



**The Shawnee Signal**  
**Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas**  
**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

Vol. 36, No. 1

**January 2014**

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

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

**Officers & Committees**

**President**

Louise Lloyd  
913-661-1720

**1st Vice President**

Louis Bornman  
913-268-8526

**2nd Vice President**

Elizabeth Bornman  
913-268-8526

**Secretary**

Ginny Glauser  
913-492-8356

**Treasurer**

Mary Haswell  
913-400-7303

**Service Officer**

Elizabeth Bornman  
913-268-8526

**Alzheimer's**

Judy Arnold  
913-962-7502

**Legislative**

Louis Bornman  
913-268-8526

**Membership**

Vacant

**NARFE-PAC**

Flo Biehl  
913-631-5559

**Newsletter**

Louise Lloyd  
913-661-1720

**Sunshine**

Don Faidley  
913-671-7368

**Webmaster**

Jerry Lloyd  
913-661-1720

**Reminder:** Don't forget to bring your egg cartons & plastic grocery bags to meetings for donation to the Community Service Center of Shawnee, Inc.

A newsletter will not be published in February.

**Sunshine Committee:**

Contact Don Faidley if you know of any members who may be sick.

**President's News - Louise Lloyd**

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. In December at our Christmas luncheon meeting, officers were installed for 2014. I thank all those individuals who agreed to serve our chapter for the upcoming year. Officers are as follows: Louise Lloyd, President; Louis Bornman, 1st Vice-President; Elizabeth Borman, 2nd Vice-President; Ginny Glauser, Secretary; and Mary Haswell, Treasurer. In addition, we welcome two new board members, Sheryl Gulley and Bruce Smith. Judy Arnold and Marie Mabon will continue to serve the 2nd year of their terms.

As President once again, *the goals I have for the upcoming year include:* Attract more members to attend our monthly meetings by offering interesting programs; continuing to hold a few meetings at more convenient times to make it more feasible for our actively employed members to attend; recruiting more new members for our chapter and NARFE; and getting more of our members to switch to "dues withholding" as the method to pay annual dues, as it does save the member money, and helps maintain better continuity of membership. The board will be having discussions with plans to layout a meeting schedule for the upcoming year and identify programs/speakers for the remainder of 2014. I had passed out surveys to members at our November meeting, but only received about 6 responses. The board will take suggestions from the surveys when we plan for 2014. However, I welcome suggestions on how to make our meetings more meaningful to the members at any time. And if you have ideas for speakers, or know of reasonably priced entertainment, feel free to contact me with suggestions. Also, if you have access or are aware of reasonably priced meeting room space that we could meet for some occasions, I do hope you will contact me or one of the other officers as we are always looking for some alternative locations to host a few meetings.

I am pleased to report that our website is now up and running once again. Fortunately my husband, Jerry, agreed to accept the webmaster position. I encourage you to check the website out now as it has the last newsletter and most recent chapter minutes. It is planned that items of interest to our members will be posted periodically, i.e., legislative issues and Alzheimer's information. Jerry welcomes feedback about the website, so suggestions or ideas are welcomed.

Nationally there is some relief based on the budget agreement that will keep government operating with out fear of sequestration for the near future. However, consider what NARFE President Joe Beaudoin said in his December 10<sup>th</sup> press release. "Unfortunately, this deal continues with the dangerous precedent set by Congress last year in taking from future federal employees to pay for bad policies and deficit reduction now." Those hired under FERS before 2013 pay 0.8 percent of their salary, those hired in 2013 pay 3.1 percent and those hired after Jan. 1 will pay 4.4 percent. Efforts by NARFE members were not in vain. This is at least not as bad as the Republicans or the President proposed.

As we traditionally do not publish a February chapter newsletter, I encourage you to check the chapter website for minutes for what occurred at our meetings and other items of interest that may occur before we publish the March newsletter.

**Louis Bornman, 1st Vice-President, Legislative Chair**

Well the year has started off with an all-out assault on Federal Employees. On January 1<sup>st</sup> the KC Star published an Opinion article in the 913 section by Ms. Danedri Herbert that was derogatory toward federal workers and stated that with an average annual pay of \$71,206 they are way overpaid compared with the average private sector worker at \$40,331. Then she goes on to dismiss the fact that the average federal worker is more educated than the average private sector worker by saying that the only reason for that is because the federal bureaucrats can tax the average worker to death and that gives them enough money to pay whatever they want. In fact she totally dismisses a University of Wisconsin economics department report that determines why federal workers get paid more because of their higher level of education. Then she goes on to malign federal workers for getting a one percent pay raise and thinks they should not get another one until the average private sector wage is up to the federal worker average. Now she is entitled to her opinion but to be given two columns of space in the opinion section of the 913 section of the KC Star twice a month allows her undue influence over the uneducated public and their opinion of federal workers especially when her opinion is lacking in any evidence of proof to substantiate her claims. Please join me in calling, writing and emailing the KC Star and Ms Herbert to refute and denounce them for publishing such rubbish as valid opinion pieces. I have already written a rebuttal letter to the editor and the author but when you are limited to 200 words you can't say a whole lot.

