



SHAWNEE SIGNAL

Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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www.narfe-chapter1162.org

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Chapter President – Louise Lloyd

With the month of February now behind us, I bet most of you probably breathed a big sigh of relief, I know I did. Unfortunately with so much snow we had to cancel our February meeting.

The March 26th chapter meeting will be held at the Perkins Restaurant on 87th and Nieman at 12:30 p.m. Since this date falls during Easter week, our regular meeting place at Overland Park Lutheran Church was not available. Once again members can order off the menu and no prior reservation is required. The pricing is reasonable and the food and service are good. I hope many of you will consider joining us. Pat Daly will share some useful information on computer security. Also, feel free to e-mail Pat with your computer questions at technoid17-narfe@yahoo.com, he'll try to address them at the meeting.

The most important task facing our chapter in the immediate future, besides doing all we can to contact our congressional delegation to express our concerns about the sequestration, is to finalize plans and prepare to host the NARFE Kansas Federation from April 28th to April 30th. A number of things still need to be done or require some additional help. First our chapter is allotted over 20 voting delegates. If you are interested in attending and participating in the convention, please contact Elizabeth Bornman (913-268-8526 or bormane@aol.com) as she currently has the registration packets and forms. The registration fee is \$20; however, our chapter is willing to reimburse this fee for those who attend as delegates for the convention. There are 3 meals that will be served throughout the convention. The meals are dinner Sunday evening, Monday lunch and a Monday evening banquet. Members can choose which meals they would like to attend. The food at the Holiday Inn has been outstanding, so we hope many of our members will attend one of the meal functions. And we have the Yakety Sax Quartet lined up to provide entertainment for the Monday night banquet. These musicians are very talented and play a variety of musical selections that are so fun to hear and bring back memories of times gone by.

We also really need additional individuals to help in several areas on Sunday starting at 10 a.m. including the Alzheimer's area. If you have a couple of hours available that you could help on Sunday April 28th during the timeframe from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. please contact Elizabeth Bornman. As chair of the convention, Elizabeth can help place you where we need your help. None of the assignments are too difficult; it just takes a number of people to carry out some of the various duties. Your help will truly be appreciated.

In addition, we are responsible for producing and printing the Convention program book. To help defray the costs, we are soliciting ads that range in size from a business card ad for just \$10, to a full page ad for \$50, or just \$40 for a NARFE member. So if you have your own business, or know of a business that would like to advertise, information is available on our chapter website under the "CHAPTER 1162" activity drop down menu. The business card ad is perfect if you are a distributor for a company like Avon, Amway, Arbonne, etc., where individuals can order from you via a website. If you are unable to access the information regarding the ads from the chapter website, then I encourage you to contact Louis Bornman, co-chair of the convention at 913-268-8526 or bormmanL@aol.com.

Finally some clarification regarding attending the convention, if you plan to participate at the convention on Monday and Tuesday, then you would need a registration packet so that you can officially register. You can attend just as a member without having to be a delegate, but you would still need to get a registration packet. Or if you decide you just want to attend one of the meal functions, pre-registration and payment for a meal is still needed so that we can provide a meal count to the hotel. Please contact Elizabeth Bornman for registration information or if you have any questions.

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

I have been working with our Webmaster to create a new section called "Alzheimer's Awareness". Be on the lookout for newly-posted information which you will find on the chapter website under "CHAPTER 1162" activities menu.

We will continue to collect donated items for our Silent and Live Auctions to be held during the state convention. Please be generous and as you're soliciting, tell people that 100% of all donations go to Alzheimer's research. You may bring the items ahead of time to our meetings or on the Sunday of Convention. That convention day, we also need your help with our booth, checking in items or taking them to their appropriate auction rooms. Look at the sign-up sheet on the chapter website and contact Judy @ 913-962-7502 for a time slot during which you can assist.

As Alzheimer's Chairperson I have access to resources to help Alzheimer's victims and their loved ones, who are providing care and support. You may contact me for written materials or other information, which can be real lifesavers!

