



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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Congressman Dennis Moore and Jim Slatterly Democratic Candidate for Senate Visit Chapter 1162 October 28.

Congressman Dennis Moore (Incumbent, Democrat, 3rd District of Kansas) and Jim Slatterly, Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate from Kansas, are scheduled to talk with and answer questions from NARFE membership of Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162 on **October 28, 2008**, at our regular chapter meeting. Congressman Moore and Mr. Slatterly arriving at 2:15 for about a 30 minute presentation followed by a question and answer period of 30 minutes or more.

Dennis Moore is serving his fifth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Moore was born in Anthony, Kansas, in 1945. He was educated in Wichita public schools. In 1967, he graduated from the University of Kansas, and received his law degree from Washburn University School of Law in 1970. After service in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve, he started his legal career as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Kansas. He entered private legal practice in Johnson County in 1973. In 1976, he was elected District Attorney in Johnson County and served a total of 12 years. He was elected to Congress in 1998. He is a member of the House Committees on the Budget and Financial Services. He resides in Lenexa with his wife Stephene, a registered nurse. They have seven children and eight grandchildren.

Jim Slatterly was born on August 4, 1948 and grew up in Good Intent, Kansas a farming community in Atchison County. Jim earned a bachelor's degree in political science at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas and went on to graduate from Washburn University Law School. He served in the 69th Infantry Brigade of the Kansas Army National Guard, rising from the rank of private to second lieutenant. He was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives from the 53rd District in Topeka at the age of 24. After six years, he retired from the Legislature to work full-time at a real estate business he co-founded in Topeka. In 1982, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served for 12 years. He is a member of the Board of Governors of Washburn University Law School and serves on the Washburn University Endowment Association Board of Trustees. Jim and his wife Linda have been married for 33 years and live in Topeka. They have two grown sons, Mike and Jason.

If you have any specific questions you would like to ask of these candidates please send them to Louis Bornman, Legislative Chair, as soon as possible so that we can make sure we are not duplicating our efforts and to give the candidates a heads up on what to expect.

Contact information for Louis:

Home email – BornmanL@aol.com -

Work email- Louis.Bornman@us.army.mil

Home phone - 913-268-8526 (you may leave a voice-mail message if I am not there).

Please leave your contact information in case I need to contact you for any clarifications.

We invited Mr. Nick Jordan, Republican candidate for the 3rd District of Kansas, and Senator Pat Roberts (Incumbent, Republican, Kansas) to our September chapter meeting. Senator Roberts could not make that meeting. Mr. Jordan accepted our invitation; however he was unable to attend because of a brief illness. We have not yet tried to reschedule a new date for Mr. Jordan and/or Senator Roberts for October.

Our intent was to allow each party's candidates for the November election the opportunity to present their views and answer questions on issues of particular interest to Kansas NARFE members. We also want to thank Congressman Moore for his continued support of NARFE issues and encourage him to support our issues in the future. And we want to encourage Mr. Slatterly to support NARFE issues should he be elected.

Directions to Overland Park Lutheran Church:

From Interstate 35: take the 75th street exit. Go east on 75th Street to Antioch Road. Go South (Right) onto Antioch to 79th Street. Go East (Left) onto 79th Street to Lowell. Overland Park Lutheran Church sits on the North (Left) side of the street. Park in the rear and enter through the rear door.

Meeting Dates/Activities:

November 12th – Monthly Social Meeting at Home-town Buffet at 73rd & Quivira, 1 p.m. RSVP to Clyde Shellhammer 913-432-0091.

November 25th, Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m. Program will be on Health Benefits.

December 16th – Chapter Meeting and annual Christmas luncheon. The meeting will be the Community

President's Report, *Elizabeth M. Bornman*

The NARFE Convention was overall well done. Many resolutions were passed and some did not. The results are further in this newsletter. Membership still is a big issue with all chapters. The NARFE headquarters Public Relations Office has picked the Kansas City Metro to be one of the targets in the next two years to market membership growth through advertising on such things as buses and bill boards.

However, each of you is the best recruiters. If any active federal employee could help us in arranging a table for recruiting in their facility, please contact Tom Raby our Membership chairman.

We are looking for good people to volunteer to be more involved in the chapter. We are preparing the slate of officers for next year. If you are interested in any of the positions please give me a call and I will provide you with more details as to the full responsibilities of each position.

Membership, Tom Raby

Recruiting tips: Keep applications and magazines in your car, just in case you have need for them. Make sure you put your membership number in the recruiter space. Add chapter number 1162 at the end of the same line. Leave applications and/or magazines at any place where magazines are left for customers or clients to read. I have a supply of applications (some are postage paid, others are info brochures with an application inside).

Don't hesitate to ask for more at any time. If you have an address of a Federal Agency, especially if you have names of management individuals, send them some applications. If you'd rather give me the information, then I will send them the brochures. Don't ask for permission to leave magazines, just leave them. We could gain some members before they are discarded.

You may contact me at (913) 829-6025 or *thomas-raby1@comcast.net* if you have questions.

