

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



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www.narfe-chapter1162.org

Louise Lloyd, Editor, lalloydks@yahoo.com

**Flo Biehl, Chapter President**

Our legislators are coming home from Washington for a brief break. This is a good time to visit them (or at least their office) and remind them of your wish for premium conversion. This is a health care issue that goes well with the talk of health care reform. Active members already have this and so do our friends who are our legislators--we would like this too. Dennis Moore has supported us in the past so thanks are in order.

If you can't attend the September meeting, when the chapter as a whole will vote on the dues referendum, please refer to page 36 in the August magazine which includes a Special Voter's Coupon that can be completed by members in good standing and submitted to me as Chapter President, at the following address: 12819 W. 78<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66216.

**NARFE DUES Referendum – Agnes Shellhammer**

Hello fellow NARFE members. I haven't written anything for the newsletter for some time, but I can't resist this time. I'm sure you all know about the NARFE dues referendum coming up this fall. It is very important for all of us to understand how it will affect all of us. We would not have National and Chapter dues. There would be only one dues of \$40.00 instead of two. For Shawnee Mission Chapter the change will be a slight increase. Our dues at present are \$29.00 for National and \$9.00 for Chapter dues, for a total of \$38.00. If you are on dues withholding there is a 10 percent discount, so your dues would be \$36.00. This is the way to go. If you are not on dues withholding it is very easy to get on. All you need to do is fill out the coupon in the NARFE magazine and send it in. Doing this would lower your dues and save you the work of paying dues each year. Personally I think this is the only to go. I will vote for the one dues!! Be sure to attend the August 18 and September 22 monthly meetings for more info. Most of all VOTE!!!

**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

**Future Meeting Dates/Activities:**

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m.**, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79<sup>th</sup> & Lowell (Note: meeting date change). Program: Speaker from Olathe Public Library. Hear about the history of this oldest library in Johnson County, and about plans for the library's centennial celebration .

**September 9<sup>th</sup>** – Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 75<sup>th</sup> & Quivira, 1:00 p.m., RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 432-0091

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Chapter Meeting/Dinner and program, 6:00 p.m.** at Leona Yarbrough's, \$12.00 plus tax. RSVP Elizabeth Bornman, 913-268-8526. See article on page 2 for additional details.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>** – Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 75<sup>th</sup> & Quivira, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 432-0091.

## Tom Raby, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Memory Walk:** The annual Alzheimer's Memory Walk will be October 3, 2009 at Corporate woods. I have pledge sheets for anyone that wishes to walk with us. You can just walk without obtaining pledges, or you can make a contribution to Alzheimer's Association. This activity is sponsored by the Heart of America Chapter.

We have collected the needed 1000 "Best Choice" UPC's and I'll be sending them in before August 1. Thanks to all those that have saved these labels. Our chapter has contributed over \$850.00 in the first six months of this year to NARFE/Alzheimer's. This is a great amount, in total, but only adds up to \$1.09 per member, YTD. Much of the total was due to items donated to the auction at our Federation Convention. 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.

Welcome to the new members who are listed on this page of the newsletter. We also had one death reported for the month of June, Margerite Graf.

Make an effort to attend the August, September, October and November meetings. We will be voting on the national chapter dues, collectively, and we will be electing chapter officers in November. We always need new chapter officers. The only prerequisite is that you be a member. Please encourage all members to run for office and participate in NARFE efforts. If someone thinks that they have to "put in their time" before becoming "qualified" for some position, they are wrong. Enthusiastic people will be recruited, and put in service, by some other organization and that will be our loss.

Any member that is curious, or interested, should come to Executive Board meeting(s). We meet on the first Friday of each month at: Denny's in Lenexa. It's just north of 95<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to LaQuinta Motor Hotel. Meeting is at 9:30am. Show up by 9:00am to order breakfast.

