



The Shawnee Signal
Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
October 2011

www.narfe-chapter1162.org

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Louise Lloyd, Editor, lalloydks@yahoo.com

**Officers &
Committees**

President

Louise Lloyd
913-661-1720

1st Vice President

Edward Acosta
913-620-4061

2nd Vice President

Louis Bornman
913-268-8526

Secretary

Elizabeth Bornman
913-268-8526

Treasurer

Mary Haswell
913-400-7303

Service Officer

Elizabeth Bornman
913-268-8526

Alzheimer's

Edward Acosta
913-322-2864

Legislative

Louis Bornman
913 268-8526

Membership

Harold Hutcheson
913-780-3073

NARFE-PAC

Flo Biehl
913 631-5559

Newsletter

Louise Lloyd
913 661-1720

Sunshine

Don Faidley
913-671-7368

Webmaster

Bob Steinert
913 764-7456

President's News - Louise Lloyd

As I begin working on this article, I must admit it is hard to settle down to write when the weather has been so beautiful, and there are so many other things that I would love to be doing rather than having to work on another monthly newsletter.

However, given the challenging economic times, and the tremendous pressure that Congress is under to find ways to cut the federal deficit, which could ultimately mean major attacks on our federal benefits, both of active employees and retirees, I recognize that being active in NARFE is one of the most important things I can be doing at the present time. I hope that all of you who are reading this newsletter can appreciate that our benefits are not secure, and Congress could make significant changes. We all need to stay on top of the news and what the Super Committee is doing and may be recommending. Be sure you have provided NARFE HQ with your correct e-mail address so that you get the weekly GEMS messages/alerts. And if you're not able to do that, make sure you make the call to get the weekly Legislative Hotline messages toll free 1-877-217-8234, so that you are aware of the latest developments that may be coming out of the Super committee.

Belonging to NARFE and being active in NARFE is an investment in your future, and should not be taken lightly. The ability of NARFE to have success in fighting for our benefits means that we need as many members as we can get to make sure the organization has the resources its need to do what it needs to protect our benefits. I hope that you don't set idly back and say I'll let others do that, or I don't have time to help out or contact my congressional delegation. As President of our chapter, it is disheartening to know that we have approximately 700 members, but that only a very small percentage of our members are willing to take an active role in our chapter. I apologize if you don't feel that I have been a good leader this past year. I would welcome your feedback and suggestions on how our chapter could better serve you as our members.

I know in looking at the chapter membership list, there are some extremely capable people that are members, and our chapter could really use your expertise. Our chapter is now seeking members to run for the various offices, and elections will be held at the November meeting. We would welcome new people to run for the offices. In addition to the traditional officers, President, Vice-President, etc., we also elect members who serve as a Board of Directors. These individuals are mainly asked to attend monthly board meetings as often as they can and provide input on behalf of the membership. This is a good way to get more involved in the ongoing functioning of the chapter. To be a viable chapter it takes a number of active members. We hope that you too will recognize that time spent working in NARFE is an investment in your future. So please consider taking more of an active role in our chapter if your health and circumstances allows you to be more active.

I wanted to advise you that a review of our Chapter Constitution, Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures is underway. No review has been undertaken since 1999. Proposed amendments/revisions to these documents are anticipated to be presented to the chapter members at the November 22nd meeting. So if you are interested in being able to vote on the proposed changes, please plan to attend our November meeting.

Finally, I want to honor those of you who qualify as a Distinguished Member, that is, you have been an active paid up NARFE member for at least 20 years, and are at least 85 years old. NARFE has a certificate and pin that we would obtain for those of you who meet these requirements and are interested in receiving the certificate and pin. To obtain the certificates and pins, the Chapter President or Chapter Secretary have to provide NARFE HQ with your birth date, and the date you joined NARFE. If you don't know the date you joined NARFE, you can contact NARFE HQ to obtain that, or check with me, or Elizabeth Bornman, our Chapter Secretary, to see if we have that date, as HQ has provided a partial list of members that have been members for at least 20 years. We would like to present these certificates and pins at our annual Christmas party and installation of Officers on Tuesday afternoon, December 13th. If you are unable to attend, the certificate and pin would be mailed to you after that date. So if you meet the criteria, and are interested in receiving the Distinguished Member Certificate and pin, please contact me by October 28th. You can let me know at our October 25th meeting, or contact me by phone or e-mail, or send me a note in the mail. My return address, phone number, and e-mail address are all included in this newsletter as I am editor of the newsletter. Or you can contact Elizabeth Bornman at 913-268-8536, or e-mail Elizabeth at bornmane@aol.com. We know that there are potentially many of our members who meet these criteria. So do let us know if you qualify and want to receive the Certificate and pin.

