

THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

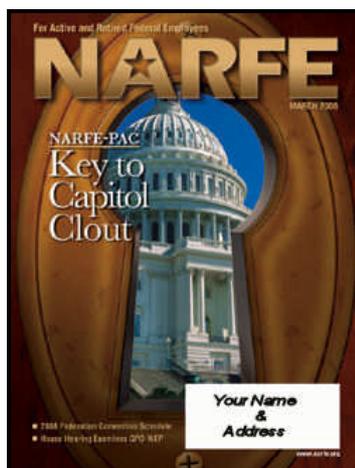


Vol. 31, No.2

March 2008

www.narfe-chapter1162.org

MARCH is NARFE-PAC MONTH



March issue of *NARFE* should be at your home.

There is an excellent article about our NARFE-PAC fund on page 8 describing its importance to us.

We are an advocacy group and PAC money is one of the tools that are used to accomplish our legislative goals.

PAC money helps the efforts of our lobbyists when visiting congressional representatives on Capitol Hill to promote our agenda.

You can expect a letter from our national president requesting a contribution to NARFE-PAC fund. It's just that important.

Chapter Meeting on March 25th is at the Yarbrough Family Restaurant at 5:45 P.M.

That's correct 5:45! It's a dinner meeting.

The restaurant is located at 10310 Shawnee Mission Parkway, OP, located on the west side of highway I-35. Phone number is 248-0500.

You will have a choice of four meals at \$12.50, which includes tax and tip. Remember your spouse is always welcome at chapter meetings.

This time (5:45 p.m.) was chosen to accommodate members who cannot take time off to attend our afternoon meetings.

Federal employees, here's your chance to meet members from other federal agencies in the metro area. Bring a guest who's also a federal employee.

Note: There will be no chapter meeting at the Lutheran Church in March.

Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters Annual Convention, April 27-29, Hutchinson, KS

All chapter members and their guests are eligible to attend the convention. Chapter members may attend as delegates, if elected by the chapter, and have voting privileges on issues presented at the convention.

Contact our chapter's secretary Wayne Smutz (913) 888-3423 for registration forms. The forms are also available at the chapter meeting in March. Registration deadline is April 7th. Select the package deal that includes registration and 3 meals for \$63.

Make your own hotel reservations. Convention hotel is Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center in Hutchinson (1 800 362 5018), rate is \$80.98 per night.

If you have never attended a federation convention, plan to spend two nights at the hotel. Arrive Sunday before noon and leave Tuesday 11:30 a.m. when convention ends. You'll receive a convention package that provides all the details about the convention when you register.

Convention highlights are the speakers: federation president John Surritte and our Region V president Bill Thissen. We'll have a speaker from NARFE headquarters at the banquet. Federation officers for 2008 will be elected.

Keep Up-To-Date Anytime on Chapter Meetings, Bulletins, Etc.

Find: chapter meetings time and location; bulletin board; chapter newsletters; officers and committees; links to Federation and NARFE headquarters; and so on. It's all there on the chapter's Web site: www.narfe-chapter1162.org.

If that's too much to type or remember, then just enter *narfe chapter 1162* in your computer window's search box and Click. We will be there at the top of the search list as, Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas.

Oh! Your March newsletter with color has been on our website for days waiting for this one to catch up.

Notes from Chapter President

New Chapter Recruitment and Retention Contest

NARFE is testing a special recruitment and retention rewards program for chapters. The test began January 1 and ends June 30th.

Cash prizes will be awarded in two categories – new member recruitment and member retention. Each category will include two contests. One will be based on gross numbers, and the other will be based on percentages to level the playing field between small and large chapters. There will be a total of 12 winners.

Here are the rewards for each category: First Place winner will receive \$500; Second place will receive \$300; and, Third place winner will receive \$200.

That's a total of \$4,000 in prize money! The NARFE chapter winners will be given special recognition and a check at the 2008 NARFE National Convention. NARFE's Recruitment and Retention Department will monitor the results on a quarterly basis. If this test program proves to stimulate chapter recruitment and retention it will be repeated annually.