Alzheimer's, Tom Raby

By the time this is published, four of us will have participated in the Memory Walk. This walk is sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. NARFE has a long history with this group and we have raised over \$8 million for Alzheimer's research, nationally, during our partnership.

If you want to give to this worthy cause make your check payable to: **NARFE/ALZHEIMER'S**.

Contributions are tax deductible. You can bring, or send, them to regular chapter meetings. Or you can mail them to me at: Thomas Raby, 15117 S. Symphony Dr. Apt. 1203 Olathe, KS 66062-6126. Participating in this year's Memory Walk are: Wayne Smutz, Cal Moore, Ruth Farwell and Tom Raby.

NARFE-PAC, Flo Biehl

Pay It Now! Now is the time to really make a difference. Look in the magazine for the coupon for NARFE/PAC. Cut it out, fill it out, mail it with your check for your contribution to NARFE/PAC. These monies will go to candidates that are sympathetic to NARFE issues on the federal level as they run for office this election. *Do it now!*

News from State Federation

Mary Fritzon, President and Service Officer for the Kansas State Federation found it necessary to resign from both of these positions effective immediately. Robert Cranmer has agreed to move up to the Office of President. Our chapter president, Elizabeth Bornman will move up to the Office of 1st Vice President. A decision will be made in the near future whether to try to fill the 2nd V.P vacancy or leave the position vacant.

Legislation

Responding to the Office of Personnel Management's September 25th release of Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) rates for the 2009 plan year, NARFE President . Baptiste acknowledged that while the overall average FEHBP premium increase of 7.0 percent for 2009 is within the range of increases in other large group health insurance plans, she is troubled that the share paid by employees and retirees in the program's most popular plan (Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) standard option) will jump by 13.3 percent and that enrollees will pay significantly higher copayments and coinsurance for brand-name prescription drugs in 2009. However, NARFE is pleased that a hearing aid benefit will be added to FEHBP plans and that OPM decided that a separate and controversial Medicare "Sub-Option" is not currently acceptable. The entire press release will be posted on the NARFE web site.

2009 premiums for employees and retirees are available as Adobe ® files on the OPM web site, *www.opm.gov* That means files in a portable document format (pdf) are available at *http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/09rates/index.asp* Both the November and December issues of **NARFE** magazine will provide the additional coverage begun in the October issue, pages 26-32. The NARFE web site, *www.narfe.org*, will also provide additional information. Prior to the upcoming "Open Season," November 10, 2008 through December 8, 2008, OPM will mail CSRS and FERS annuitants detailed information about costs and benefits in FEHBP and about the Dental and Vision plans, now in their third year. Availability of dental and vision plans, along with their premiums and benefits will vary, are not dependent upon enrollment in the FEHBP, and unlike the health insurance plans, enrollees will pay the full cost of any elected option.

On September 30, the final day of the fiscal year, President Bush signed legislation, H.R. 2638, to provide for continuing appropriations through March 6, 2009. This newly enacted law, P.L. 110-181, provides for a 3.9 percent pay raise for federal civilians, the same as military personnel.

(Continued on next page)

The 110th Congress edition of our Congressional Scorecard is placed at the centerfold of the October issue of **NARFE** magazine for easy removal and frequent reference. NARFE members are urged to use it to supplement recommendations they are making to their federation's NARFE-PAC Coordinator. Each federation's NARFE-PAC Coordinator, like the foreman of a jury, is weighing evidence on which candidates requesting NARFE-PAC funds should receive NARFE-PAC support. This vote information is also available on the Legislative Action Center portion of the NARFE web site.

NARFE members are urged to use the NARFE web site, www.narfe.org, to find two newly posted features. At the top of the Home page there is a preview of our November magazine's article "2008 NARFE Presidential Candidate Survey," which provides the responses NARFE received from Republican Presidential Nominee, Senator John McCain, and Democratic Presidential Nominee, Senator Barack Obama, to questions on public policy issues critical to the interests of nearly 5 million federal workers and annuitants.

(Web site of the week: NARFE's own site has been enhanced with the addition of the 2007-2008 voting analysis. This seven page "portable document format" section will appear in the October **NARFE** magazine and is titled "How They Voted: 110th Congress." Point your browser to <http://www.narfe.org/departments/leg/guest/articles.cfm?ID=728> and find "Read more" under Legislative Publications. Our Legislative Action Center allows another route to finding the just released votes for individual congressional delegations. Use www.capwiz.com/narfe as the gateway. Insert your ZIP Code or ZIP+4 to see a display of your two U.S. Senators and Representative. Select "Votes" under a legislator's picture to see how they voted on 3 Senate or 5 House votes during 2007-2008. Earlier votes are still available.)

