

Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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www.narfe-chapter1162.org

Louise Lloyd, Editor, lalloydks@yahoo.com

Flo Biehl, Chapter President

The convention is over for another year. Officers elected were as follows: Carol Ek--President, Dixie Thomas--First Vice President, Cindy Renee Blythe--Second Vice President, Louise Lloyd--Secretary, Jerry Ketter--Treasurer and Flo Biehl--Area I Vice President. I attended the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee as I have for several years. Each year we go over the bylaws and bring them up to date then we draft a courtesy resolution thanking the various people for their contributions to the convention. The bylaws are a living document and they need to reflect the changes that are needed. They are always subject to approval by national. The changes are voted on by the delegates attending the convention. After going over the bylaws, we had no recommendations for changes at this time.

The convention was a place to conduct business, learn more about NARFE and to meet old friends.

One of the things that we are exploring in Area I is a meet the candidates running for representative and senators. A meeting in Lawrence is a possibility--stay tuned.

40th Anniversary Gala Luncheon

NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission was chartered in 1970. Next month we'll celebrate our 40th Anniversary with a party on Monday, June 14th, at the Shawnee Town Hall, 11600 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, starting at 12:30 PM. This is a week earlier than our normal chapter meeting, and in lieu of our annual June potluck.

All current and retired federal employees, spouses and guests are invited. Entrees for the catered buffet luncheon will be chicken breast and beef brisket.

The cost is \$15.00 per person. You can make your reservation(s) at our May 25th chapter meeting, or by mailing a check so it is received by Saturday, June 5th to: Lorna Larson, 24122 W 68th St., Shawnee, KS 66226. Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 1162.

The deadline for cancellations is also June 5th. Sorry, but no refunds can be made after that date. You can contact either Lorna at 913-422-0226 lol Larson@kc.rr.com ; or Elizabeth Bornman at 913-268-8526 with any questions.

Call your friends. Offer someone a ride – get a ride - let's party in high style.

Lorna Larson
Anniversary Party Chairman

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

Elizabeth M. Bornman, Past President

The federation convention was greatly informative and successful. The attendance was down this year; however, the quality of the convention was a 10 rating. Membership was a hot topic. We are declining in numbers nationwide. The loss of those dropping their membership is significantly hurting the chapters. With the decrease in membership numbers, comes a decrease in revenues at the headquarters and federation level which effects our operation. The headquarters is cutting and reducing some operations. They have determined to continue to maintain their level of service to the states and chapters an increase in dues must happen. They are recommending an increase from \$33 to \$40. (Individual chapter dues would be added to this amount). If the increase does not occur, they will be out of funds to operate by 2015. It will be a hot topic at the National convention in August. Our chapter continues to be in the bottom of the Alzheimer's contributions. The goal for next year is \$5.25 per person. I was not re-elected as the federation First Vice president. Dixie Thomas from the Junction City chapter was elected. I wish the federation well for the upcoming year. We hope more of you silent members will come to a meeting and get more involved. We are looking for items for new programs. Remember, we have a lot of legislation pending that doesn't favor us well and we continue a dialog with our elective officials to remind them of our benefits, which we worked hard for to support our life style in retirement.

Eddie Acosta, 1st Vice-President, Alzheimer's

"The NARFE federation convention was for me a positive experience as I got to meet several people from other chapters and could put faces with names. There were several fund-raising ideas discussed such as a Calendar which could be produced by our Chapter and sold, encouraging members, at each Chapter meeting, to bring pennies that they may have at home and that they may wish to donate--ten pounds of pennies equals 17.50--to be put in a special jar, collection of Best Choice UPC codes and turning them in for cash was also described--encourage friends, family members, neighbors--to collect them.

\$8.6 million dollars have been collected for the NARFE goal of \$9 million by 2012. To make donations easier, you may send them directly to: E. Acosta, 5216 Bond Street, Shawnee, KS 66203

Agnes Shellhammer – Retirement Benefits Committee Meeting

The Federation Convention was well attended and was very informative. I went to the Retirement Benefits meeting. Walt German explained why and how to contact your Chapter Service officer. He can help you with many problems. Howard Zion is our Chapter Service, so do not hesitate to contact him if you need assistance.

NARFE Day at the Royals, Saturday, June 26th. – Louise Lloyd

The Missouri Federation purchased a block of tickets for a Kansas City Royals vs. St. Louis Cardinals afternoon game on Saturday, June 26th at 1:10 p.m. They still have 19 tickets left so they have given us this opportunity to join some of their members for a fun day of baseball at the Royals. The tickets are only \$25 and are in Section 417 and from that cost a donation will also be made to Alzheimer's. You can access the seating chart on the Royals website, or from our own chapter website as our webmaster has posted it on the bulletin board for your convenience.

