



The Shawnee Signal
Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
January 2013

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www.narfe-chapter1162.org

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913-764-7456

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 2013. 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 Bornman, 2nd Vice-President; Ginny Glauser, Secretary; and Mary Haswell, Treasurer. In addition, we welcome two new board members, Mozella (Marie) Mabon and Judy Arnold who will now serve as the Alzheimer's Chairperson. Frank McGough and Pat Daly, will continue to serve the 2nd year of their terms.

Calendar year 2013 will be an important and busy year for our chapter. As President once again, several items I hope to accomplish include updating our chapter Constitution and bylaws, striving to attract more members to attend our monthly meetings, including continuing holding a few meetings at more convenient times for our actively employed members. One other very important activity will be planning for the April Federation (state) Convention that our chapter is hosting at the Holiday Inn at 87th Reeder where we held our Christmas luncheon. It takes a number of members working together to successfully plan and host the Federation convention and we hope many of you will be willing to help us with this. It has been over 15 years since our chapter hosted. We are the largest chapter in the state, so it was time for our chapter to take its turn. Our chapter convention committees are to meet with the Federation board on Saturday January 19th at 9:30 a.m. for some instructions/training as to various committee responsibilities. If you have already agreed to serve as a chairperson for a committee, please plan on attending this training meeting. If you have not yet signed up to help on a convention committee, we are in need of additional individuals to work for several hours on Sunday helping with the Alzheimer's auction, or hospitality room. We also are in need of several individuals to assist for a few hours on Monday. If you can spare a few hours on Sunday or Monday, please contact Elizabeth Bornman, Convention Chair at 913-268-8526, or email at bornmanE@aol.com.

For the convention, our chapter is authorized over 20 delegates, so at the upcoming chapter meetings we will be selecting individuals who are available and interested in attending and participating at the convention. So if you are not available to attend any meetings in the next few months, but would like to be able to be a voting delegate at the convention, please contact me via phone or e-mail. It is our intent to assist with the registration fee for those attending as delegates.

As the Convention Host chapter, we are responsible for preparing the convention Program Book. Therefore we need to solicit local advertising for the program booklet to help defray costs of publishing the booklet as well as the potential to help our chapter possibly earn a little profit. The ads for the program book are very reasonable, ranging from \$10 to \$50 maximum. For example, it is only \$10 for a business card ad. If you have a business yourself, or know of any businesses that would be willing to advertise in our program book, please contact Louis Bornman our 1st Vice-President (913-268-8526, or bornmanL@aol.com) for the advertising rates/information. Information about the Convention, including the advertising information/rates can also be easily found on our chapter website www.narfe-chapter1162.org by selecting "CHAPTER" on the menu bar at the top of the home page.

Our webmaster, Bob Steinert, has made a number of revisions to our website so I really encourage you to check it out. When visiting the website you will find information about **chapter news** and activities by clicking on "CHAPTER" that is on the menu bar at the top of home page. Bob welcomes feedback about the website, so suggestions or ideas are welcomed.

In Memoriam

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Dorothy Christoph | Manuel Kirlin |
| Gloria Heisterberg | Ruth Mott |
| Martha Erickson | Richard Johnson |
| Loraine Hanscum | Vern Hanser |
| Evelyn Simmons | |

Welcome New Members!

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Vinita Canright | Janet Nelson |
| Yvonne McDonough | Joe Fritze |
| Edward Quackenbush | James Ogden |

OPM Retirement Information

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

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

January 22nd Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m. Overland park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell. **Program:** Evelyn VanKemseke Executive Director for the Shawnee Community Service Center.

February 1st Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 Exit, Lenexa

February 13th, Social Luncheon at Ryan's, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

February 26th, Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m. Overland park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

March 1st, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 Exit, Lenexa.

March 13th, Social Luncheon at Ryan's, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091.

March 26th, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m. (tentative potluck luncheon) Overland Park Lutheran Church.

