

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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Louise Lloyd, Chapter President

As I begin to draft this article, we have seen a wide variation of weather, from rain, sleet, ice and snow and all in same day. The temperatures have been up and down. Fortunately in just a few weeks, Spring will be upon us.

Just as the weather is unpredictable at this time of year, the political climate that we are now faced with is charged with its own stormy issues. Our country is faced with unprecedented federal debt, and the Democrats and Republicans are at great odds on the solutions. As federal employees and retirees, our earned benefits, including our salaries and pensions, and health care are too easily targeted. From March 5th to March 8th, NARFE members from all over the country will attend the NARFE Legislative Conference. Those attending will get a chance to meet with their respective congressional representatives. We are fortunate our Legislative Chairman, Louis Bornman will be attending on our behalf.

On February 23rd, I along with several others from our chapter, and representatives from both the Kansas City Kansas Chapter, and Lawrence Chapters met with a staff member of Congressman Kevin Yoder's District Office, located in Kansas City, Kansas. The meeting gave us the opportunity to discuss the issues of most concern to both active employees and retirees. Within the 3rd Congressional District, there are approximately 11,000 active employees and federal retirees, so thus we do represent a substantial number of votes within this district. The next goal we have is to hopefully arrange a similar meeting in the future with Senator Moran's district office.

I hope all of you that have e-mail addresses have provided those to NARFE HQ, or have made sure that the address you have provided is current. This will ensure you receive the weekly GEMS messages enabling you to respond when HQ requests prompt action to contact our congressional delegation. I know I have stressed this before. However, it is the best way to reach many of you in a timely manner with critical, time sensitive information. You can also get the weekly hotline messages by calling the toll free number listed on the back page of this newsletter, or by going to the NARFE website, which has undergone some great improvements. Also, our excellent chapter website has links to the NARFE website, along with other important chapter information.

For those of you who haven't been at our recent chapter meetings, there are several items to update you on. The chapter board members all agreed that we want to put more emphasis in recruiting new members, as it truly with greater numbers that we have more clout with Congress. So for this year, as an incentive for you to recruit new members, the board agreed that we would on a quarterly basis, reward anyone who recruits a new chapter member with \$5.00. So we hope this incentive will give you even more reason to help us gain new members.

Another initiative that the board is implementing to encourage greater attendance at our chapter meetings, is to award a door prize at each meeting, and the prize will be something useful. At the end of the year we will have a drawing for a very nice prize. For every chapter meeting that one attends during the year, you get your name entered in the drawing. So someone who attends all 9 chapter meetings will have 9 chances to win the special prize for attendance at year end. We hope this will encourage more of you to come and participate at our meetings.

One final note, Harriet Rubin, who has so graciously served as our Hospitality chairperson at every meeting for approximately the past 5 years, ensuring that we always have coffee and some snacks, as well as handling the kitchen cleanup, fell several weeks ago following an episode of light-headedness and subsequently broke her hip. She had a partial hip replacement and has been undergoing rehabilitation at St. Luke's South. I want to extend our best wishes to Harriet as she undergoes her therapy, and extend our appreciation for all she has been doing, along with her husband Rubin, to make our chapter meetings more enjoyable.

OPM newTax Hotline for retirees to call to change the federal tax withholding on their monthly annuity payments:
800-307-8298.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

March 9th, Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 73rd @ Quivira at **1:00 p.m.**, RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

March 17th **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



March 22nd, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell. **Program:** Ed Schulte, Johnson County Area Agency on Aging.

April 1st, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th 7 I-35 Exit, Lenexa.

April 10th – 12th Kansas Federation Convention, Junction City, Kansas, Courtyard by Marriott.

April 13th – Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 73rd and Quivira at 1:00 p.m., RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, **913-432-0091**

April 26th Chapter meeting, **1:30 p.m.**, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell, Program: Presentation from Johnson County Museum.

May 6th, Executive Board Meeting, **9:30 a.m.** at Denny's Restaurant, 95th & I-35 Exit, Lenexa

May 11th, Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 73rd and Quivira at 1:00 p.m., RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

Meeting Cancellations: A chapter meeting is canceled if Shawnee Mission School District cancels classes due to inclement weather.