Note: A weekly legislative message is available to telephone callers (703/838-7780 and toll free at 1-877-217-8234), posted for members on NARFE's Internet site, www.narfe.org, made available to NARFE-Net Coordinators; and broadcast to 42,000 GEMS e-mail addresses. Each delivery channel is a service of the NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

National Convention Results from Richard Thissen, Region V Vice-President

1. Actions by the delegates:

a. *Adopted resolutions/issues:*

- (1) The delegates adopted the proposal to modify the Honorary Membership program. Current Honorary Members will not be affected. As members reach 85 years of age and 20 years of membership in NARFE in the future; they may become "Distinguished Members" who will receive a pin and special ID card; however they will continue to pay dues.
- (2) The delegates approved the proposal to allow the NARFE National Executive board (NEB) to select the future convention site instead of a vote by the delegates at the

convention.

- (3) The delegates approved the NARFE Legislative Program for the next two years.

- (4) The delegates approved a proposal to equalize the salaries of the National Secretary and National Treasurer by raising the Treasurer's salary to \$90,979.

- (5) The delegates selected the Nugget Hotel in Sparks/Reno, NE as the Convention Site for 2012. The 2010 Convention will be held in Grand Rapids, MI as selected at the 2006 convention.

- (6) The delegates adopted a proposal to require the NARFE HQ to continue pursuing agreements with the many Federal Finance Offices to allow active Federal Employees to use dues withholding for their dues.

b. *Rejected resolutions/issues:*

- (1) The delegates rejected the proposal to eliminate the NARFE National VP position; a new VP was elected as shown below.

- (2) The NARFE Dues received a majority of the delegates' votes, however it did not receive the required 2/3 vote to amend a Bylaw. The proposal received 3929 votes out of 6164 cast; this was 180 votes shy of the 4109 required.

- (3) The delegates rejected a proposal to reduce the Regional VPs salary.

- (4) The delegates rejected a proposal to once again allow students in college to compete in the NARFE Scholarship Program; The Program will remain for high schools seniors only.

- (5) The delegates rejected the proposal to replace the elected NARFE Officers with a Chief Operating Officer.

- (6) The delegates soundly rejected free spousal/family membership in NARFE.

- (7) All other resolutions were rejected.

2. Officers elected:

- a. Margaret Baptiste was re-elected as National President
- b. Joe Beaudoin was elected as National VP
- c. Nat Brown was re-elected as National Secretary
- d. Dick Ostergren was re-elected as National Treasurer
- e. Richard Thissen was re-elected as Region V VP

Treasurer's Report	
January 1, 2008 — October 1, 2008	
Cash Flow Report	
Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Receipts	5,357
Disbursements	<u>(5,733)</u>
Net Cash from Operating Activities	(376)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Purchase 10-month Bank CD	<u>(5,000)</u>
Net Cash Used for Investments	<u>(5,000)</u>
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH	(5,376)
CASH JANUARY 1, 2008	7,789
CASH OCTOBER 1, 2008	2,413
Notes:	
1. Book Value 10-month CD October 1, 2008,	5,092
CD matures Dec. 7, 2008	
2. Negative numbers inside ().	
3. Cash Flow report shows <i>inflow</i> and <i>outflow</i> of monies.	

Federal Employees Retirement System Sick Leave Incentive

On July 30, the house passed (326-102) a long pending tobacco regulation bill, H.R. 1108, which included unrelated civil service provisions on sick leave and changes to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The added provisions would allow persons covered by the newer retirement plan, the Federal Employees System (FERS), to credit unused sick leave toward their retirement as is the case under the Civil Service RETIREMENT System (CSRS). House leadership was persuaded by evidence that the current "use it or lose it" sick leave policy has become a recipe for too costly pre-retirement absenteeism by some FERS employees.

NARFE, present and active at the creation of the newer FERS system, is most eager to maintain the solvency of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF). Specifically, NARFE is working to fully fund this new cost to the CSRDF by expressly dedicating revenue from the other civil service provision of H.R. 1108, creation of a "Roth" option within the TSP. This new option, like Roth IRAs and akin to the relatively new 401k Roth, allows after-tax contributions to the TSP, generating immediate revenue. NARFE is urging senators and potential conferees to ensure that the CSRDF be made whole with the enhanced FERS benefit.

Presidential Candidate Questionnaires

The November issue of NARFE magazine, expected to reach most members in late October will include information from the two major party presidential candidates. Both Campaigns have been asked to address specific questions for NARFE to report to all members. These replies will also be posted on www.narfe.org.

Chapter Officers

Elizabeth Bornman	President	913 268-8526	Tom Raby	Alzheimer's	913 829-6025
Flo Biehl	1st Vice President	913 631-5559	Elizabeth Bornman	Legislative	913 268-8526
Harold Hutcheson	2nd Vice President	913 780-3073	Tom Raby	Membership	913 829-6025
Wayne Smutz	Secretary	913 888-3423	Flo Biehl	NARFE-PAC	913 631-5559
Bob Steinert	Treasurer	913 764-7456	Louise Lloyd	Editor	913 661-1720
Howard Zion	Service Officer	913 236-8131	Bob Steinert	Webmaster	913 764-7456

Regular Monthly Meeting: 4th Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th & Lowell, O.P. KS.

Monthly Social Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Hometown Buffet, 73rd & Quivira at 1:00 p.m. Call Clyde Shellhammer (913) 432-0091 for reservations.

Your October Shawnee Signal

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