Sign up for dues withholding when you renew your membership. Kansas is one of the leaders nationally at 31.0%.

MEMBERSHIP & ALZHEIMER'S

By Tom Raby, Chair

It's time to start sorting out those items that we can auction, at the Federation Convention, to raise money for Alzheimer's.

Plan to bring those items to the March or April chapter meetings. Items should be in good condition and have an estimated value of at least \$5.00 each (they can be worth more). And I will provide you with a receipt, if you request. Those of us going to the convention will deliver these donations to the auction chair in Hutchinson.

Please bring your "Best Choice" UPC labels to the March and April meetings. We get a donation of \$30.00 for each 1000 labels that we submit. I know lots of you are saving these for us.

Our Region V is among the leaders in the percentage of Current Federation Employees (CFE) members (10.5%) compared nationally (7.3%). North Dakota and Minnesota federations continue as top recruiters of CFEs.

Recruitment numbers were up in January, however, reinstatements were down and the number of non-renewals and deaths were sharply higher.

NARFE Night at the ballpark. The NARFE Missouri Federation District 5 is planning a NARFE night at the ballpark in Kansas City on Saturday, June 28, 2008. Tickets will be a special price of \$31 for excellent seats. The Royals will be playing THE St. Louis Cardinals that evening. There will also be reduced parking of \$6.00 per car. If interest in attending, contact Jackie and Don Kallstrom at 816-224-5650 or e-mail: mixicat@sbcglobal.net.

The NARFE Investment Committee report indicated that NARFE funds grew by approximately 7 to 9 percent during the last period; however, market conditions are changing and return may not continue.

Scholarship Awards. Applications are due by April 30. Read the March Issue for details. There are two awards from each state. This is for member's children and grand children. Maybe some one in our family could use \$1,000.

Elizabeth Bornman

Don't forget that the March meeting will be an evening meeting. This is to allow those who work to attend a meeting and become more involved.

Welcome to the following members that we've added to our chapter since last Thanksgiving: Jeffery Eppler, Marvin Fall, Fred Laing, Alan Miller, Dewayne Kallberg, John Nigro, Steven Schorr, Gary Schmeling, Kraig Bertram, Ernest Cerkey, Pamela Luckey, Phillip Montgomery, Colleen Kelly, Jeannette Osburn, James Roarty, Christine Wolfe, Victor Kane and Myrtle Dyer and Terry Van Metter. Most of these new members are current federal employees.

Shop Online Without Revealing Your Account Number

Shop with confidence and never use your real credit card number online again. Instead, get added protection by generating a substitute number for each purchase. And just like your other transactions, you can track purchases made with substitute numbers. But your real account number is never

revealed to the merchant or anyone else. It's FREE and easy!

Discover Financial Services and Citigroup are two of the major credit card companies that offer what are variously termed Substitute, Generated, or Virtual Account Numbers. Check your credit card's website to see if they offer a similar product.

Information about this type of product is usually listed under a Security Protection section or Identity Theft Protection section of the credit card's Web site.

Paypal also now offers a browser Plug-In that allows you to shop with PayPal anywhere online.

Louise Lloyd, Chapter Member

NARFE Legislative Action.

By Louis Bornman, Legislative Chair

This is turning out to be a very interesting election year, and it may have lasting impacts on NARFE supported legislation that directly affects federal retirees.

Two key pieces of legislation proposed by the congress are the Extension of Premium Conversion to Retirees and Repeal of WEP and GPO. There are House Resolutions and Senate Bills that address each. All of our current elected officials support the Extension of Premium Conversion. However, only Rep. Dennis Moore, who is up for reelection this year, supports WEP/GPO repeal.

Both Senators Brownback and Roberts have not in the past nor do they presently support WEP/GPO repeal.

Since Sen. Roberts is up for reelection this year, this presents NARFE members in the Shawnee Mission Chapter with a great opportunity to influence Senator Roberts' position by writing or otherwise contacting him and telling him why WEP/GPO repeal is important to you as a retiree and voter, what impact it has on your life, and why it should be important for him to support the repeal.

