTION ALERT urges each NARFE member to contact his or her two U.S. Senators immediately to protect all federal retirees from an unfair increase in the Medicare Part B Premium.

Since October 28<sup>th</sup> NARFE members used our Legislative Action Center to send e-mail messages to their Senators concerning the potential 14 percent increase in their Medicare Part B Premiums (from 96.40 to 110.50 per month). However, many thousands more are needed to urge the Senate to pass H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act which passed September 24<sup>th</sup> in the House of Representatives by an overwhelming vote of 406-18.

Unless legislation is enacted soon, the opportunity to correct this unfair situation by the time January 2010 checks are issued will be past. Please support NARFE and other seniors who are only seeking equal treatment as others who participate in the Part B program by passing the Medicare Premium Fairness Act.

NARFE members can find further information on our Legislative Action Center and with a few clicks urge their Senators to quickly pass the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, H.R. 3631. Only by acting immediately will the Medicare agency be able to prepare for 2010. (The direct path to this Urgent Action Alert is <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14260196>)

## Your November Shawnee Signal

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Olathe KS 66062-1960



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