



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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In Memoriam

Richard Bratman
Charles J. Jones
Ralph Meeker
Thomas Younger

Note: No newsletter will be published in August. Check out our Chapter website for news items. Please provide HQ with your e-mail address to receive weekly GEMS messages.

SPECIAL! August 20th Breakfast Meeting 9:00AM with Congressman Yoder's staff.
See details Future Meetings below. Make your reservation for chapter breakfast before August 15th.

Louise Lloyd, President

As I begin this newsletter article, we are experiencing a heat wave that is predicted to last for possibly a week. The political climate towards federal employees and retirees is also like an intense heat wave with attacks from a number of fronts that suggest that Federal employees are overpaid, and that our retirement benefits are too generous. With the looming debt ceiling crisis the only way to ensure that federal employees and retirees don't become the easy target for an inordinate amount of cuts, is for all of us to let our congressional delegation know of our concerns.

On Wednesday, July 27th, President Beaudoin is asking each member to call President Obama, their two senators and their representative, and let your views be known. Your representatives in Washington are making decisions that will affect your benefits and retirement. The toll free number for the White House is 1-888-225-8418. The toll free number to reach the Capitol switchboard is 1-866-220-0044. Ask for your legislators by name or provide your ZIP Code.

Once connected to your lawmaker's office provide your name and city you live in, and let them know whether you are an active federal employee or retiree. And then relate the following: **Don't single us out by making more cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through years of serving the public. Federal workers and retirees have already sacrificed pay and benefits.** Whether you speak to a staff person or leave a recorded message, request a written response to your phone call. For that reason, be sure to leave your mailing address. Contact only your own representative and two senators.

Another opportunity to voice your concerns will be at our August 20th, breakfast meeting. We have arranged this meeting so that most active employees could attend this meeting as well as retirees. Our Federation President, Cindy Renee' Blythe, who is the first active federal employee to serve as a Federation President, hopes to join us at this meeting. I sincerely encourage you to join us that morning if at all possible. Additional information is contained in the Legislative article below as well as in the Calendar of events.

Recently a visitor to our website was trying to determine "does anyone speak up on behalf of federal employees?" Without a doubt NARFE has fought and is fighting hard for active federal employees. A good example is the "Protect America's Heartbeat Campaign", which emphasizes the critical nature of various federal positions in this country. But NARFE needs all of us to share in this battle to change this image, and to speak up in defense of our earned benefits. Please do not sit back quietly and expect someone else to speak up for you. NARFE is doing everything it can in this fight, but its strength is in its members and actions taken by those of us who are members. So please take advantage of the opportunities to let your voice and opinions be heard by those who may vote to reduce those hard earned benefits.

From Louis Bornman, 2nd Vice President and Legislative Chair

Reminder, go to the Protect America's Heartbeat or the National NARFE website and support the campaign. 2nd Reminder, at our August 20th meeting Mr. Ethan Patterson of Congressman Yoder's district office will be attending. I have asked that he be able to talk about Congressman Yoder's position on Federal Employee Pay and Benefits and participate in about a 30 minute question and answer session. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! We need a large showing. Having 20 people out of 700 members show up is **NOT** a good showing. If you have any specific questions you would like to ask, please send them to me via email at: BornmanL@aol.com, or regular mail – 12309 W 74th Terrace, Shawnee, KS 66216, or call me and leave a message at 913-268-8526. See you on the 20th.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

No regular monthly chapter meeting during the month of July.

August 5th – Executive Board meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 Exit, Lenexa.

August 10th - Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 73rd & Quivira, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

August 20th - Saturday Breakfast meeting, 9:00 a.m., Holiday Inn, 87th and Reeder, Overland Park, Ks. **Program: Ethan Patterson, Congressman Yoder's District Office.** Breakfast buffet, \$10, includes tax and gratuity. Buffet includes: Freshly scrambled eggs, smoke-house bacon, sausage, fresh seasonal fruit, breakfast potatoes, juice, coffee, milk and muffins, bagels and pastries. **Must RSVP by Monday August 15th with check payable to NARFE Chapter 1162, and mail to Treasurer Mary Haswell: 2308 N. 114th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66109.** For questions contact Mary at 913-400-7303.

