

THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission

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Issue No. 2

NARFE: Protecting the Earned Benefits of the Federal Employee since 1921



AUTOS AND NARFE

When you look at this picture of an early assembly line, it conjures up thoughts of America's automotive past or today's news of industry giants GM and Ford now laying off thousands of workers, closing plants, debt ridden, an uncertain future. But there is another message that comes to mind as you look closely.

It's a classic photograph - one of action, teamwork, completing an objective, no frivolous activity. There's no one standing idly by watching others work. They have a single purpose. It's building a car; whereas, we are supposed to be building up membership to increase our political clout.

THE INTERNET AND CHAPTER 1162

The workers in the picture changed with new technology, and we have a subtle change in our chapter membership due to new technology. For example:

Today, we have 826 chapter members and 14 percent of the members are on the Internet. Three years ago it was about 4 percent. It's probably closer to 20-25 percent because some members do not provide National with their e-mail addresses where we get our information. It appears that we are now about in line with nationwide trends.

The Pew Institute* in a February 2004 survey found that 22% of Americans age 65 or older reported having access to the Internet. That's up from 15% in 2000. By contrast with the 65 or older group, 58% of Americans age 50-64, 75% of 30-49 year-olds, and 77% of 18-29 year-olds currently go online. As you read this newsletter, about a quarter of our members could have been reading it on the Internet. You can read it now on the Internet on our Web site at www.narfe-chapter1162.org. We are changing.

Wired seniors - the Pew Institute reported - are often as enthusiastic as younger users in the major activities that define online life such as email and the use of search engines to answer a specific question. Communication and information searches attract wired seniors. There has been sharp growth in the number doing key Internet activities such as health searches, e-shopping, and online banking. (It's been a bonanza for genealogy, America's most popular hobby).

NARFE headquarters sends out an e-mail each Friday when Congress is in session to members who have registered their e-mail address. It's a worthwhile Internet service for keeping up with news that affects our retirement and health insurance plans. You can join this news service - called GEMS - by calling headquarters, or you can register on NARFE's Web site (www.narfe.org). If you are already on GEMS and have changed your e-mail address be sure and re-register with NARFE.

* The Pew Internet & American Life Project produces reports that explore the impact of the Internet on families, communities, work and home, daily life, education, health care, and civic and political life. The Project aims to be an authoritative source on the evolution of the Internet through collection of data and analysis of real-world developments as they affect the virtual world.

MEMBERSHIP AND LEGISLATIVE

by Tom Raby, Membership

Welcome to the following new members: Louis Rauber, William Wilson, Donald McCann, and Russell White. More members are choosing Dues Withholding. This selection gives you a discount on national dues and your membership is not continued after you pass on (leaving your heirs to wonder what to do about the magazine).

This is an election year. This means that the organizations with the most members and/or the most money will be trying to get candidates elected that are friendly to their cause. NARFE does not have the numbers to be a major player in this effort, But; we still participate in "Lobby Week". This year it is the week of March 20. During this week organizations line up at the local offices, and the Washington offices, of members of congress and senators. If anyone would like to visit the local offices of our senators, or congressman, during this week, we can form a delegation. Having done this, in the past, I can offer advice to those who would like to do it. You can also use these visits to drop off any letters you have written to your representative(s).

Back to membership: we continue to gain members, both retirees and current federal employees. However, we keep losing members to deaths, and to non-renewals. Since we cannot stop deaths, lets make sure we don't let our memberships lapse. Renew as soon as you get your notice. Thank you!

SOME COMMENTS

by Agnes Shellhammer, President

Last month, I welcomed the new people on the board. This newsletter I am saying a big thank you to them. Already they have given us some new ideas for the betterment of our chapter. We will now have a telephone committee. I was very pleased to see the increase in attendance in January. The February meeting is important, as we will be discussing the three resolutions to be presented at the Federation Convention in April. [see Association Dues] We need the opinion of the membership on this subject. See you at the meeting.

TELEPHONE CALL SERVICE

by Clara Smith, Second Vice President

This month we are starting a new trend to get more people to attend chapter meetings, by reminding members by phone the date and time of the meeting. You will also be given the name of the speaker or type of entertainment.

The following members have volunteered to do the calling:

Harold Hutcheson 913 780-3073

Nancy Stone 913 341-0945

Cleeta Belle Schweer 913 649-7094

Kay Bybee 913 491-0511

If any member does not wish to be called, please inform your caller.

In Washington DC, the present administration is looking for ways to cut benefits on Entitlements. That is US. It's been on the news on TV and the newspapers. N A R F E was organized to protect our interests and united we can do that.

MEETING TIME AND DATES

by Elizabeth Bornman, First Vice President

We are looking for alternative sites for our monthly meetings. Any suggestions are welcome. Especially looking for locations for an evening meeting with or without a meal. Possibility between 5 and 6:30 pm depending, if a meal is part of the meeting. We are trying to attract new ideas and individuals who may work during the day and are unable to attend a meeting during the day. Please contact me at 913-268-8526 or email at bornmane@aol.com with any of your thoughts.

NEW RESOLUTION – ASSOCIATION DUES

By Robert Steinert, Treasurer

The Kansas Federation has proposed a resolution to amend that part of National Bylaws applicable to Membership and Dues.

