

THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission

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

A Message for Current Federal Employees



I want you to recruit federal employees working in Kansas City metro area – at least in your own section.

Tell your co-workers the purpose of NARFE. Advise them they can join NARFE on its web site: www.narfe.org. On the other hand, you can contact Tom Raby (913 829-6025) our membership chairman for application forms to pass out to your friends. Tom is also an excellent source of information about NARFE. There are special membership

rates for current federal employees their first year.

For you federal employees who are already members of this chapter, it's time you had a place to meet with other federal employee chapter members. Take the initiative on this issue. Get together.

Your chapter meetings are held in the afternoons while you are at work. That's not the best time for you. Would you take annual leave to attend a meeting? ... That's not likely! ... So, if you have some ideas about setting up a meeting place and time, let your chapter leaders know. Recruiting federal employees is a high priority on NARFE's agenda. They know that you're very important to NARFE's future.

SO WHAT'S NEW FOR 2006?

It is a new year, and a new slate of officers and committee members have been elected. We are off and moving ahead with chapter business.

Agnes Shellhammer was elected Chapter President, Elizabeth Bornman comes in as First Vice President, and Clara Smith has the Second Vice President slot. Looks like the ladies have the top three positions. Is this a sign of the new times - a harbinger of the future? A top TV show is "Commander in Chief." It is now "Madam President" in the White House. This is just a TV show, but it could be Hillary and Condoleezza in the 2008 presidential election.

The men are still here: Wayne Smutz stays on as Secretary. He doesn't know shorthand, but he's very precise having come from the Corp of Engineers.

And Bob Steinert still holds the purse strings as Treasurer because he's a trustworthy bean counter, On the Board of Directors, we now have Frank McGough (new), Florence Roy (new) and finishing out their two years are Cleta Belle Schweer and Nancy Stone. They have their work cut out for them too by providing meaningful advice and direction.

We also have very capable committee people: Frank McGough, Programs; Flo Biehl, NARFE-PAC Fund; Tom Raby, Membership and Florence Roy, NARFE-Alzheimer's Fund. They're people who will work for the betterment of our chapter.

Now that the team is assembled they have some important issues and decisions to make this year. We'll write about some issues in this newsletter. •

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Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. Ralph Waldo Emerson

2006 PIVOTAL YEAR FOR NARFE

Delegates to the September National Convention face tough choices with proposed resolutions. One hot-button issue will be mandatory chapter membership.



NARFE President Fallis wrote about mandatory chapter membership (MCM) in the August and September issues of *NARFE*. He provided the rationale for deleting MCM; NEB later approved a resolution to that effect.

At this time, the Resolution, Mandatory Chapter Membership (MCM), states:

- (1) Allow members at their next anniversary renewal date to opt for National membership only or continue chapter membership
- (2) Allow any member whose chapter in closed ... to opt for National membership only.

Many leaders at chapter and federation levels fear that deleting MCM will adversely affect their income from membership dues. Consequently there are plans already afoot to sidestep MCM by proposing, for example, a single national membership fee of which a portion will be rebated to chapter in lieu of chapter dues.

When opponents of the resolution claim significant numbers of members will opt out of chapter membership, they are in effect acknowledging MCM is a key factor in the reason members drop out of NARFE.

Nevertheless, Fallis said in September *it will be the delegates to the 2006 National Convention who will decide the matter [MCM] one way or the other.*

Membership Chair, Tom Raby

Happy New Year, Chapter 1162. Some will begin the year by moaning about the loss of members. Others will make you believe that NARFE is just an old-folks social club. We are good at demeaning ourselves and complaining about our ailments. Of course, we'll miss those that have passed on. Of course we'll pass on those that have dropped their membership. (We do have some success with reinstating members) Before we complain too much, lets look at what each of us can do.

We have a new Chapter President, and some new officers. We need to help these officers get the chapter moving again. We can do our best if we keep it reasonable. Get to the next meeting; get others to make the meetings. It's like the therapy that Agnes has been through. It doesn't happen all at once. But, if we go to meetings, talk to each other, exchange ideas, and stay informed, we will automatically start to improve. I've recruited some new members in the past year. I also volunteered to make the coffee at each meeting. This isn't a poker game, where we must wait out the other players to see what they're holding.

While we're congratulating the new officers, reflecting on those we lost last year, and complaining about things not to our liking, lets get behind Agnes, Elizabeth, Clara, Wayne and Bob.



I'll start the coffee.

Notes from the new chapter presidents for 2006

AGNES SHELLHAMMER President

I feel honored to once again be your Chapter President. A total knee replacement and two weeks later an emergency gallbladder surgery slowed me down a bit. It has been two months since the surgery, but I'm now up and around again without my cane. I know several of you had these surgeries and also know what it is like.

I will need all of the help you can give from all of you. I also know you will come through for me.

We are starting 2006 with some new people on the board. Welcome to each of you! I'm sure I will enjoy working with each of you.

Please do come to the executive board breakfast meetings the first Friday of each month. We meet at Denny's at 95th and I-35 at 9:00 AM, have breakfast and then the meeting. See you there!

