



NARFE's National Vice President Bill Austin Resigns

Bill Austin resigned September 18th. NARFE's President Margret Batiste announces reorganization at National Headquarters.

Bill started his Civil Service career with US Postal Service as a letter carrier in March of 1960. He performed successfully at every level of the Postal Service, progressing steadily through positions of increased responsibility until his retirement in 1994. He served in two Postal Regions as General Manager and held the position of District Manager at his retirement.



When Bill retired in 1994, he immediately joined NARFE and quickly became active as an officer in his chapter. Once again he progressed upward through the ranks serving in numerous capacities within his chapter and the federation. He has served as Chapter and Federation President and as a National Field Vice President. Bill was elected as National Vice President at the year 2006 National Convention held in Albuquerque, NM. And throughout his service to NARFE, Bill has been dedicated to NARFE's basics: Legislation-Membership-Service. He is responsible for starting the NARFE Silver Circle. At the age of 60, Bill received his Bachelors Degree from Winston-Salem State University. ●

Back-to-Basics Symposium October 15, 2007.

By Tom Raby, Membership Chair.

The symposium will be held at the Pat Hanlon Community Center. This informative session will cover most aspects of NARFE chapter operations. This will make all attendees more knowledgeable about our organization. Also, you'll get to meet many of our Federation Officers and put a face on those names you've only heard about.

For planning purposes expect to start at 9:am and head home around 3:pm. The following is a brief outline of the day's schedule:

Registration is 8:am to 10:am. Pick up materials, get coffee then a welcome with invocation, flag salute and introductions followed by remarks by Federation President, John Surritte and National Region 5 Vice President, Dick Thissen

The next hour will focus on membership and chapter operations, plus how to use the computer to obtain and decipher reports. After a break, we will hear about legislation and chapter/member involvement; plus hear an appraisal of how PAC's work and why they're necessary.

After lunch we'll have several presentations including: Membership Services, Service Officer resources, Public Relations, Chapter Officer descriptions and duties.

Additionally, you'll get information about Disaster Relief, Scholarships and our partnership with Alzheimer's Association. Dick Thissen wraps up with the latest "scoop" from national headquarters. John Surritte will close the meeting.

There is no charge for this event; it is sponsored by the Federation (Kansas Federation of Chapters) and your only expense is lunch. A sandwich box lunch is \$5.75; choices are Ham, Tuna, Turkey or Roast Beef. An alternative is Crispy Chicken Salad or Grilled Chicken Salad: \$4.99 for large or \$3.29 for small. Drinks will be provided.

You need to send a check payable to "Chapter 1160" today to the Host Chapter so that they receive it by October 10th. (if your timing is late, please call me and I will get the info to our host chapter). My number: (913) 829-6025.●

Pat Hanlon Community Center
1101 Ridge Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66102
(913) 573-5515

Your Host Chapter:
Sunflower Chapter 1160
2501 N 36th Street
Kansas City, KS 66104-3631

For Some Retirees, Health Insurance Is Tax-Free

By Stephen Barr, Washington Post
Thursday, September 27, 2007

Since 2000, federal employees have been able to pay their health insurance premiums on a tax-free basis. The tax code does not extend this perk to federal retirees, to their dismay.

But a little-noticed provision in 2006 Pension Protection Act has made an exception for retired "public safety officers." They can request that up to \$3,000 from their annual pensions be deducted to pay for medical insurance and long-term-care insurance.

The Internal Revenue Service, for 2006 tax returns, defined public safety officers as firefighters, law enforcement officers, chaplains and members of a rescue squad or ambulance crew.

Eligibility criteria may be updated by the IRS later this year when it issues a new version of the tax guide for civil service retirement benefits (publication 721), used by many federal retirees when preparing their income tax returns.

The Office of Personnel Management has determined that the pension law applies to the two major federal retirement programs, the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System. Retired federal public safety officers whose pensions include a direct payment to a health insurance company or long-term care insurance company may claim a tax exclusion on their federal tax form and lower their federal income tax, the OPM said.

The provision in the new pension law has caused some confusion among federal retirees about who is eligible to claim the tax break. Some retirees believe they performed public safety jobs but held job titles, such as technician, that are not listed in the IRS tax guide.

"Frustration regarding who is eligible for the tax exclusion could be eliminated if all retired federal workers were offered the tax relief," said Dan Adcock, assistant legislative director at the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, known as NARFE.

In the group's September magazine, Adcock said the pension law "sets a new precedent of providing retirees with tax relief that will make their health costs more affordable."

NARFE has lobbied Congress in recent years to extend the tax advantage, called "premium conversion," to federal retirees.

Earlier this month, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved a bill sponsored by Rep. Thomas M. Davis III (R-Va.) that would allow all federal civilian and military retirees to pay their monthly health-care premiums with tax-free deductions from their annuities and allow active-duty military personnel to deduct from their taxable income certain supplemental premiums or enrollment fees for Tricare, their military health insurance.

John W. Warner (R-Va.) and James Webb (D-Va.) have introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

The Davis bill would provide average saving of \$820 a year for federal retirees, according to a government estimate. The median federal retiree pension is \$1,879 per month, the House committee said.