April 28th-30th, NARFE Kansas Federation Convention, Chapter 1162 is hosting, Holiday Inn Overland Park-West, 87th and Reeder.

Sunshine Committee:

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

Reminder: Bring your egg cartons and plastic grocery bags to meetings for donation to the Community Service Center of Shawnee, Inc.

No newsletter will be published in February.

Alzheimer's News— Judy Lukas Arnold, Alzheimer's Chairperson

Since Alzheimer's touches us all in one way or another, I sincerely beg each of you to help me make this year a landmark one for our NARFE Chapter in fighting this insidious disease.

Our first big event will be the fundraisers – Silent and Live Auctions - conducted during the KS Federation Convention, which we host in Overland Park April 28-30. I'm asking EVERY MEMBER to contribute at least one item of new or antique quality this year. Whether you make a habit of attending our business/educational meetings or not, surely you can find one thing valued at a minimum of \$5 to help eliminate such an awful disease! I would also ask you to consider enlisting one other donation from a family member, friend, or favorite vendor (e.g., restaurant, other place of business) in the name of our cause. This strategy not only will ensure the success of our auctions, but also will help to enlist others in combating Alzheimer's. Further, it will promote a deepened understanding of this significant work of NARFE. I would love to see you at meetings where you may bring your items. However, if this is not possible, you could drop them off at my home or mail things, like solicited gift certificates. My home address is: 11605 W. 60th Place, Shawnee, KS. 66203 or you may contact me at (913) 962-7502 or 669-7891. If you cannot donate in any other way, I would make every attempt to pick up contributions from your home.

While on the subject of how you can help, we continue to collect Best Choice labels. Save and bring or send me the UPC codes that benefit research of Alzheimer's causes and cures. Or if you prefer, you may simply send me checks that are made out to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research.

And before we fully transition into the new year, I'd like to once again thank Eddie Acosta, our immediate past chairperson, for his past and ongoing guidance on this extremely important issue. He has "carried our banner" well and we will look forward to hearing his report from our December fundraiser at the January meeting. We hope to see many of you there!

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

Louis Bornman, 1st Vice-President, Legislative Chair

Last month I printed up post cards to send to our Congressman and two Senators and got members at our last meeting to sign them, put their return address on them and mailed them. We mailed 64 post cards requesting that Congress find other ways of preventing the "fiscal cliff" than attacking Federal Employee and Retiree pay and benefits. These postcards are available on the chapter and federation websites for any NARFE member to use. Now that the threat has passed for the moment we must still be vigilant as the House of Representatives just this Tuesday passed a bill to extend the current federal pay freeze for the rest of 2013. This has to pass the Senate and then be signed by the President to take effect. I am sure that and more will be included in future debates over the debt ceiling and other budgetary legislation.

About the Federation Convention in April, Bob Steinert has done some great work on the chapter website, reorganizing and redesigning it. He has also posted information and registration forms for the Kansas Federation Convention on the website for everyone to use. Please be sure to register for the convention at your earliest convenience. We are also looking for several people to help with the execution of the convention at the end of April. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Service Officer – Elizabeth Bornman

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has reduced the backlog of retirement claims by about 39% year to date. In January 2012 the total backlog was 61,108 claims; in October the backlog was reduced to 37,086. In recent months it has received more retirement claims that it had projected. Since the federal workforce is aging, and there are many buyouts being offered, OPM may still face challenges in the backlog.

It looks as though the current federal workforce will not be getting that overdue pay raise based on the latest Congressional voting. The current congress is not giving up on attacking the current workforce. They are not forgetting about retirees either. If they get their way, we will be getting smaller COLA's with a new formula to determine what we are entitled to receive. Keep connecting your congressional staff members and remind them how this affects your quality of life.

For those who are currently receiving annuity checks, please note that for future years OPM will no longer issue the annual written statement itemizing your annuity payment amount for the upcoming year. Those future statements will only be processed electronically.

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.

National Active and Retired Federal
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Your January Shawnee Signal

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Your name and address is here.

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