

NARFE March 2018 Newsletter

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March 2018 NARFE Chapter #2098 Newsletter Happy St. Patrick Day
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There are a lot of things to relate to you this month.. Last month we met at noon at the Circle C Café with 18 present. We want to welcome a new member, Connie (Constance) Speak of Paola. We now have 68 members since losing John Fleming and Bill Richards recently.

At our last meeting we talked about several changes that might help our attendance at the meetings among which were where to have them--- to continue at night in the summertime and at different localities or maintain the same place and hold them in the same place---how to get someone to take the President's position. If you looked at your last NARFE magazine you saw where our State President, Cindy Blythe, resigned in December and is running for Region V VPresident at the 2018 National Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. She will replace Carol Ek and cover Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. We wish her the best (although we hate to see her leave) and know she will enjoy the new experiences. I am interested in having more input by chapter information in the magazine. Very little is said about the fact it costs Chapter Fees to belong to a chapter in the application and causes a lot of payment confusion by leaving out that fact. I feel that that is the biggest reason it is hard to keep attendance to our chapters and ultimately lead to chapters closing altogether. The information that should reach our members is only transmitted thru the magazine and computers. In our chapter we only have 50% that own a computer. I know in the future that will change but at present it will not and without a newsletter to highlight things of high interest we are losing interest in belonging to a chapter at all. Will that lead to belonging to National NARFE organization at a cost of \$40.00 and only getting a magazine? This is just my feelings—perhaps others do not agree.

I have received a copy of the new NARFE Kansas Bylaws and made copies for some of the officers and will share them with you also if you are interested.

WE were happy to have Aaron Hughes volunteer to make sure everyone at the meetings are given name tags if they forgot theirs. It was proposed we continue having our meetings at noon at the Circle C Café for now instead of going to evening meetings to see how that works for us. Our next meeting is on March 13 at 11:30 a.m. You may order your own meal at the café. The meeting is held as soon as everyone is finished eating so it is not usually a long meeting. We are hoping this will encourage a larger attendance and participation. You may always feel free to bring up whatever you are concerned about. Please call or contact Bob Hodge at the number listed at the head of this letter if you can attend....Thanks.

Something informative was brought up at the last meeting about BC and BS Federal Employee Program. Basic Option members with Medicare Part A and B can receive up to \$600.00 Medicare reimbursement account. Proof of premium payments, proof you have paid Medicare Part B premiums, Date of payment, provider name (which is Medicare) detailed description and name is to be furnished by you. You each received your annuitant Federal Benefit information in November 2017 and have the information on your Medicare red, white and blue card you carry with you. I had not seen this information and am looking into the program as some of the group have already received their payments. I can handle that payment!!!!

WE need to remember Laurence and Mary Boehm. Laurence is now at North Point receiving care. Take time to drop in and visit them if you can.

2018 Kansas Federation Annual Conference will be held on April 23 and 24th at Best Western Wichita North, 915 E. 53rd St. N, Park City, Ks. 67219 316-832-9387. Please contact directly at 316-832-9387 for your reservations BY April 9, 2018. Deadline for guaranteed rate of \$79.99 plus tax. Indicate you are attending NARFE Conference when making your reservation.

Park City is located north of downtown Wichita along I-135.

The deadline for making your conference registration and payment is April 1, 2018.

Each chapter is invited to bring a wrapped gift (\$10 to \$15 value) for the door prize drawings which will be held throughout the conference sessions. The Live and Silent Auctions to benefit Alzheimer's Research should be hand-made craft items, homemade food items or theme baskets of a value or \$20.00 or above. Please wrap and label your baskets with items listed and include value of all items. Live Auction items should be valued at \$40.00 or above.

The FEDcon18 will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, August 26-28 with holding 30 sessions and workshops covering Federal Benefits, Advocacy, Leadership and Life management. The early bird conference registration rate of \$150 (a \$25 savings) ends March 31, 2018.

Beginning January 1, 2018, important information regarding your 2018 Pharmacy Benefits was sent out to those who have Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage. Their letter was sent out on Oct. 24 and I had forgotten I had it. The one thing I noticed was that small dose pills of aspirin can be purchased at no cost to you. There are standard and basic option changes.... No out of pocket cost for certain Cholesterol lowering generic drugs, lower cost share for select asthma drugs, lower cost share for generic high blood pressure drugs and many other things. 8 pages of all information in fact. I hope you are using yours if possible. For more information on 2018 Service Benefit Plan changes visit: www.fepblue.org/whatsnew or for questions contact Customer Care toll-free. Retail pharmacy--- 1-800-624-5060 open 24/7..... Mail service pharmacy--- 1-800-262-7890 open 24/7....

Did you know.....Cool whip will condition your hair in 15 minutes. Shiny hair – use brewed Lipton Tea. Arthritis? WD -40 spray and rub in, kill insect stings too. Stinky feet – Jello! Kool Aid to clean dishwasher pipes. Just put in the detergent section and run a cycle. It will also clean the toilet. (And we drink this stuff). Pam will also remove paint and grease from your hands! Keep a can in the garage for hubby!! - Preserving a newspaper clipping – large bottle of club soda and cup of milk of magnesia, soak for 20 min. and let dry, will last for many years.

The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin in World War II killed the only elephant in the Berlin zoo.

Plan on seeing you next Tuesday.... Love, Jean Nickell