But the bill carries a high price, about \$12.7 billion over 10 years, according to the most recent estimate by the Congressional Budget Office. Although many House members have signaled support for the legislation, the House Ways and Means Committee has not taken it up. ●

Chapter Officers & Committees

President

Elizabeth Bornman
913 268-8526

First Vice President

Flo Biehl
913 631-5559

Second Vice President

Clara Smith
913 441-8723

Secretary

Wayne Smutz
913 888-3423

Treasurer

Bob Steinert
913 764-7456

Alzheimer's

Tom Raby
913 829-6025

Legislative

Tom Raby
913 829-6025

Membership

Tom Raby
913 829-6025

Newsletter

Bob Steinert
913 764-7456

Public Relations

open

NEW POSTER



**Remember
NARFE-PAC
Contributions**

(Revised Notice Christmas Party)**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Come to our chapter Christmas party. When —
December 11, 2007

Time 12:30 pm

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.

MENU:

Yankee Pot Roast or Stuffed Chicken

Oven Roasted Red Potatoes

Honey Glazed Carrots and Fresh Green Beans

Salad and Rolls

Dessert: Chocolate Bourdon Pecan Pie or Cheese Cake.

Beverage: coffee, tea, water.

Hostesses are Elizabeth Bornman and Kay Bybee.

Regular Chapter Meeting October 23

Overland Park Lutheran Church

79th Street and Lowell Ave, Overland Park.

Meeting starts at 1:30 PM.

Meeting Agenda

Barbara Pretzer, chair of the NARFE Alzheimer's National Committee will be our guest speaker for the October meeting. She is from Manhattan, KS. She was featured in the September issue of the NARFE magazine.

Nominees for chapter officers for 2008 will be announced by the Nominating Committee Chair, Karen Greene.

Interested in running for office or serve on a committee, talk to Karen Green. Her phone number is (913) 393-4421.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Elections will be held at the chapter meeting in November.

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

Chapter Treasurer's Report - Year 2007

Balance on hand January 1, 2007	\$8,107
Receipts:	4,919
Disbursements:	5,816
Balance October 1, 2007	\$7,210



U.S. Representative Dennis Moore — It's been a busy week in Congress.

We are working to finish up the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills, which set funding levels for our entire government. As you have probably heard in media reports, this fundamental responsibility of Congress has been complicated and delayed by partisanship and unwillingness to compromise.

Clearly, that's not the way to get things done. That's not why we send our public officials to Washington

No one party has the monopoly on good ideas, which is why I am working with members of both sides of the aisle to address some of the most challenging issues our country faces today.

For example, we must address the nation's looming fiscal crisis before spending on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid bankrupts the federal government. We simply cannot afford to let partisanship stop us from addressing this important issue.

That's why, this week, I became a cosponsor of the Se-

curing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act, which would create a 16-member, bipartisan commission tasked with holding town hall meetings around the country and subsequently drafting a plan to balance long-term spending and revenue scenarios for the nation.

There's no doubt there will be tough choices to make, but we must deal with our fiscal realities in a frank and honest manner so that we can get back on the road to fiscal responsibility. The SAFE Commission Act takes the partisanship out of long-term tax and spending questions and puts them in the hands of a capable bipartisan commission.

In addition, I recently joined with 27 other members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to create the "Bipartisan Compact on Iraq Debate," which puts forth eight fundamental statements about how members of Congress must approach this debate so that so we can reasonably and responsibly define our involvement in Iraq. ... In order for Congress to address the biggest issues we face and do so in a constructive and effective way, we must work together, without partisanship or grandstanding. That was my belief when I first came to Congress and it's no less true now. •

Message from Elizabeth Bornman Chapter President

Region V continues to have a higher percentage of chapter members on Dues Withholding than the national rate (Region V 22.4%; National 18.2%). Kansas remains one of the leaders nationally at 31.5%. We encourage you to change to due withholding the next time your dues are due for renewal. The application can be sent to you from Tom Raby our membership chair, just give him a call.

We again are among the leaders in the percentage of Current Federal Employees (CFEs) (9.5%) compared to nationally (6.5%). North Dakota (23.8%) and Minnesota (16.6%) continue to be among the top Federations. Remember the incentive rate of \$25.00 for CFEs will be eliminated as of January 2008. CFEs will join NARFE at the same rate as other retirees, \$33.00.

How many of you have made contact with old friends and asked them to join NARFE or seek out current CFEs at a government facility? Remember applications are in your NARFE magazine. Tom can't do it all himself. Our number 1 priority continues to be preservation of our current EARNED benefits.

Legislation: We did not gain any new co-sponsors during Lobby month; this convinces me that you all have already worked hard to contact your Representatives and Senators and had gained their support for our priority legislation. Continue to make contact with the Representatives and Senators even just to save thanks for supporting our issues.

<u>Regular Monthly Meeting</u>	<u>Monthly Social Meeting</u>	<u>Executive Board Meeting</u>
4th Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM at Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell, Overland Park. Features: chapter business, refreshments and entertainment. No meetings July, August, December.	2nd Wednesday of the month at the Hometown Buffet, 73rd and Quivira at 1:00 PM. Call Clyde Shellhammer (913 432-0091) for reservations. Luncheon cafeteria-style food service.	1st Friday of the month. Breakfast at 9:00 AM, meeting 9:30 AM. Location Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 exit, Lenexa - adjacent to La Quinta Motel.

Your October Shawnee Signal

NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission
12309 W 74th Ter
Shawnee KS 66216-3659

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