



THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas

November 2007

NARFE PRAISES SENATE SCRUTINY OF THE GPO-WEP

Jill Crissmann, NARFE Legislation Representative, November 6.2007



Margaret L. Baptiste, president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), today lauded Senator John Kerry (D-MA) for holding a hearing to examine the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the

Social Security Act, that deny federal retirees and other public servants their earned Social Security benefits. Speaking at a press conference on Capitol Hill, Baptiste reiterated her association's long-standing opposition to the offsets. "Senator Kerry deserves our thanks for using his position as the Chairman of the Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy Subcommittee to review policies undermining the earned retirement benefits of more than a million public servants," declared Baptiste.

Since 1983 the GPO has prevented retirees from collecting both their federal annuity and any Social Security benefit based on their spouse's work. Two-thirds of the amount of the earned civil service retirement annuity is used to offset whatever Social Security spousal or survivor benefits that might otherwise have been payable. The WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit of a federal worker who also receives a government annuity based on

his/her own work. Hundreds of thousands of federal civil servants and other public retirees lose as much as half of their own earned social security income as a result of the WEP, and many annuitants are affected by both offsets. Baptiste called the GPO and WEP "unfair and unconscionable."

Recent data indicates approximately 401,200 Social Security beneficiaries affected by the GPO, of whom about 75 percent were women, approximately 42 percent were widowed, and 85% had lost their entire Social Security benefit. The data also showed roughly 971,300 Social Security beneficiaries affected by the WEP. About two-thirds were men, and 20% of affected individuals had paid into Social Security for at least 21 years.

NARFE has long led a campaign to rid the Social Security Law of the GPO and WEP provisions. The association chairs the Coalition to Assure Retirement Equity (CARE), comprised of over 40 national organizations representing public sector retirees that support changes in the GPO and WEP. "For far too long the GPO and WEP have devastated the income security of many former federal workers," said Baptiste. "It is time for Congress to act to rid the law of these discriminatory provisions," she asserted.

Thanks Ladies

We have introduced legislation, called the "Social Security Fairness Act" (S. 206) that would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

Summary: Social Security Fairness Act of 2007 – Amend title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to repeal: (1) government pension offset requirements applicable to husband's and wife's insurance benefits, widow's and widower's insurance benefits, and mother's and father's insurance benefits with respect to OASDI payments; and (2) windfall elimination requirements with respect to computation of an individual's primary insurance amount.



Senator Collins
(R-Maine)



Senator Feinstein
(D-California)

Summary provided by Library of Congress-Thomas

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Come to our chapter Christmas party. When ?

December 11, 2007

Time 12:30 p.m.

Place: Grand Court,
6101 West 119th Street,
Overland Park, KS 66209-2728.
Phone Number (913) 345-9339



Call Kay Bybee to make your reservation and send her your check or pay at the chapter meeting. Kay's address is 6117 West 119th Street, Apt. 3310, Overland Park, KS 66209-2728. Phone (913) 491-0511.

Make your checks payable to "NARFE Chapter 1162" and write on your check in lower left corner "beef" or "chicken". Cost is \$16.00 per person, includes dinner and gratuity.

Last Day to make reservations is December 3rd.

Hostesses are Elizabeth Bornman and Kay Bybee.

Regular Chapter Meeting November 27

Overland Park Lutheran Church
79th Street and Lowell Ave, Overland Park.
Meeting starts at 1:30 p.m.

Election of chapter officers and directors for year 2008.

Candidates are: President—Elizabeth Bornman; First Vice President—Flo Biehl; Second Vice President—Harold Hutchesen; Secretary—Wayne Smutz; Treasurer—Bob Steinert; Directors: Lewis Bornman, Cal Moore, and Clara Smith.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Refreshments will be served at the end of meeting, and there's plenty of quality time for socializing.

Chapter Treasurer's Report - Year 2007

Balance January 1, 2007	\$8,107
Receipts:	5,433
Disbursements:	6,223
Balance November 1, 2007	\$7,317

Membership Chair

By Tom Raby

Don't forget that this is the month when we elect new officers. November 27th is our meeting date. As many members as possible should take part in this important process.

Vote for your favorites, or vote against those that you want replaced. I'm being a little cynical here, because we've had, and still have, a fine group of dedicated officers. But, it never hurts to have some competition.

Headquarters is eliminating the special membership price for current federal employees as of December 31st. If you have a CFE that you've been trying to recruit, now is the time to get them on board. The special price will be honored until their membership expires, if they join now. I'll have more applications at the meeting if anyone needs them. I'll also have applications for your retired friends that haven't joined yet. Remember: if each of you recruits just one member, our numbers will double!

President, Elizabeth Bornman, along with myself and member, Jane Raby traveled to Hutchinson to check out the convention center for our convention next April. President Elizabeth and I are on the Federation Executive Board and the board met to assess the host chapter's proposed business plan and budget for this event. Plan now to go early. You can check out the *Cosmosphere* and *The Salt Museum*. The drive along US Hwy 50 from Emporia to Hutchinson is a beautiful part of Kansas with the Flint Hills as a backdrop.

T.J. Robinson and I will be visiting the Bannister Complex again in November. We had a great day at Ft. Leavenworth on Oct 27th. Along with President Elizabeth, we visited with at least 100 people about the need for NARFE. Most of these visits benefit our whole organization because we aren't recruiting as just chapter members. Call, or E-mail me if you have any questions; or; see me at the meeting.

NOTICES:

- 1) **NO CHAPTER MEETING IN JANUARY 2008.**
- 2) GO TO THE CHAPTER'S WEB SITE (www.narfe-chapter1162.org) AND READ *BULLETINS* FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON MEETINGS, CONVENTIONS, ETC. — KEEP UP-TO-DATE.