This resolution is a reincarnation of previous proposals to establish a single national dues fee to fund the three branches of our organization: national, federation and chapter. The Federation proposal falls into this category. Under this single dues proposal "chapter dues," as we know it today, would be eliminated from the dues system. In its place a fixed portion of the dues would be rebated to the chapter.

The national dues fee (it's now called an Association fee) is \$38.00 with \$8.00 rebated to the chapter in the Federation's proposal. A chapter may assess its members an additional amount if \$8.00 is insufficient for their operations.

When you compare the amendments in this proposal against the existing national bylaws and our dues systems with its multiple dues categories, questions arise as to how it will be implemented.

For example, it strikes out the entire section pertaining to current federal employees. Will this group lose its existing multiple dues plan?

CHAPTER 1162 SHAWNEE MISSION - WHERE DID THE *SHAWNEE MISSION* COME FROM?

THE HISTORY. Shawnee Indians, along with many other eastern tribes, were moved to present-day Kansas in the 1820s and 1830s. Upon relinquishing their lands in the East, Shawnees received a large tract of land (about 1.6 million acres) west of Missouri in an area sometimes called the Great American Desert.

In July of 1830, Chief Fish, a white chief of the Shawnees, requested a missionary through their Indian agent George Vashon. A missionary society was formed in September 1830. Reverend Thomas Johnson (pictured at left), a Methodist minister, was appointed missionary to the Shawnees and his brother William, missionary to the Kansas tribe.



Reverend Thomas Johnson was born in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and later moved to Missouri. He married Sarah Davis (pictured on right) at Clarksville, Missouri, in 1830, and that same year he arrived with his new bride in present-day Turner, Wyandotte County, Kansas. Here he established the

first Shawnee Methodist Mission. The school was in operation at that location until 1839, serving the Shawnee and Delaware tribes.

Johnson became dissatisfied with the school's functioning and proposed to the missionary society that a central school be built to serve many tribes. A site was chosen where a branch of the Santa Fe Trail passed through the Shawnee lands.

Building began, and the school opened at the present Johnson County location in October 1839. Indian children of many tribes were sent to this school to learn basic academics, manual arts, and agriculture. Some of the tribes represented were the Kaw (Kansa), Munsee, Delaware, Ottawa, Chippewa, Otoe, Osage, Cherokee, Peoria, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Wea, Gros Ventres, Omaha, and Wyandot.

State of Kansas acquired it in 1927. Since that time it has been administered by the Kansas State Historical Society.



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SPECIAL E-MAIL FROM NARFE TO KANSAS CHAPTERS

The Honorable Pat Roberts
109 P. Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington DC 20510-1605

SAMPLE

Dear Senator Roberts:

During the 108th Congress you were among the fifty-seven cosponsors of S. 623. Now an identical bill, S. 484, would allow the 23,200 civilian and 19,404 military retirees in Kansas to pay certain health care premiums (FEHBP for civilians) with pretax dollars like executive and legislative branch employees can.

Please contact the sponsor, Senator Warner, and become a cosponsor again.

Sincerely,

National asks Kansas members to write to Senator Pat Roberts asking him to again sponsor Senate Bill S.484 regarding our health care premiums. Use the text of the sample letter from National as a guide for your own letter.



NARFE Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162
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THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

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Chapter Notes

Coming in April, NARFE's Kansas State Federation Convention in Wichita

Do Something Different! Attend a Federation Convention. All chapter members are eligible. It will be held at the Airport Hilton Hotel and Convention Center, April 23-25. Registration is Sunday, April 23 from 12:30 - 5:30 P.M. The convention ends Tuesday at 11:30 A.M. For information and registration, contact Wayne Smutz our chapter secretary at 913 888-3423.

The Convention is more than electing Federation officers for 2006. It's a time to hear from and meet Richard Thissen, National Field Vice President (NFVP) for our Region V. Mr. Thissen serves on the National Executive Board, which is the governing body of our Association. He addresses current issues confronting our Association from the perspective of

one who represents the views of seven state federations in the Heartlands. He is also running for reelection at this year's National Convention in September.

Also, we will have a speaker from National Headquarters. The name of the speaker is not yet announced but Kansas generally draws an officer from Headquarters. Their speakers are always informative - you get the view from the top.

Here about a proposed resolution from our Federation that would change our national and chapter dues. If approved here, it goes on the agenda at the National Convention for consideration.

Chapter Meeting February 28. Guest speaker for the chapter meeting will be Evelyn Kemseke, Executive Director of Shawnee Community Center. Agnes Shellhammer, our chapter president, will present three resolutions dealing with changes to our Federation and National bylaws.

Regular Monthly Meeting

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 and August.

Monthly Social Meeting

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.

Executive Board Meeting

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.

Phone Numbers

Agnes Shellhammer	President	913 432-0091	Florence Roy	NARFE-ALZ.	913 642-9477
Elizabeth Bornman	1st Vice President	913 268-8526	Tom Raby	Membership	913 829-6025
Clara Smith	2nd Vice President	913 441-8723	Flo Biehl	NARFE-PAC	913 631-5559
Wayne Smutz	Secretary	913 888-3423	Clara Smith	Public Relations	913 441-8723
Bob Steinert	Treasurer	913 764-7456	Frank McGough	Programs	913 432-7514
Howard Zion	Service Officer	913 236-8131	Bob Steinert	Editor	913 764-7456