CLARA SMITH Second Vice President

Thank you for selecting me as one of your officers. I look forward to working with all of you for a bigger, better NARFE Chapter.

I believe in NARFE and feel it has helped all retirees. We need to keep reminding our Congress and Senate members that we do have power with our vote.

Alzheimer's-NARFE Fund

All of our contributions to the fund go for Alzheimer's disease research. What are these Alzheimer's research grants specifically for?

Joan S. Veasey writes — in her article *A Challenge for Giving in 2006* in the January 2006 issue of *NARFE* magazine — that Alzheimer's Association's Zenith Fellows Group selects and funds "cutting-edge research studies in Alzheimer's science." Although it's an interesting and informative article on the Alzheimer's program, there's no additional information what types of research projects are funded by the Association.

Fortunately, the Alzheimer's Association released report *2005 Alzheimer's Association Research Grants* that explains in reasonably understanding terminology the nature of these research grants. They're found under the heading "Research themes" and copied below — just as they appear in the report — for your information.

Research themes

- 24 percent of 2005 projects investigate the normal and disease-related biochemical properties of molecules implicated in Alzheimer's disease or explore their normal functions in the brain.

- 25 percent study disease mechanisms, including processes by which disease-related molecules cause the breakdown of cell-to-cell communication, cell degeneration and the onset of dementia symptoms.
- 5 percent expand on investigations to identify genes associated with a risk for developing Alzheimer's.
- 14 percent test compounds for their potential as disease-modifying or preventive treatments.
- 5 percent explore lifestyle and modifiable factors, such as diet, that may lower the risk of dementia.
- 9 percent investigate strategies to improve the reliability of current assessment tools or to introduce new tools, such as imaging or biological markers, for diagnosing and monitoring disease progression.
- 18 percent explore best practices in care and strategies to support diagnosed individuals, their caregivers and family members.

Veasey also writes on the subject of establishing a memorial with your contributions to Alzheimer's-NARFE fund. It's very timely now that we have a memorial for Edward Haas who died in November last year.

IN MEMORY OF . . .



In memory of Ed Haas who died November 29, 2005. Ed had been a member of this chapter for 25 years. He served as the chapter's Financial Secretary for 21½ years — that itself is an incredible feat. Ed was also an active contributor to the Alzheimer's-NARFE fund. His sister had the disease; he was very supportive of her and of NARFE's participation in working for a cure. It's fitting therefore that memorial contributions in his name are being sent to the Alzheimer's-NARFE Fund. Your contributions also honor his dedicated service to our chapter.

Ed is survived by his wife Teel, four children, five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Ed grew up in Leavenworth, Kansas. He served with the U. S. Marines from 1942 to 1945 in the South Pacific, and he was a member of the Marine Corps League until his death. Ed met Teel when they were both working at the Veterans Administration. He retired after 30 years with the Internal Revenue Service and continued to meet with IRS retirees once a month. Ed completely enjoyed people as evidenced by all his work for our chapter. He is certainly missed by many members who knew him.

Ed had his funeral planned in advance and his son-in-law, a minister, conducted the memorial service. Back in April 2004 Ed wrote:

"If by some chance you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or a word to someone who needs you, or a little prayer that my soul will return to God. If you do as I ask, I will live forever."

Please mail your contributions to Florence Roy, 9619 Outlook Drive, Overland Park, KS 66207-2839. Make your check payable to "NARFE-Alzheimer's." Florence will forward your check to the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's coordinator *in memory of Ed Haas*. They will in turn forward the check to Alzheimer's Association.

LATE ARRIVAL – DUE TO INTERNET PROBLEMS - FROM ELIZABETH BORNMAN, OUR NEW 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

I wish to thank everyone for electing me to be the next First Vice President of the Shawnee Mission Chapter.

I retired from the Department of the Army, as Chief of the Supply and Services Division in the Contracting Office at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas after 37 years May 2004.

Prior to working at Fort Leavenworth, I worked for GSA in Crystal City (Arlington VA).

I obtained my BS degree in 1994 from Emporia State University and my MBA from Central Michigan University 2000.

I currently serve as the Chairman of Fellowship & Services Committee of my church (Community Covenant Church, Lenexa, KS) and serve on the Mission Committee and Nurture and Care Committees.

I'm hoping to see changes in our meeting content to include scheduling of our meetings to involve more individuals in the chapter. I see our newsletter as the most value piece of communication about the events of our chapter to include what's going on regionally and nationally with NARFE. ■

Have something on your mind you want to share with other chapter members in the Signal?

You write it! I'll print it!

(Some reasonable limitations apply)

Editor

Your new chapter president welcomes dialogue at the meetings with the members. It's your chapter. It's your meeting – there is no audience here.

Agnes

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 24th, 1:30 PM at Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell, Overland Park. Features: business meeting, refreshments entertainment: musicians - Gary Kerr & John Sankey play ragtime favorites.

Monthly Social Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th 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

Friday, February 3rd. 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	Elizabeth Bornman	Public Relations	913 268-8526
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

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