

THE 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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Flo Biehl, Chapter President

Why belong to NARFE? It is an organization organized to protect our benefits that were promised to us when we were hired. We have not lost any benefits since 1992. We have had an increase in our COLA's though. An increase of 44% since 1992. Benefits include the health benefits—some of the best. We don't want to lose this.

NARFE has not yet taken a position on the proposed healthcare reform legislation. This is because the bills at the present time are very fluid and subject to change. Lawmakers are still actively seeking input from their constituents.

All of us are service officers. I know that we have Howard Zion as our service officer. All of us have eyes and ears so we know when there is a need. A hero is one who provides service to others at whatever the cost, not one who tries to surpass others at whatever the cost. "Be Prepared for Life's Events" is available from our service officer. It is something that every NARFE member should fill out and have easily available to your family. They will be glad you did. The bulletin is **F-10** for those of you that order your own things from National. It is also available on the NARFE website at www.narfe.org.

Let's make October our month to give to Alzheimer's. Those of you that don't attend meetings regularly, you can contribute too. There is a coupon in our National magazine so you can send your contribution. Your check is appreciated. Alzheimer's is the cause that NARFE members embrace. All the money goes for Alzheimer's Research. One out of four people over 50 have Alzheimer's in some stage. OOPS is that one me? It is a cause that NARFE members hold dear. We hope to find a cure or at least slow its course.

Let's support the [Dues Referendum](#) with a yes vote. If you cannot attend the September meeting, you can still vote. Please refer to page 36 in the August magazine which includes a Special Voter's Coupon that can be completed by members in good standing and submitted to me as Chapter President, at the following address: 12819 W. 78TH Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66216.

Legislative Chair, Louis Bornman

My wife and I just got back from the College of NARFE Knowledge in South Sioux City, Nebraska. It was very informative and I hope some of you will attend in the future.

The main item of discussion for the legislative presentation was health care reform. NARFE headquarters has a [9 page position paper](#) in the legislative portion of the national website that discusses the NARFE official position on the proposed HR 3200 Health Care Reform.

I highly recommend you go to the website and read the position paper. I also highly recommend that you write your congressman and senators and tell them your views on the health care reform proposals you have read and heard about. Regardless of your party affiliation you should email or write to your congressman and senators at their local office to express your concerns.

Please be specific about your concerns and don't just provide a general complaint. For example: one proposal has been to tax health benefits provided by an employer including the employer's portion of the premium. That would hurt most of us as it would increase our taxable income and raise our income taxes.

Whatever in the health care proposals you feel would hurt you, write to your elected officials and let them know. The more we write to them the more we can influence their actions on the proposed legislation. Remember that we represent only a very small part of the American population, but if we don't speak up we will have no influence at all.

Welcome to the following new members!

Gary Hartegan
Joseph Marvil
Joyce Pendleton
Laura Stewart

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

September 9 – Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 75th & Quivira, 1:00 p.m., RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 432-0091

September 22 —Chapter Meeting/Dinner, 6:00 p.m. at Leona Yarbrough's, 10310 Shawnee Mission Parkway, (just a few blocks west of I-35). *Program:* Mary Lindsay, Social Worker: Healthcare proposals/Single Payer Healthcare
Cost is \$12.00 plus tax, drink and dessert extra. RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 16 to Elizabeth Bornman, [913-268-8526](tel:913-268-8526).

October 14 – Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 75th & Quivira, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 432-0091.

October 27 – Chapter Meeting , 1:30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell

Elizabeth Bornman, Past President

I had a great time and received a lot of good information from the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) in August. It was a great opportunity to meet Margaret Baptiste, the President of our organization.

Also in attendance were the National Treasurer, Richard Ostergren; Mr. David Snell, Director of Retirement Benefits, and Chuck Timanus, Director of Public Relations. They each held a workshop that I attended and received valuable information to share with our chapter.

Barb Pretzer, the NARFE National Alzheimer's Representative, brought us up to date on the progress of research projects. Kansas ranked number 2 in the nation for fund raising. Virginia was number One. The goal is \$9 million by 2011.

Darlene Freeman, the Federation President from Iowa who served on the NARFE Enhancement Committee and attended the 2009 Federation Presidents meeting, briefed us on what was happening with the other federations and where NARFE may be headed in the future if we don't turn around the decrease in membership. We need to gain additional members from the active work force and to stop the decline of the non renewals.

The Dues Referendum was discussed at CONK. It appears that all the Federations are in support of the referendum in Region 5. You will READ more information on this suggestion in this newsletter. However, there are great articles in the August and September NARFE magazine.

I thank the chapter for sending me. All of you would benefit by attending a CONK Conference. Hopefully you will in the future.

Check out this website:

It offers safety and mobility information, tools & resources for older drivers and their families:

www.AAAseniors.com

Tom Raby, First Vice President, Membership, and Alzheimer's Chairman

The chapter had a very nice meeting in August with several new attendees there. A new season is upon us to get several things done.

First we have to determine the chapters' desires on the dues referendum. Be sure to attend the September meeting, or return your ballot (it is in the August issue of Retirement Life) to the chapter president. Passage of this referendum will not change our chapter in any measurable way (our dues will increase by \$1.00 per year). Many of us are already getting a discount by having our dues withheld from our annuity. Dues withholding avoids those annoying renewal notices by mail. See me at the meeting if you are interested in this, or have any other membership concerns. I also have a great supply of brochures and applications.

The next business we have to address is the election of chapter officers in November. We will vote on the five titled officers and two executive board members. Any member in good standing is eligible to hold office in the chapter. If you are curious about what the executive board does, then you should attend a meeting (or two) of the board. We meet the first Friday of each month at Denny's near 95th Street in Lenexa. It is just west of Sam's Club adjacent to the La Quinta Inn. Be there at 9 a.m. to order breakfast, or at 9:30am for the meeting.

The Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk will be held October 3 at Corporate Woods at 9:00am. I have the information for anyone that wants to participate. See me at the September meeting, or call me at 913- 829-6025. I also have brochures and materials to share with members about this disease and our partnership with the Alzheimer' Association.

Community Event of Interest

Roeland Park 50 Plus Expo Extravaganza, Friday October 9, starting 9:00 a.m. (3 hrs)

Roeland Park, Community Center, 4850 Rosewood. This **FREE** event is sponsored by Johnson County, Parks & Recreation District. Visit expo booths and learn about 50 Plus Programs, free service signups, volunteer opportunities, travel and more. Also features guest speakers, demonstrations, concessions, health screenings, and door prize drawing.

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