



The Shawnee Signal
Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
November 2010

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www.narfe-chapter1162.org

Louise Lloyd, Editor, lalloydks@yahoo.com



ANNUAL CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 14TH

The NARFE Chapter Christmas Party Committee invites you to join us for the Annual Chapter Christmas luncheon and Installation of Officers. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday afternoon, December 14th beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

A buffet dinner will be furnished which will feature baked ham and smoked turkey, 7-layer salad, au gratin potatoes, green bean casserole, and dessert. The Christmas party committee is excited to report that entertainment will be provided by the *Leawood Singers*. In addition, the committee will be giving away door prizes.

The cost is only \$12. Make checks payable to *NARFE Chapter 1162*. To make a reservation, you can pay at the November 23rd Chapter meeting, or send your check by December 6th to: *Mary Haswell*, 2308 N. 114th Street, Kansas City, KS 66109. Contact Mary with any questions at 913-400-7303.

Flo Biehl, President

This is the month that we celebrate Thanksgiving. Let us remember to be thankful for the fine opportunity we have had to serve our country with our service through our careers. Let us also be thankful for the receiving of our EARNED benefits. Yes, EARNED, I say EARNED! We have paid into the fund that supplies us with our annuities. It wasn't just handed to us, we paid into it. It is solvent. It is not taking from the government. But remember the Indians, what has been promised, what has been had--it can be taken away. We need to be vigilant. We need to establish a relationship with our current members of Congress. As I write this, the election is still to be. Let us all make a special effort this next year.

It is time to think about our health benefits. Will you be making changes this next year? Open season is with us. Plan carefully.

Our nominating committee will be presenting those who have consented to run for office at the November meeting. Nominations will be asked for from those attending. If you have the permission of the person you wish to nominate, you may nominate them. It is a chance to be of service to your chapter. Our chapter does great things. We are on the front line of preserving our benefits, explaining how our organization works, how our legislators are working and what our national board is doing. Step up to the plate when the nominating committee calls you.

And say thank you to a veteran or to the person who is currently serving in our armed services.

Meeting Cancellation Policy for Chapter Meetings: A chapter monthly meeting will be canceled during the winter months if Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes due to inclement weather.

Officers & Committees

President

Flo Biehl
913-631-5559

1st Vice President

Edward Acosta
913-322-2864

2nd Vice President

Harold Hutcheson
913-780-3073

Secretary

Louise Lloyd
913-661-1720

Treasurer

Mary Haswell
913-400-7303

Service Officer

Howard Zion
913 236-8131

Alzheimer's

Edward Acosta
913-322-2864

Legislative

Louis Bornman
913 268-8526

Membership

Open at this time

NARFE-PAC

Flo Biehl
913 631-5559

Newsletter

Louise Lloyd
913 661-1720

Sunshine

Don Faidley
913-671-7368

Webmaster

Bob Steinert
913 764-7456

Note: No newsletter will be published in December.

Elizabeth Bornman, Past President

Well the elections are over. I hope the officials who were elected are those who support the entitled benefits of all federal workers, active and retired. You need to start contacting those new members as soon as they take office. However, if you know how to contact them now, it's never too early.

We are still looking for officers for our own chapter with elections on November 23rd. We are still looking for someone to fill the President and Secretary positions. Please consider taking a more active role in your chapter. Please contact me if you are interested in any of the positions. I will gladly educate you on the job responsibilities. For our chapter to stay viable, we need members to take the helm and lead us into the next decade as strong as the last. Please consider one of these positions. Remember we still have openings for a Membership Chair person.

Don't forget the Open Season for your Health Plan. It's important to read up on your current plan and compare to others and choose the right one for you which may not be the one you currently have been with for years.

If you feel the chapter isn't representing you, let us know. Write to the editor or any officer. We are looking to have another evening meeting next year. Suggestions are welcome for locations. You can contact me at 913-268-8526.

Eddie Acosta, 1st Vice President, Alzheimer's

At the Overland Park Senior Quest event I got a copy of an explanatory statement of health care reform and what it means to Medicare and seniors. I'll make copies of this statement available at the next meeting. In the meantime, Alzheimer's research must go on! I wrote up an article that will be included in my church's newsletter. This will come out next month and I'll copy it when it does.

I announced that November is Alzheimer's awareness month. If you would like to make a regular or memorial donation you may send it to me at **5216 Bond, Shawnee, KS 66203**. When you attend our regular monthly meeting you will be introduced to the "Pocket Change for Alzheimer's". This is a special canister that we circulate for the benefit of Alzheimer's Disease Research.

Legislative Achievements

At the 2010 National Convention, Dan Adcock National Legislative Director highlighted some NARFE legislative achievements, which included the following:

- Equity for federal retirees in the economic stimulus bill with a \$250 refundable tax credit for the year 2009 for retirees not eligible for Social Security
- Defeat of a budget amendment to cut federal civilian retirement and/or health benefits by \$10 billion over 10 years.
- Enactment of several civil service improvements including authorization for federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees without offset to annuity.
- Ability for Federal Employees Retirement System workers to credit unused sick leave toward retirement as their Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) can.
- Permission for CSRS employees to work part time at the end of their careers without reducing their final annuity.
- NARFE helped push back four attempts to deny Federal workers a 1.4% salary increase for 2011.