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. My address is: 11605 W. 60th Place, Shawnee, KS. 66203.

NARFE-PAC: The Federal Employee and Retiree Defense Fund - Flo Biehl

March is NARFE-PAC month and we are in for a treat this month with our magazine having a wrap around cover explaining NARFE-PAC. And in addition to that the center fold has a postage paid envelope that we can use to send our donation.

NARFE-PAC is there to help elect (and re-elect) lawmakers who will protect your benefits and also recognize the value of your service. It amplifies NARFE's voice on Capitol Hill.

Want to have some fun with your donation? Our chapter is hosting the Federation Convention in April. You could give your envelope with your donation to someone who is attending (I hope that is you) and it could be pooled with the others from our state and we can beat Missouri with the amount of our total donations. What fun! Let's see where this goes.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

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

March 26th, Chapter Meeting, 12:30 p.m. Perkin's Restaurant, 87th & Nieman. **Program;** Pat Daly, Computer Security.

April 5th, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 Exit, Lenexa

April 10h, Social Luncheon at Ryan's, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

April 23rd, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m. Overland Park Lutheran Church

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

May 3rd, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th & I-35 Exit, Lenexa

May 8th, Social Luncheon at Ryan's, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

In Memoriam

Nathaniel McAlister
Marjorie Meisburger
William Schmitz
Lois Tilton
Hadley Wolfrum
Ralph Zeckser

New Members!

Rudy Padilla
Mariann Skorupsky
Kelley Slattery

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

Sunshine Committee:

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

Service Officer, Elizabeth Bornman**A New Retiree's To-Do List**

If you are a recent retiree, you may wish you could send the Office of Personnel Management a friendly reminder that you need your first retirement check to pay your monthly bills and you'd like what you're entitled to, not some lesser "interim" amount. Unfortunately, the reality is that it can take OPM five to eight months to process your retirement application, and in the interim you may receive only partial payments. OPM receives more new claims in January than any other month, because employees like to take advantage of accumulating a large sum of annual leave by retiring at or near the end of the "leave year." So there are a lot of new retirees right now.

To Do:

Although there isn't much recent retirees can do about the claims backlog, there are a few things that they can do to be sure your employee benefits continue. Here are a few things to be aware of:

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program. Be sure to contact BENEFEDS, which runs the program, when you retire if you carry supplemental dental or vision coverage. You'll need to pay the premiums for this coverage until your retirement claim is finalized.

Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program. Your premiums will not be deducted from your retirement while you are receiving interim retirement payments from OPM.

Medicare. If you're over 65, now might be a good time to enroll. You may have already enrolled in Medicare Part A in your initial enrollment period, which started three months before you turned 65 and lasted for seven months. There is also a special enrollment period that lasts for eight months following your retirement. During this time, you can enroll in Medicare Part B without a late enrollment surcharge as long as you were covered by health insurance that was deducted from a current employee's salary (yours or your spouse's). If you are planning to enroll in Part B, you may be able to change your federal health plan to complement your Medicare coverage. You may change your FEHB enrollment to any available plan or option at any time beginning 30 days before you become eligible for Medicare, but you may only use this enrollment change opportunity once.

Social Security. If you're between 62 and 66, and are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, you may wish to contact the Social Security Administration to apply. If you are under your full retirement age, there is an earnings limit that will cause your Social Security benefit to be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 that you earn over the annual limit (\$15,120 in 2013). Certain types of income, such as lump sum payments for annual leave, federal retirement benefits and withdrawals from the Thrift Savings Plan, do not count against this limit. (You may need to have your payroll office submit form SSA-131 to let Social Security know your lump sum payment for annual leave is not a regular paycheck.)

TSP Timing: Some new retirees decide to take a distribution from their TSP account after retirement and will need information on withdrawal options as well as tax information regarding those payments. The TSP offers a set of important resources to guide you.

