



THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Vol. 29, No. 4

May 2007

www.narfe-chapter1162.org

Chapter Officers & Committees

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Elizabeth Bornman
913 268-8526

1st Vice President

Flo Biehl
913 631-5559

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Clara Smith
913 441-8723

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913 888-3423

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913 764-7456

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Alzheimer's

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Tom Raby
913 829-6025

Membership

Tom Raby
913 829-6025

Newsletter

Bob Steinert
913 764-7456

Public Relations

Clara Smith
913 441-8723

Regular Chapter Meeting, May 22.

Agenda for the meeting:

- Guest speaker will be Kristen DeHart, CEO of Mid American Rehabilitation Hospital. She urges us to support legislation that would revise criteria that's used to classify a hospital as an inpatient rehabilitation facility (IFR) for Medicare payments. Currently to be classified as an IRF, 75 percent of the total patient population in a rehabilitation hospital must require treatment for one or more of 10 specified conditions. DeHart wants it reduced to 60 percent. Kansas' Senator Pat Roberts and Representative Dennis Moore are cosponsors of congressional bills S.B.543 and H.R.1459 respectively, which amend the 75 percent rule. Titles of both bills are: "To improve Medicare beneficiary access by extending the 60 percent compliance threshold used to determine whether a hospital or unit of a hospital is an inpatient rehabilitation facility."
- Also, chapter members who served as delegates to the recent Federation Convention in Junction City will talk about their experiences and impressions at the convention. Be sure to ask them questions.
- Chapter officers and committees will give their business reports.
- And, of course, there will be refreshments by Harriet and time for socializing.

The meeting will be held at the Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th Street and Lowell, in Overland Park. It starts at 1:30 p.m. sharp. Please use the North entrance parking lot and entrance — outside door tends to stick, so give it a good tug to open.

RECRUITING AT BANNISTER ROAD FEDERAL COMPLEX

On May 8, 2007, Federation Area 1 Vice President Tom Raby, and Area 1A Vice President T. J. Robinson visited the Federal Complex at Bannister Road in Kansas City, MO. They spent about three-and-a-half hours manning a table where they visited with Federal Employees. These NARFE officers distributed magazines, brochures and applications to more than 50 persons. Access was gained through an arrangement with GSA. However, the initial approach, and the work to get this access were through the efforts of Carrie Brooks of DFAS. Ms. Brooks is a CFE member of Chapter 1162. She contacted Mr. Raby and the two were able to satisfy the GSA requirements.

A return trip for these two Area VP's is planned for late summer.

[This is a milestone achievement for the chapter — recruiting inside a federal facility after a hiatus of many years.]

KANSAS FEDERATION CONVENTION AT JUNCTION CITY APRIL 29 –MAY 1

Elizabeth Bornman, Chapter President

The 2007 State Convention was another great success. Thirty Kansas chapters were present with a total of 146 delegates, 13 proxies and 51 guests. Your seven delegates from our chapter will report on convention events at our next chapter meeting on May 22, 2007. We will publish a synopsis of the reports in future newsletters. And I hope you will consider attending the convention next year in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Alzheimer Auction

Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162 raised the most funds at the NARFE Year 2006 Federation State Convention in both "live" and "silent" auctions. For that we were presented with a certificate of appreciation from Richard Thissen, Region 5's National Field Vice President and Barb Pretzer, the NARFE National Chair for Alzheimer's.

Changes at the State Federation Level

Agnes Shellhammer after serving 2 years as our Area 1 Vice-President chose not to run for reelection. Our very own Tom Raby submitted his name to fill the vacancy left by Agnes, and he was unanimously elected. So, the position of Area 1 vice president remains with a member from our chapter.

Tom Raby, who was also the Federation's second vice president, chose not to run for reelection, and I stepped in to fill the position. I submitted my name to the nominating committee to fill his vacancy. Since no other candidates ran against me, I was elected unanimously. I will also fill the membership chair for the federation board of directors.

All other incumbent officers were unanimously elected to continue their positions.

College of NARFE Knowledge

If you want to know more about the organization and how it is run, you need to attend this workshop. Date is August 27-29, 2007 at the Marina Inn - South Sioux City, Nebraska, (800) 798-7980, room rate is \$78.00 plus tax, which includes a full buffet breakfast. Registration fee is \$60.00, which includes three meals. Also, a drawing will be held at the conference to award 38 free registrations to those in attendance. If you're interested in attending, contact me for an application form. •

Tom Raby, Chairman Membership and Legislation Committees

The federation convention at Junction City was a huge success. Sunday and Monday were very busy days. Those of us that are both federation and chapter officials don't get a lot of breathing time. I hauled a van full of chapter items for the Alzheimer's Auction(s). I even had John Surritte, Federation President, helping me get the items inside for marking and indexing. The Alzheimer's auction netted \$3,800. All of our attending members were committee participants and all seven of us seemed to have a great time. Each of us will share our experiences with the chapter at our regular meeting on May 22.

Also, at our May meeting I will have Alzheimer's Lapel Pins for each of you that make a \$2.00 (or more) donation at the meeting. These pins are available in gold or silver and can be seen on many Alzheimer's Association web sites. (This way you can see them before you come to the meeting) Remember that we don't meet in July or August so don't pass up the May meeting, or the June "pot-luck".

Clara Smith, Second Vice President and Public Relations Chairlady

The 53rd Annual Convention in Junction City was well attended and was deemed a success. N.A.R.F.E is alive and well in Kansas. The main subject and goal for this Convention was the recruitment of new members. The meetings were all well attended and John Surritte made sure everything was on schedule.