If you are interested in attending the Royals vs. St. Louis game, please contact Steve Morrison at 816-331-7678. I know they'll appreciate having some of our members join them for this game which is always exciting because of great rivalry between the Royals and the Cardinals.

NARFE KANSAS FEDERATION CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS – Special thanks for the information provided in this summary from Jim Gaskell, outgoing V.P. from Area 2A.

The annual NARFE Kansas Federation meeting was held in Topeka, Kansas from April 25th to April 27th with approximately 160 people were in attendance.

Richard Thissen, our Region V NARFE vice-president reported to us that our National Office is running out of money to carry on the duties of the National office. The auditors for our National Office reported to the national office board that if we keep member dues at \$29 we will be in debt \$8 million by 2015. We will be BROKE. Richard told us several things the National Office has already done to reduce expenses but even with these items considered, an increase in dues to \$40.00 per member will be required. Chapters will add to this the amount of Chapter dues they assess. Several members who belong to other organizations said the \$40 was in line or was less then they pay in dues to other organizations. And also it is important to remember that at the current time in Kansas our federal pensions are exempt from State income tax. The savings alone in this area more than justifies the cost of NARFE membership, as NARFE also fights to protect our benefits within the State. It is very important that all of us as current members continue to support NARFE and to become involved in talking to our Washington Senators and Representative when issues that can affect our benefits (health insurance, Medicare, pensions, cola's or other items) are being considered. We need to stay strong!

(Note: For more specific information as to actions that NARFE HQ has proposed regarding reducing expenses, but also more specifics as to the proposed shortfalls for revenues projected, and the need for the dues increase, you can visit our chapter website, as our webmaster has posted several documents that will shed more details on this topic.

Richard Thissen also spent some time discussing possible changes in the Health Insurance we have as part of our Federal benefits. Richard said, "Yes we can keep our current health insurance, but we should be prepared for the cost of our insurance to go up in the future". He based this on the Call Letter that OPM (Office of Personnel management) sent to our insurance companies advising what they will be required to do using the new instruction from the health care law passed by congress this spring. Our health care companies will need to include these items in our benefits and show what our premium will be for the 2011 year. There are a number of items specified in the "Call Letter" that will add or may add to the overall costs. It is highly recommended that you check out this "Call letter" as it will definitely impact our 2011 health care coverage. If you are interested in reading the seven pages of this call letter you can go to:

http://www.opm.gov/carrier/carrier_letters/2010/2010-06.pdf.

Welcome to the Following New Chapter Members! Deann Bender amd Barbara Wischropp.

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

Also, the Overland Park Lutheran Church can use old prescription bottles to be sent to missionaries overseas. It is suggested that you remove the labels before donating.

Note: No regular chapter meeting will be held during the month of July or August.

Next publication of this newsletter is not currently planned until September. To stay up to date with current news be sure to check out the bulletin board on our Chapter's website, www.narfe-chapter1162.org. Also, weekly GEMS messages from HQ are generated for those who have provided NARFE HQ their e-mail addresses. Also, our NARFE net coordinator, Bob Steinert has established a Chapter Electronic Messaging System to contact members with notices about chapter events and information. In order to receive emails through this process, you need to be sure to update your NARFE membership record with your e-mail address. This will allow you to receive the GEMS messages as well as e-mails of interest from our chapter.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

May 25th, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th & Lowell. Program: Honoring our Veterans – Musical entertainment with a patriotic them provided by Don DeFeo.

June 4th, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th & I-35 Exit, Lenexa, adjacent to LaQuinta Hotel

June 9th, Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 73rd & Quivira at 1:00 p.m. RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 432-0091

June 14th, 12:30 p.m. Chapter 40th Anniversary Celebration, Old Shawnee Town. Contact Lorna Larson: lolarson@kc.rr.com

July 14th, Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 73^d & Quivira at 1:00 p.m. RSVP Clyde Shellhammer 432-0091

August 6th, Executive Board meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th & I-35 Exit, Lenexa, adjacent to LaQuinta Hotel.

August 11th, Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 73rd & Quivira at 1:00 p.m, RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 432-0091.

September 8th, Social Meeting at Hometown Buffet, 73rd & Quivira at 1:00 p.m. RSVP Clyde Shellhammer, 432-0091.

September 28th, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th & Lowell.

Your May Shawnee Signal

National Active and Retired Federal
Employees Assoc. 1162
11433 Rene
Lenexa, KS 66215-4843



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