## Elizabeth Bornman, Past President

Hope everyone's summer has been going well. The NARFE headquarters' has had a busy summer with the House and Senate to fight for your benefits both for active and retired federal employees. It takes a lot of members to get the attention we need. Please keep supporting the organization. If you could give your chapter some time as an officer in the chapter, we would greatly appreciate your time.

**Consider coming to our August meeting.** If you have other commitments during the day, **try our next evening dinner meeting September 22, 6 PM at Yarbrough's family restaurant on Shawnee Mission Parkway**, in Shawnee, KS. *The cost of the dinner will be \$12.00 plus tax, drink and dessert extra. If you have any questions concerning this evening meeting give be a call at 913-268-8526. Reservations are requested.*

### Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2009 – July 17, 2009

#### Operating Activities

<b>Revenue</b>	→	\$ 4,085
Chapter Dues	\$4,002	
Recruiting-Fee	0	
Interest - Money Market	1	
Interest - CD	82	
Ticket Sales	0	
Donations/Refunds	0	
<b>Expenses</b>	→	\$ 4,151
Newsletter & Web Site		
• Newsletter	\$1,576	
• Internet Web Site	165	
Meetings/Conferences:		
• Chapter	180	
• Federation	837	
• Region	0	
• National	0	
• Parties	0	
• Executive board	0	
Officers	17	
Committees	193	
Recruiting	0	
Federation Per Capita Fee	1,103	
Donations	0	
Admin. Services	75	
Misc.	5	
<b>Cash increase or (decrease)</b>		\$ (66)
<b>Cash beginning of year</b>		\$ 3,089
<b>Cash Balance</b>		\$ 3,023
<b>Investment Activities</b>		
CD 14-month (matures Feb. 2010)		\$ 5,155
<b>Total Cash plus CD</b>		\$ 8,178

### Welcome to the Following New Chapter Members!

Steven Adukaitis  
 Jeffrey Burkholder  
 James Cunningham  
 Sharon Delozier  
 Cynthia Evitt  
 Virginia Glauser  
 Sheryl Gulley  
 Linda Hecky  
 Marion Hughes  
 Mary Kasper  
 Frances Maynard  
 Steven Lehmann  
 Michael Putzier  
 Shirley Rogers  
 Shirley Scott  
 Margaret South  
 Frances Stephens  
 Jimmy Watkins

## Legislative News by Louis Bornman

### Grass-Roots Advocacy Month

Grass-Roots Advocacy Month – formerly known as “Lobby Month” - is the time of the congressional summer recess, August through Labor Day, September 7. This is the prime time recommended by NARFE Headquarters for making visits with every Member of Congress (our Congressman Dennis Moore and two Kansas Senators, Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback) to discuss NARFE issues with them and to personally solicit their support. Anyone interested in participating in this from Chapter 1162 should contact Louis Bornman: (913) 268-8526, or via email: BornmanL@aol.com. I am looking for members who can relate personal stories that reflect how some of the issues (like GPO and WEP) negatively impact current active members and/or retirees and how the NARFE supported legislative action would make a positive change for them. I would like to get those personal stories documented and ask those who can to participate in direct meetings with Congressional Members to gain their support for our legislative agenda.

Remember that from time to time our elected officials do hold public meetings with their constituency where they invite people they represent to meet with them briefly to present their concerns over legislative issues they are considering. These are also opportunities for you to express your views on NARFE issues and seek their legislative support. If you go to one of these events please let me know how things went.

If you can not make a personal meeting then I highly encourage you to go to the national NARFE website Legislative Action Center and send our representative and two senators a message (or several) asking them to support our legislative agenda items. If you could also let me know if you do this I would appreciate it also. I would like to be able to use that as leverage when I communicate with our legislators and with other chapters and our state federation. Our chapter is the largest in the state with over 800 registered members. If we **ALL** speak up we can make our issues heard and do a lot to influence our legislators to support those issues.