Our Newsletter's Critical Time. *The Shawnee Signal* newsletter will be without an editor January 2008, unless someone comes forward and takes the job.

Our National Headquarters considers a chapter newsletter a must-have service. For a chapter our size not to have a newsletter to mail our members is just unthinkable, especially to many of our members.

However, if no one comes forward from the chapter to do just the layout for a newsletter, we have two options: (1) No newsletter. Then fewer members would attend chapter meetings; (2) Pay someone to do the layout. Presently, Sir Speedy does the printing, addressing and bulk mail preparation. Sir Speedy, for example, could do the layout also.

About Our Web Site. It's available again on the Internet with new features after a timeout for changes. There's a page (Bulletin) where you can read about forthcoming meetings, conferences, workshops, etc. Newsletters can be read on-line. And there's a page (Blog) where you and other members can post messages on whatever subject (or arguments) you wish—the usual restrictions apply. A Blog site on the Internet is all the rage now. Our chapter's Web site address is: www.narfe-chapter1162.org on the Internet.

The second option sounds like an acceptable solution, if no one volunteers to be the editor. But it drives the costs still higher for putting out a newsletter. Total cost is about \$350 per issue. Some years we mail nine issues.

Newsletters are a major expense for the chapters; however that's another situation to contend with. But first, we have to find a new editor for next year!

It's an interesting job. Think of it as a new hobby.

As the chapter's present editor, I'd be very pleased to answer questions about the editor's duties from members considering this work. Please contact me. My phone numbers is (913) 764-7456 or e-mail to: steinertj@aol.com.

Bob Steinert, Chapter Editor

NARFE's Service Officer. Our chapter has a service officer who can help individual members and their families and survivors take the proper actions to obtain and retain their federal annuities and survivor benefits. Service officers are particularly helpful to a surviving spouse when filing for survivor notification and benefits. Our chapter Service Officer is Howard Zion, and he can be reached at 913 236-8131.

NARFE-Alzheimer's Fund

SUPPORT ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

Enclosed is my Alzheimer's NARFE contribution \$ _____

Every cent that is contributed is used for research.

Please circle: Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Chapter number _____

Your charitable contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

You will receive a tax-deductible receipt letter from Alzheimer's Association.

Make checks payable to: **Alzheimer's-NARFE Research.**

And mail to: Tom Raby, Chapter 1162 Alzheimer's Chair,

15117 S Symphony Dr Apt 1203, Olathe KS 66062-6126,

NARFE Association's goal for Year 2007 is \$8,000,000 for Alzheimer's research.

Let's do our part

Use the adjacent coupon. Cut out the center section with your name and address on the coupon and enclose it with your contribution in an envelope addressed to Tom Raby, our chapter's Alzheimer's committee chair.

This way your chapter will receive credit for the contribution in Federation records system which tracks total contributions by chapter. ●

Where are we as a chapter in Kansas

Elizabeth Bornman, Chapter President

Chapter 1162 is looking for more members to be involved. Involved members make a chapter. We are the largest in the state of Kansas. We represent 16 percent of the chapter members in the state.

We still need someone to say they will publish our newsletter and also coordinate the programs for the meetings. You don't have to come to the meetings. But, it does help to know the active members and be a part of the working members of the chapter. This year was a good year for programs. Elections for chapter officers are coming up at the November meeting. We need you to be there to vote.

As the Second Vice President of the state federation, I hold the position of membership chairman. I have completed three training sessions in the Back to Basic Workshops that the state conducted in Areas I, IA, 2, 2A and 3. The numbers have been lower than anticipated. However, those present found it quite valuable for their chapters. We wished more members and especially new members would have attended. In the spring, I will be part of the team again and be conducting another session on membership and recruitment. Everyone should be recruiting, whether it's a retiree or new recruit. Kansas has over 50,000 potential members. Kansas currently has just fewer than 5,000 chapter members.

The College of NARFE Knowledge was well attended throughout Region 5. There were over 200 attendees,

which included 39 Kansans of which 4 were from this chapter. This is open to any member in our chapter who wants to know more about how NARFE works. It is held every other year, the off years from the National Convention. An added benefit was that we were able to personally meet our National President, Margaret Baptiste. She is an impressive person and has our best interest at heart. She attended the full conference and was available to all who wished to visit with her. The state federation is working on her to attend our State Convention in Hutchinson.

Starting January 1, 2008, Current Federal Employees will be paying the same as current retirees for membership, \$33.00. The incentive program to recruit and be rewarded with \$8.00 will remain the same. All current employees who renew their membership will be grandfathered under the \$25.00 fee until they retire. Current Federal employees are the future of this organization. Their meeting styles will be different. We will be changing for the future of this chapter and the organization.

Open Season starts Monday, November 12, and ends Monday, December 10, 2007. On November 29 from 9 to 5 pm, the Staff Training Center, across old US 73 from the back gate of Fort Leavenworth, will have representatives from numerous Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plans who will be available to explain their programs and answer questions.●

HAVE LUNCH WITH CHAPTER MEMBERS

The regular chapter meeting in January 2008 is canceled. However, chapter members can still gather at the *Wednesday Social Luncheon* that meets on the second Wednesday of the month. It's a chapter event that's been happening for years. If you go out for lunch, why not join some chapter people. It's held at the Hometown Buffet at 73rd and Quivira. – cafeteria style food service. Be there at 1:00 p.m. Call Clyde Shellhammer 432-0091 for a reservation about a day ahead of time, so they'll have a place for you at the table. (Clyde says is okay if you call him Wednesday morning between 9 and 11 a.m.)

Your November Shawnee Signal

NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission
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