I hope you enjoy a long and healthy life after retirement that will be as rewarding and productive as your federal career has been. Best wishes to the 2012 (and 2013) retirees

Contact Information:

Senator Jerry Moran – jerry_moran@moran.senate.gov; Olathe, KS office: 913-393-0711. D.C. Office: 202-224-6521

Senator Pat Roberts – pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov; Overland Park Office: 913-451-9343. D.C. Office: 202-224-4774.

Congressman Kevin Yoder – Kansas City, KS telephone: 913-621-0832, Washington D.C. Office: 202-225-2865
www.yoder.house.gov. (Visit website to sign up for his newsletter)

The Legislative Hotline is available to telephone callers (703)-838-7780 and toll free at 1-877-217-8234, posted on the internet at www.narfe.org.

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

Tuesday, 19 Feb, was a very busy day.

First I went to the Johnson County Republican Party Elephant Club lunch at the Hereford House Restaurant in Leawood, KS and listened to a presentation by Mr. Nick Jordan, the Kansas State Treasurer, on the Governors' tax plan. Here is a link to a you tube video clip of the first 5 minutes of the presentation: (http://youtu.be/vrmv_e3SEg4). While I can agree with the intent to grow business in Kansas and trying to become more competitive with other area states to lure more businesses to Kansas, I still have reservations. Only 40 percent of businesses and Corporations in Kansas pay income tax. But by eliminating that portion of revenue it has to be made up somewhere. Also with the elimination of deductions from personal income tax they are bringing more people on the lower end of the earnings scale into the tax structure. He stated that only 30% of filers itemize on deductions, most take the standard deduction. Even though they lower the tax rate they are adding more people to the tax structure who would not be paying income tax with some of those deductions and those at the higher end of the income scale get the bigger tax break. Now the state sales tax brings in about \$2.5 Billion and the personal income tax brings in about \$2.9 Billion. If you eliminate the personal income tax you have to either double the sales tax or double the amount of sales activity to make up the \$2.9 Billion lost from income tax. They want to hold the sales tax steady and make up the difference through business activity growth in the state. While that sounds good, the bottom line is that their computer modeling tells them they will not be able to eliminate the income tax any time soon. It probably would not happen during the Governor's term even if he got re-elected. There just isn't enough other revenue available without increasing some other tax. Another part of the proposed change is to take tax credits for the lower income people out of the tax structure. Not that they do not deserve to be funded but many experts they have been studying indicate it is best to fund those separately outside the tax structure.

Tuesday afternoon Elizabeth and I went to a joint town hall meeting held by Congressman Kevin Yoder, Senator Jerry Moran and Senator Pat Roberts in the Olathe, Kansas, City Council Chambers. There was a crowd of about 150+ people there. It was recorded on the cities' cable channel station and is archived for anyone to view. Here is the link:

(<http://olathe.premierstudios.com/archive/legth130219.wmv>). I encourage everyone to view the video to get the temperament of the crowd.

Many different issues were covered and included: getting back to the standard process of appropriations and authorizations in the legislature, elder services, energy policy and tax breaks for all sectors of energy, the President's use of Executive Order bypassing the legislature, the constitution, the possibility of impeachment, the war of the rich and affluent versus the poor, sequestration, immigration, federal funding to support child and family services in Kansas when Kansas is the number one state for taking kids from families and not returning them because contractors working the system are making millions off the program including foster care. A key thing you should pick up on the video is the almost cheer that comes from the crowd when Senator Roberts talks about sequestration and the idea of shutting the government down. That is frightening. So many people have no clue as to what will be affected if the government shuts down or if significant furloughs of government employees occur. To Senator Roberts credit he stated that shutting the government down is not a good idea and gives a simple story of why it was not good when it happened in 1995 and he voted for it. He will not vote for it again.

Please go to the NARFE National Website, Legislative Action Center, to contact our Senators and Congressmen. Let them know that Federal Employees will be the hardest hit by furloughs from sequestration. I always find it disheartening that when there is a cut the first area hit are personnel accounts not other areas where most money is spent.

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