### Issues Affecting Active Federal Employees

There are some issues you may not be aware of that affect active federal employees. The Senate Veterans Affairs (VA) Committee has approved a bill (S-252) that would raise salaries for nurses, physicians, dentists and executives who work for the VA system, while streamlining those pay systems, clarifying policies regarding work scheduling and overtime, and improving education benefits for current and prospective VA

employees. In addition, the measure is designed to make it easier for VA to hire and retain part-time nurses and allow full-time nurses to transition to part-time work schedules, and provide incentives to retired employees to return to the VA.

**TSP** - Several improvements to the TSP have now passed both the House and Senate and have been sent to the White House for its expected approval of the host bill (HR-1256). The TSP changes however would require some time to take effect even after final enactment. The most closely watched provision, mandating a Roth option in the TSP, could take upwards of two years to implement since it would require substantial changes to the TSP's operating system and agency payroll systems, plus an educational program. In a Roth option, money goes in after-tax but comes out along with its earnings tax-free, a reversal of the TSP's current design. Any money going into a Roth account would count against the overall investment dollar limit, currently \$16,500, applying to retirement savings programs like the TSP.

### Concerns with our upcoming Pay Raise for Active Members

- Various bills moving in Congress have left considerable uncertainty as to the size of the January 2010 federal raise. The full House could vote as soon as this week on its version of the general government appropriations bill that by remaining silent on the raise would set an average GS increase of 2 percent, the figure requested by President Obama. The counterpart Senate bill would set the raise at 2.9 percent. Congress earlier this year endorsed parity between federal civilian and military raises, and the DOD authorization bills of both the House and Senate would set the military raise at 3.4 percent. However, language in an appropriations bill—which contains the actual money for raises—would trump the pay parity language, which was contained in a budget guidance measure that is not signed into law.

### NARFE Guide for Federal Employees & Annuitants

NARFE has published an excellent booklet entitled “*Be Prepared for Life's Events*” that is intended for use and reference by current NARFE members. It includes all the information applicable to Annuitant and Survivor Benefits. Every member should have one. To obtain a copy contact our Service Officer,

**OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE****[www.narfe-chapter1162.org](http://www.narfe-chapter1162.org)**

Three new pages have been added recently to our chapter website.

- Kansas Federation Newsletter. You can now read the Federation's newsletter on our website. The current issue is about the Kansas Federation Convention. Here's your chance to see pictures of the officers and learn what goes on at these federation conventions.
- NARFE Region V is sponsoring the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) this August in South Sioux City, Nebraska. You can read the details about this event on our website. The graphics on this page is worth the look – the front page was created by the webmaster of the North Dakota chapter who sponsor the event for Region V. We're also a chapter in Region V.
- Chapter Website. Some members don't give a hoot about websites or computers in general. If you're *not* one of those and you're wondering does anyone visit our website on the Internet, this web page may interest you. There's also a bit about our chapter newsletter The Shawnee Signal, which you're reading now.

The Bad News. Our website has a serious problem. Some members can't read our newsletter on their computer screen. And it's not the fault of their eye sight. The reason is that newsletters are posted on the website in the PDF format, and you must have a PDF reader installed in your computer to view newsletters on a computer screen. Adobe corporation developed the PDF (Portable Document Format) format, and they offer a PDF reader free on their website. Their program is named Adobe Reader. There are other sources for PDF readers, but Adobe's has become a de facto standard in the industry.

An important reason for displaying newsletters on the computer screen in the PDF format is the high cost of print copy sent by mail. Check the treasurer's report in this month's issue and you'll see the newsletter is the greatest expense for the chapter. However, the cost of displaying the newsletter in the PDF format on the computer is virtually zero.

If you can't read PDF documents you're missing the opportunity to read and save newsletters from other NARFE sources on your computer screen. There are 191 chapter websites and 42 federation websites. And they all publish their newsletters in the PDF format. So you're missing the chance to read what other chapters are up to by not having a reader.

Bob Steinert, Webmaster

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## Your August Shawnee Signal

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