As you can see from the achievements listed above, NARFE has been able to attain some very significant achievements over the past term helping both active employees and retirees. So as you talk to active employees or other retirees who are not members of NARFE, you can give them a number of good reasons why they should be a member and support the efforts of our organization. Who else is going to help fight to maintain your benefits? As of this date, we have not lost a benefit since 1993, and much of that can be attributed to NARFE's efforts on the behalf of retirees and active employees.

NARFE 2012 Photo Contest

NARFE Headquarters is now accepting photos for the 2012 NARFE Calendar. All photos must be 8" x 11" horizontal size and each entry must have the following information on a piece of paper stuck or taped to the back of the photo: Name, Address, Chapter Number and Phone Number or E-mail Address. No photos of pets or children are allowed. Neither e-mail or Polaroid pictures will be accepted. Only the work of amateurs will be accepted. Send your photos to: NARFE Headquarters, Public Relations Department, 606 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. If you have any questions, call NARFE PR, 703-838-7760, ext 268, or e-mail: pubrel@narfe.org. (Information is from Quarterly News for NARFE leaders.)

From the Legislative Chair – Louis Bornman

I hope you all researched your candidates well and got a good feeling for where they stand on issues that are most important to you. I also hope that you took advantage of the many opportunities to vote early either in person or by mail. Now it's time to see what the results of the election bring. Prepare to write and email your representative and senator, whoever they might turn out to be, to voice your concerns on the key NARFE issues as the old congressional session comes to an end and the new congress prepares to start up in 2011. Remember that your voice matters, but to matter it has to be heard.

Lame Duck Legislation Might Omit Public Sector Retirees: The House leadership is eager to consider legislation after the November 2nd election to provide a \$250 payment to Social Security beneficiaries. It is unclear whether the over 1 million federal, state & local government retirees not eligible to receive Social Security benefits and facing higher Medicare premiums would be eligible. Remember, during the consideration of the 2009 Stimulus bill, over 1 million public employees were initially excluded from a \$250 payment to Social Security but through NARFE's efforts, a \$250 refundable tax credit for public service retirees was included in the legislation which became law. Margaret Baptiste in a NARFE October 22nd Hotline Message urged each NARFE member to contact his or her Congressional delegation to urge them to include retirees from the public sector in any "in lieu COLA" payment likely to be considered during the mid-November lame duck session.

Now is the time to use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to easily send your Representative and both Senators a prepared letter. **NARFE's toll free switchboard, 1-866-220-0044** makes it easy to call your Representative and 2 Senators, as you can ask for any Representative or Senator by name. When doing so, tell your Congressional delegation the following: *"I urge you to include federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible for Social Security in the \$250 payment to seniors."*

Dues Increase: Based on the approval at the National Convention, effective January 1st, dues for a new member joining will increase from \$33 to \$45, so if you know of any potential member, now is the time to encourage them to join before the dues increase takes effect, as you can offer a chance to join at the lower rate. In addition, the convention delegates also voted in an increase to annual National Dues to take effect in 2011 of \$40 for one year, \$72 for two years and \$102 for three years. Or an annuitant can pay only \$34 per year under dues withholding, so if you're an annuitant not currently under dues withholding, when renewing, it really pays to consider the dues withholding option. (Note these amounts reflect only national dues, chapter dues will be added to these amounts.)

Now is also the time to consider becoming a Life Member as the Life Member dues will go up after January 1st. Before January 1st those dues will be based on \$33, after January 1st, they will be based on \$40, so something to consider. For example someone aged 66-70 would pay \$452 before January 1st, and \$653 after January 1st.

Welcome to the following new member!

John Shook

In Memoriam

Daniel E Barrow	Walter F. Rodgers
Elizabeth M. Davis	Annita K. Stark
Philomena T. Frain	George E. Tomlinson
Kathleen Grace	

Reminder: Don't forget to bring your egg cartons and plastic grocery bags to chapter meetings for donation to the Community Center of Shawnee, Inc..

Sunshine Committee – Don Faidley is the chair of the Sunshine Committee, so be sure to contact Don if you know of any members who may be sick or in the hospital, so he can send a card. Don can be contacted at 913-671-7368 or email:

Djfaidley@aol.com

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, made available to NARFE-Net Coordinators, and sent to over 54,000 GEMS e-mail addresses.

It's an Inside Job - Bob Steinert, Webmaster

Recruiting federal employees in NARFE can be an inside job. For example, federal employees— while you're chatting with other employees during a coffee break, why not mention "this NARFE organization" who is looking out for your retirement and health insurance benefits on Capitol Hill.

Tell them that they can learn more about the NARFE organization on its national website www.narfe.org or our local chapter website address www.narfe-chapter1162.org on the Internet. You'll be doing them a favor.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

November 23rd, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th & Lowell. **Program: Residential Security**, Speaker will be from Overland Park Police Department.

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

December 8th, Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 73rd & Quivira at 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 432-0091

December 14th, Chapter Christmas party and Installation of Officers, 12:30 p.m. Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell, Program: **Leawood Singers** Cost \$12.00. Reservation Deadline December 6th, (See article on front page for additional details.)

January 7th, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th & I-35 Exit, Lenexa

January 12th, Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 73rd & Quivira at **1:00 p.m.**, RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 432-0091



Your November Shawnee Signal

National Active and Retired Federal
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Lenexa, KS 66215-4843

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