In Memoriam

Martha S. Jackson

OPM Retirement Info:

Remarriage, divorce,
death or spouse,
change of address or
financial institution or
amount of insurance
under FEGLI,
1-888-767-6738

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

October 25th, Chapter Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell. Program: Identity Theft.

November 4th, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th I-35 Exit, Lenexa

November 9th, Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

November 22nd, Chapter Meeting, 1;30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

December 2nd, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 95th and I-35 exit, Lenexa.

December 13th, Chapter Christmas Party/Luncheon and Installation of Officers, Noon at the Holiday Inn, 87th & Reed-er, Overland Park. Final details will be in the November newsletter. Please save the date & plan to join us.

Service Officer Report, Elizabeth Bornman

A reminder that Open Season is scheduled from Nov 14th to Dec 12th for calendar year 2012. According to OPM, an average enrollee with self only coverage will pay \$2.32 more per bi-weekly pay period; enrollee with family coverage will pay \$6.18 more. Premiums for Health Maintenance Organizations will increase an average of 6.7 percent, while Fee for Service plans will see an average increase of 3.2 percent. These rates are comparable to private and other public sector health insurance premiums. You need to review your health plans. The changes made to the plans could cost you more money if you don't review and compare other plans for your dollars. Status quo is not always good.

The final date to determine our COLA for this year will be the September consumer prices which will set the COLA will become available on October 19. A COLA of about 3.6 percent is expected.

Alzheimer's – Eddie Acosta, 1st Vice-President

One of the things being stressed to forestall dementia or Alzheimer's is to maintain good physical health. Parade referred to parade.com/braingames for brain health.

Please send donations or Best Choice UPC codes to 5216 Bond, Shawnee, KS 66203. Louise Lloyd's Beta Sigma Phi sorority chapter has as one of their service projects the collection of Best Choice UPC codes. Maybe some of you belong to other organizations who might consider collecting these as well.

Contact Information:

Senator Jerry Moran – jerry_moran@moran.senate.gov; Olathe, KS office telephone 913-393-0711. D.C. Office: 202-224-6521. *Signup for newsletter:* www.moran.senate.gov
Senator Pat Roberts – pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov; Overland Park Office: 913-451-9343. D.C. Office: 202-224-4774. *Signup for newsletter:* www.roberts.senate.gov
Congressman Kevin Yoder – Overland Park, KS telephone: 913-621-0832, Washington D.C. telephone: 202-225-2865. *Signup for newsletter:* www.yoder.house.gov

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.

Sunshine Committee: Contact Don Faidley if you know of any members who may be sick.

Legislative News – Louis Bornman, 2nd Vice-President

On September 29th, Chapter President Louise Lloyd and I had an appointment with Mr. Jay Kramer, a member of Senator Jerry Moran's legislative staff and Ms. Cindy Green of his local Olathe office. I provided them some information on NARFE concerns about the Super Committee on the debt and how those recommendations could seriously affect both active and retired federal employee pay and benefits.

I was very pleased with the visit as they were both very receptive to our concerns and stated that they would relay those concerns to the Senator and the rest of his staff.

On my way back home I also stopped by Senator Pat Roberts' office and provided a member of his staff with the same information and we also had a brief discussion about NARFE concerns.

Additionally I went by Congressman Kevin Yoder's office in Overland Park and met with Mr. Ethan Patterson. Again I provided him with the same NARFE information packet and had about a 20 minute discussion with him about our concerns about the potential negative outcome of Super Committee recommendations. He was receptive to my concerns and said he would relay them to the Congressman.

In all three meetings I also informed them on how the proposed Balanced Budget Amendment to the US Constitution was a bad idea as written. Since government expenditures would be limited to tax revenues collected, once major bills are paid, if there is no money left then the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, the Military Retirement Fund, and Social Security would not be able to cash in the deposit credits they have with the Treasury for the cash they need to disburse retirement benefits.

Sounds like a roundabout way of saying "don't blame me I am just following the Constitution" when people try to complain about not getting retirement benefits they are due.

So, you need to take action **NOW** and call, write, and e-mail our Congressman and both Senators through the NARFE "Protect America's Heartbeat" program and let them know to not support cuts to federal employee and retiree pay and benefits! Make your voices heard!

Reminder: Don't forget to bring your egg cartons & plastic grocery bags to meetings for donation to the Community Service Center of Shawnee, Inc.

National Active and Retired Federal
Employees Assoc. 1162
11433 Rene Street
Lenexa, KS 66215-4843

Your October Shawnee Signal

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