**Future Meeting Dates/Activities:**

**January 28<sup>th</sup>, Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m.** Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

**February 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.** at Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 Exit, Lenexa

**February 25<sup>th</sup>, Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m.** Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell. Program: Are you Living in a Toxic Home?

**March 7<sup>th</sup>, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.** at Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 Exit, Lenexa

**March 25<sup>th</sup>, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m.** Overland Park Lutheran Church

**April 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, NARFE Kansas Federation Convention, Four Pointes by Sheraton Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas.**

**Note: Meeting Cancellation Policy for Chapter Meetings:** A chapter monthly meeting will be canceled if Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes due to inclement weather.

**Alzheimer's News-- Judy Lukas Arnold, Alzheimer's Chairperson**

Our chapter had a very good year with raising funds for Alzheimer's research. In all, we contributed \$1, 753.88 to the cause! This amount was derived from our State Federation's Auction efforts, our local Silent Auction, individual donations, chapter collections at meetings, and the return on our Best Choice labels. The total also represents an increase over the previous year, not only in dollars, but also in the average amount given per member, so congratulations to us all for our team work!

Now that we've moved into 2014, I'd like to remind you of various ways we can help to combat Alzheimer's disease. We collect money (by check) and Best Choice labels (just the bar code section) at all chapter meetings, but you can also send them to me at home at 11605 W. 60<sup>th</sup> Place, Shawnee, KS, 66203. (It is a big help to me, if you would enclose your count of the labels.) Also, if you are so inclined, you might pre-designate "NARFE #1162 – Alzheimer's Research" for personal memorials as you are planning your Advance Directives or think of this opportunity, when honoring a loved one who has passed.

**Service Officer – Elizabeth Bornman**

If you receive a pension from a federal, state or local government based on work where you did not pay Social Security (**SS**) taxes, your spouses or widow or widower's (**SS**) benefits may be reduced. Your **SS** benefits will be reduced by two thirds of your government pension. In other words, if you get a monthly civil service pension of \$600, two-thirds of that \$400, must be deducted from your **SS** benefits. For example, if you are eligible for a \$500 spouse's, widow's, or widower's benefits from **SS**, you will receive a \$100 per month from SS (\$500-\$400 = \$100). *Before enactment of the GPO provision, if a woman was a government employee who did not pay into SS and who earned an \$800 government pension there is no offset, SS would be required to pay her a full wife's benefits in addition to her government pension. If you take your government pension annuity in a lump sum, SS still will calculate the reduction as if you chose to get monthly benefit payments from your government work.*

OPM is currently looking at the flexible spending rollovers. Currently they allow you to spend down your accounts thru the first quarter of the following year. About 322,700 federal employees signed up for health FSAs in 2012 with an average of \$2,050 per account. In 2012 the average federal employee forfeited an average of \$392 because of the "use it or lose it" rule. There are Senators who would like to see OPM change the rule to allow a \$500 dollar a year roll over *without a forfeiture* of funds.

**In Memoriam**

Carl Lee Aubrey    Robert Surbaugh  
 Mary McCulley    Otis Tucker  
 Doris Rigby

**Welcome New Member!**

Paula Schwach

**Contact Information:**

**Senator Jerry Moran** – jerry\_moran@moran/senate.gov; Olathe, KS office telephone 913-393-0711. D.C. Office: 202-224-6521. *Signup for newsletter: www.moran.senate.gov*  
**Senator Pat Roberts** – pat\_roberts@roberts.senate.gov; Overland Park Office: 913-451-9343. D.C. Office: 202-224-4774. *Signup for newsletter: www.roberts.senate.gov.*  
**Congressman Kevin Yoder** – Overland Park, KS telephone: 913-621-0832, Washington D.C. telephone: 202-225-2865. *Signup for newsletter: www.yoder.house.gov.*

**OPM Retirement Information**

Remarriage, divorce, death or spouse, change of address or financial institution or amount of insurance under FEGLI,  
**1-888-767-6738**

NARFE's Legislative Hotline is available to telephone callers (703)-838-7780 and toll free at 1-877-217-8234. It's also posted on the Internet at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

A reminder that retirees can sign up for the Dues Withholding option to obtain a 15% discount (\$6) on your annual NARFE dues. Dues withholding applications are included in each monthly NARFE magazine, and applications are also on the NARFE website at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

National Active and Retired Federal  
 Employees Assoc. 1162  
 11433 Rene Street  
 Lenexa, KS 66215-4843

Your January Shawnee Signal

Nonprofit Org.  
 U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 532.  
 Olathe, KS 66061