This may be done through NARFE's website or by personally writing a letter to or calling Robert's office (785) 354-4728, or mail: PO Box 1495, Topeka KS 66601.

All members are encouraged to become familiar with all candidates and their positions on issues that affect your retirement. You are encouraged to contact the incumbents and their opponents to have them identify their positions on key issues important to you. Become an informed voter!! AND VOTE!!

In other legislative news there is also a proposal before the Senate (S-2003) addressing the rehiring of recently retired federal employees. This legislation would enable agencies to retain recently retired federal employees to assist with short-term projects such as training, or fill, on a part-time basis, critical gaps so agencies can meet their mission goals. The provision would allow retirees to receive a salary plus their annuity without the standard offset between annuity and salaries for up to 520 hours in the first six months after retirement, up to 1040 hours in any 12 month period and 6,240 hours lifetime (equal to working half-time for six years). No new credit would be added to the retirees' annuity, they would not be able to make additional investments in the TSP, nor would their FEHB premiums be on a pre-tax basis like regular employees.

OPM's New Retirement Calculator

OPM introduced *RetireEZ* on Feb. 25th. It's a new retirement computer program that calculates pension benefits more quickly and accurately than the present paperwork system, which delayed receiving full benefits for months. And employees will find it easier to look at their retirement options.

With *RetireEZ* the OPM will find it easier to provide benefits when they are first due and agency officials will find it easier to get the retirement claims process underway, OPM's director said, and employees also will find it easier to look at their retirement options.

RetireEZ will be implemented by OPM in phases with full implementation in the spring of 2009.

RetireEZ first pass covered about 26,000 employees paid through the GSA processing center for agencies such as the National Archives and Records Administration, the Railroad Retirement Board, GSA and the OPM.

The Postal Service, the rest of the executive branch, and the legislative and judicial branches, about 2.7 million employees, will be have the *RetireEZ* application program next.

OPM will continue to process paper records until they are satisfied *RetireEZ* is free of programming errors and users can handle the system properly. OPM will double-check to ensure the new system is calculating pension payments correctly according to PM's director Springer.

We need a member to fill the position of Editor for the newsletter, The Shawnee Signal. The position is mainly a layout, assembling the articles on a page(s). Basic requirements are a word processor and an Internet connection is desirable. Call Bob Steinert for details at 764-7456 Olathe.

Your Shawnee Signal Newsletter March 2008

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President Elizabeth Bornman (913) 268-8526	1st Vice President Flo Biehl (913) 631-5559	2nd Vice President Harold Hutcheson (913) 780-3073	Secretary Wayne Smutz (913) 888-3423	Treasurer Bob Steinert (913) 764-7456
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COMMITTEES

Alzheimer's Tom Raby (913) 829-6025	Legislative Louis Bornman (913) 268-8526	Membership Tom Raby (913) 829-6025	Programs open	Web Site Bob Steinert (913) 764-7456
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SERVICE OFFICER

Howard Zion (913) 236-8331

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Regular Monthly Meeting

4th Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM at Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell, Overland Park. Features: chapter business, refreshments and entertainment. No meetings July, August, December.

Monthly Social Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month at the Hometown Buffet, 73rd and Quivira at 1:00 PM. Call Clyde Shellhammer (913) 432-0091 for reservations. Luncheon cafeteria-style food service.

Executive Board Meeting

1st Friday of the month. Breakfast at 9:00 AM, meeting 9:30 AM. Location Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 exit, Lenexa - adjacent to La Quinta Motel.

NOTE:

- Regular Chapter Meetings are occasionally held at locations other than the Overland Park Lutheran Church. Change of meeting locations are announced in the newsletter and chapter Web site, or call a chapter officer for the new location if you're not sure
 - Executive Board meetings are open to all chapter members.
 - Service Officer is a good source of information, advice and necessary paperwork regarding membership changes, death of spouse, interaction with NARFE headquarters and OPM, etc.
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