August 29th – 31st, College of NARFE Knowledge, (CONK) – South Sioux City, Nebraska – Theme: Legislative.

September 9th Executive Board Meeting

September 14th Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091.

September 27th Regular Chapter Meeting 1:30 p.m. Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

Eddie Acosta, 1st Vice President, Alzheimer's

Thanks to all of you who have collected Best Choice UPC codes. This previous week our chapter had gathered over 1,000 labels and they have been mailed to Associated Wholesale Grocers for \$60 that will then be forwarded to Janice Neushcafer, NARFE Federation Alzheimer's chair who will send the money on to the Alzheimer's Association. There were 116 UPC code labels left over. Remember, 100% of money collected by NARFE goes for Alzheimer's research. Should you want to make a direct or memorial donation or contribute Best Choice UPC codes you may send it to 5216 Bond, Shawnee, KS 66203.

The Live and Silent auction at the 2011 Kansas Federation Convention in April brought in a total of \$4,225.50 for Alzheimer's Research. The Live Auction brought in \$1,365.50 and the Silent Auction collected \$2,860.00. Chapters who donated items for the auctions were credited for the items contributed and sold at auction.

As of June, 2011, our Chapter had collected \$494.98, Topeka had \$374.00, Lawrence \$211.00, Jackson County had \$145.00 and Jefferson County had \$301.90, all in Area 1.

Hopefully we'll see you at the next NARFE meeting. If you have any ideas for activities that our Alzheimer's Group should be involved in please call me at 913-620-4061 to let me know.

Contact Information:

Senator Jerry Moran – jerry_moran@moran.senate.gov; Olathe, KS office telephone 913-393-0711. D.C. Office: 202-224-6521

Senator Pat Roberts – pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov; Overland Park Office: 913-451-9343. D.C. Office: 202-224-4774.

Congressman Kevin Yoder – Overland Park, KS telephone: 913-621-0832, Washington D.C. telephone: 202-225-2865 www.yoder.house.gov. (Visit website to signup for his newsletter

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 addresses.

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

KNOW YOUR NARFE

After you become a member of NARFE and this chapter, I suspect your connection with NARFE is the chapter newsletter and the national magazine *NARFE*. Some members attend chapter meetings. Doing so, you're still not reaping all the benefits provided by the organization. You need to access NARFE's Web site (www.narfe.org) to get the full benefits for your investment; I believe most members have access to the Internet today.

NARFE's Web site is an excellent source for information on political news that affects our benefits. We're going through a rough time now, not knowing what will happen to our benefits, pay, or jobs for people still working for the government. It's important to have news that's tailored to fit your needs. When you access the website, you will see alerts about proposed legislation that adversely affects our benefits and you may use a system embedded in the website on how to fight back with messages to our legislators. Also, you can see how your legislators are voting on critical issues.

The Web site also opens the door for a look at how the organization functions and plans for the future. You will find that NARFE does not have hardening of the arteries that comes after 90 years of defending federal workers and retiree's benefits on Capitol Hill. You may read that NARFE is losing members, and that is true. However you will read on the website what actions (and money) they're taking to turn this trend in a positive direction. For example, NARFE employs a top marketing company to "market NARFE" and to educate the public about the value of federal workers. Also, it provides members with educational programs and reading material to improve about every facet of its operations. All of this is laid out for you to read on the website.

NARFE publishes an award-winning magazine. And I expect from the pace NARFE is developing their website it could be winning awards in its category. Our dues money is a \$40 dollar investment per year that's eventually going to pay off. Stay with NARFE and bring in a new member. We've got another 90 years to go – your grandchildren will thank you if they work for the government.

Here's an afterthought, read news about your chapter and the Kansas Federation on the chapter's website, www.narfe-chapter1162.org.

Bob Steinert, Webmaster

Your July Shawnee Signal

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