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

Funding for research for Alzheimer's disease must go on. Early diagnosis of the disease is of primary importance both in terms of informed choices that are available--appropriate therapies and medications, life planning such as estates and wills and taking part in clinical trials.



Don't forget about the NARFE Federation convention in Topeka April 10th -12th and the fact that they will have both a live auction and silent auction fundraiser for Alzheimer's disease. If you wish to donate an article for this activity please bring them to the March 22 NARFE chapter meeting. Such articles should have a value of at least \$5." These donations are tax deductible, and I can provide you a receipt.

Seeking Talented NARFE Chapter Members

Each month we have members who volunteer to arrange programs for our chapter meetings that we think will be of interest to our members. Currently, Mary Haswell, our treasurer, and Ginny Glauser, our newest board member have agreed to arrange for the programs. We would like to seek out talented chapter members who would be willing to perform at the June potluck luncheon meeting. With approximately 700 members, we know there must be a number of you who have a talent that our members would enjoy. So whether you are a singer, dancer, musician, or possibly you have a little bit of comedian in you, we hope you'll consider volunteering to perform at our June 28th chapter luncheon/meeting. Feel free to contact Mary at 913-400-7303, or Ginny at 913-492-8356.

Kansas Federation Convention – April 10th Junction City

The NARFE Kansas Federation annual convention is in Junction City, April 10th -12th. We are allocated 29 delegates, so contact our secretary, Elizabeth Bornman, if you would be interested in attending. Chuck Timanus, the PR director from NARFE HQ who will speak at the convention. The Courtyard by Marriott Convention Hotel is only holding the convention hotel rate until March 11th, so don't wait to make your hotel reservation. Also, the Federation is having a fundraising drawing for \$1.00 per ticket. 1st prize \$250, 2nd prize \$100, 3rd prize, \$50. Only NARFE members are eligible. Contact the President or Secretary for tickets.

Contact Information:

Senator Jerry Moran – jerry_moran@moran.senate.gov; Hays KS office telephone 785-628-6401.

Senator Pat Roberts – pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov; Washington D.C. telephone: 202-244-6521

Congressman Kevin Yoder – Kansas City, KS telephone: 913-621-0832, Washington D.C. telephone: 202-225-2865

In Memoriam

Barbara Rhodes
Alva Byars
Frank Webb

Welcome to the following New Members!

Brian Hmielewski Lorraine O'Brien
Patrick Kelly Maurice Walker

NARFE PAC – Flo Biehl

March is PAC month. Of course, you can contribute to it any month but we really emphasize March. If you contribute \$20 or more, you can get a pin to wear.

It is important to give to PAC because the funds are all put together and used to help friendly individuals who are running for representative or senator on the federal level. Only NARFE members can contribute to PAC. A coupon in the magazine helps you in directing your funds. Be sure to include our chapter number (1162) so that we do receive credit.

NARFE Members-Only Online Retirement Calculator

In an effort to provide its members with the latest tools to plan their retirement, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), in partnership with Economic Systems Inc., is announcing the availability of a members-only, online self-study retirement seminar. EconSys eSeminar Plus, developed by Economic Systems Inc., is believed by many retirement experts to be the best available. Previously, the program was available only to federal agencies, but NARFE members can now have access for a small subscription fee. For more information about eSeminar Plus, go to www.narfe.org.

(Information from January 25th Memorandum from NARFE's President, Joe Beaudoin)

NARFE Advocacy Campaign

NARFE is launching an aggressive advocacy and communications campaign to fight anticipated cuts in federal retirement, pay and health benefits and to increase awareness about the value of public service in response to the attacks on federal employees and annuitants. Lawmakers are using reports that federal employees are overpaid and receive overly generous retirement and health benefits to justify cutting such compensation.

An Advocacy toolkit will be made available to all federations and chapters. **Online Petition:** Tell your friends and family (particularly non-NARFE members) to visit:

www.protectamericasheartbeat.com

Sunshine Committee – Be sure to contact Don Faidley if you know of any members who may be sick or in the hospital - 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

A Kansas Legislative Hotline is available for updates about the status of current bills: In-State - 800-432-3924. Out of state - 785-296-2149. You may also contact the legislators via the website www.kslegislature.org.

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Your March 2011 Shawnee Signal

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