The banquet address was given by Dan Adcock who's from the Legislative division at National Headquarters. We had excellent entertainment at the banquet with Marge Chamberlain as "the Storyteller." Richard Thissen, the Region V Vice-President gave a very good speech.

I was on the Time and Place Committee., chaired by Jim Gaskell, Chapter 0779 of Chanute. Chapter 537 of Hutchinson will host the annual Convention for 2008. Manhattan will host the 2009 Convention. Agnes Shellhammer, our former Chapter President, vacated the Area 1 vice-presidency and deserves a big vote of thanks for her work in our own Chapter and the Kansas Federation. •

OPM Suggests Retirement Reforms

Instead of a leap into retirement, federal employees may be given the opportunity to take a slow walk into the golden years. The idea of phasing in retirement is a key feature in proposals recently sent to Congress by the Office of Personnel Management, which is concerned that federal agencies will need to hold on to their baby boomers if they are unable to attract skilled replacements in an increasingly competitive labor market.

Current rules, rooted in law, make it difficult for federal employees to switch to part-time work and offer little financial incentive for a retiree to come back to the government to work on a short-term project or serve as a mentor.

Projections show that about 60 percent of federal workers will be eligible for retirement over the next 10 years, and while officials do not expect them to leave all at once, they are worried that federal programs could be at risk if agencies fall behind in hiring replacements. Most agencies have stepped up their recruitment efforts, but some officials are concerned that Uncle Sam will not be able to counter job offers made by corporations and nonprofit organizations. Some surveys also suggest that many young people are not interested in a federal career or would be interested in public service for only a part of their career.

To address some of these concerns, *Linda M. Springer*, director of the OPM, has sent proposals to Congress that would:

Authorize federal agencies to bring back retired federal workers on a limited basis and let them retain their pension and draw a full salary. Currently, retirees have their salaries reduced by the amount of their guaranteed pension payment.

The reemployment would be limited to 520 hours in the first six months after retirement and 1,040 hours in any 12-month period. The retirees who come back would not earn additional retirement credits and would have their insurance premiums paid from their pensions.

"This will encourage individuals who would otherwise leave government to continue their service on a part-time, limited duration," Springer said in the letter to Congress.

Revamp the pension formula involving part-time work by people near the end of their federal careers who are covered by the old Civil Service Retirement

System and not the new Federal Employees Retirement System. Some retirees have contended that the formula, which involves a computation of their average salary, unfairly leads to a pension reduction.

The OPM said the formula "can occasionally yield anomalous results" for federal employees who worked before April 1986, usually full time, and then retired after that as part-time employees. The agency's proposal would eliminate "the potential adverse effect" of working part time near the end of a federal career, Springer wrote Congress.

Allow federal employees to invest their bonuses in the Thrift Savings Plan, the 401(k)-type program that the vast majority of government workers use to save for retirement.

Investing bonuses in the TSP would be subject to limits on retirement contributions set by the Internal Revenue Service each year, and there would be no matching government contribution for any bonus money invested, the OPM said.

Springer called attention to the proposed rule changes in a memo she posted on the OPM Web site. Similar proposals have been made over the past couple of years, either by the administration or by members of Congress, but did not draw widespread support on Capitol Hill.

But Springer has warned that retirements could surge from 2008 to 2010 as baby boomers depart public service. In her view, the government needs to do more to keep talented employees and bring back retirees with expertise that could be used to train new hires or to carry out sensitive projects.

The goal of the proposals, Springer wrote in her Web memo, is to provide agencies "with the tools they need to keep pace and compete with the private sector for skilled knowledge workers." •

Stephen Barr, Washington Post

Current Federal Employees call Tom Raby our membership chairman and ask for application forms to join NARFE and give them to your friends at work – at an appropriate time.

Joining NARFE is Just the Right Thing to do.

Tom's phone number is 913 829-6025.

CHAPTER NOTES

Looking Ahead

June 26, Chapter Meeting is the annual potluck luncheon. Note the new location for the meeting and procedures to what food to bring:

Where: Community Covenant Church, 15700 87th Street, Lenexa, KS

Directions: I-35, Exit 87th Street West.

Proceed west for approximately 2 miles.

Church is on the right hand side.

Or another way —

Directions: I-435, Exit 87th Street East. Proceed ¼ mile, church is on the left.

Luncheon will be in the Fellowship Hall, 2nd Floor, Room 212; an elevator is available.

Bring enough to serve 12.

Persons with last names bring: A-F, Main Dish; G-L, vegetable; M-S, salad; T-Z, dessert.

Point of Contact: Elizabeth Bornman (913) 268-8526.

Don't Forget Marian

Marian Strouse is at Delmar Gardens Rehabilitation unit in Lenexa for post-operative surgery care. She entered the rehab unit Thursday May 10th. That's Delmar Gardens, 9701 Monrovia Street, Lenexa (913 492-1130). I'm sure she would appreciate a call or note from her friends in the chapter. But, she may be home when you read this newsletter.

CHAPTER MEETINGS (please save)

<u>Regular Monthly Meeting</u>	<u>Monthly Social Meeting</u>	<u>Executive Board Meeting</u>
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.	2nd Wednesday of the month at the Hometown Buffet, 73rd and Quivira at 1:00 P.M.. Call Clyde Shellhammer (913 432-0091) for reservations. Luncheon cafeteria-style food service.	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.

The Shawnee Signal

NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission
12309 W 74th Ter
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