



The Shawnee Signal
Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
September 2016

www.narfe-chapter1162.org

Vol. 38, No. 7

Louise Lloyd, Editor, lalloydks@yahoo.com

Officers & Committees

President

Louise Lloyd
913-661-1720

1st Vice President

Louis Bornman
913-268-8526

2nd Vice President

Elizabeth Bornman
913-268-8526

Secretary

Ginny Glauser
913-492-8356

Treasurer

Bruce Smith
913-888-8024

Service Officer

Elizabeth Bornman
913-268-8526

Alzheimer's

(Vacant)

Legislative

Louis Bornman
913-268-8526

Membership

Vacant

NARFE-PAC

Eddie Acosta
913-620-4061

Newsletter

Louise Lloyd
913-661-1720

Sunshine

Don Faidley
913-461-6517

Webmaster

Jerry Lloyd
913-661-1720

In Memoriam

Thomas "Pat" Daly

Welcome New Member!

Lana Hanson
Kevin Shields

NARFE's Legislative Hotline: (703)-838-7780. Toll free: 1-877-217-8234.

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

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

Chapter Meeting - Tuesday, Sept. 27th 1:30 p.m. Overland Park Lutheran Church.

Program: Jerry Ireland, Vice-Chair, JoCo Delegation to KS Silverhaired Legislature (SHL). The SHL advocates for older adults and provides voice for older community at state and federal level. The SHL drafts bills & resolutions to present to KS legislature and the Governor as recommendations for state policy. Come provide input on your concerns for annual SHL October legislative session.

President's News – Louise Lloyd

As I write this article, the NARFE Convention has concluded, and several important decisions were made affecting NARFE's future. Only two proposed bylaws passed. The bylaw allowing for One-Member-One Vote passed which means in future all actions requiring a vote will now be done by electronic or paper balloting. The other bylaw change that passed eliminated mandatory chapter membership. Recruiting campaigns will now focus on "Join NARFE." Over 300 chapters have closed in the last 5 years, mainly due to chapter leadership issues. Essentially the chapters could not get individuals to serve as chapter officers. One chapter with 900 members closed, another with 600 members closed. More Specific information regarding the convention is included in reports in the newsletter in the articles written by Louis and Elizabeth Bornman.

I am pleased to report that Devin Marie DiJoseph, the granddaughter of Mary Haswell, a chapter board member, was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship through the annual NARFE Scholarship contest. Devin graduated from Mill Valley High School in Shawnee, KS and is now attending KU.

NARFE Membership Drive now underway. NARFE members will receive \$10 for each new member, current or retired, who joins between September 1 and December 31, 2016. All September-through-December recruiters will be entered into a drawing, one time for each new member they have recruited. **GRAND PRIZE:** An Apple iPad Air 2 will be awarded to a recruiter randomly selected from this pool. **MONTHLY PRIZES:** Each month a name will be selected from the pool of recruiters for a \$25 Amazon.com gift card. The pool includes an entry for every new member recruited. What a perfect time to talk to federal employees and retirees you may know about all NARFE's benefits including outstanding Legislative and Federal Benefits Departments and relevant monthly Federal Benefits webinars. In addition, there is so much great information on the NARFE website including the new "Facts for Feds" and the NARFE White Papers. Examples of topics include "Steps to Take Before You Retire"; "How Much Money Do You Need Before You Retire?" and "Speeding the Retirement Journey".

Legislative News - Louis Bornman 1st Vice President and Legislative Chair

Elizabeth and I attended the 34th NARFE National Convention in Reno, Nevada, Aug. 25th through Sep. 1st. I served as the Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee for the 2nd time. Ten resolutions were originally assigned to the Legislative Committee for review and recommendations. Two of those, 16-26 and 16-27 were referred to the general resolutions committee and accepted by that committee for action. The following is how the rest of the resolutions were addressed:

- 16-28. Amendment to Locality Pay Legislation. This resolution was **ADOPTED** as it was already within the current legislative program.
- 16-29. Medicare Part B Premiums. This resolution would add a focus to extend the Medicare Part B premium "hold harmless" provision to all Medicare recipients and was **ADOPTED**.
- 16-31. This resolution was for NARFE to adopt a position to support raising the cap on Social Security Withholding as a means of increasing the Social Security Trust Fund solvency. The committee recommended and the convention body **ADOPTED** the resolution amended to include a set cap of \$250,000. This cap puts us in agreement with other coalition partners on this issue.
- 16-32. Locality Pay Legislation for certain annuitants in the Non-Foreign areas (Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. Territories. This resolution was **ADOPTED** as it was already within the current legislative program.
- 16-34. Health insurance premium fairness. This resolution was **ADOPTED** as it was already within the current legislative program. This resolution deals with requesting legislation to allow retirees the same pre-tax treatment as active employees of their health care premiums and also to allow contributions to Flexible Spending Accounts with pre-tax dollars to cover medical expenses not covered by health insurance.
- 16-42. The FEBP significantly overcharges retirees who are subscribers to Medicare Parts A and B. This resolution was amended and **ADOPTED**. The Amended resolution reads: NARFE supports: Providing incentives for enrollment in Medicare Parts A and B for those eligible, including improved coordination of benefits that would reduce Out-of-pocket health care costs, and reimbursement for Part B premiums, providing premium relief for those enrolled in Part B.

The following are some of the major bylaws resolutions that were voted on at the convention.

- 16-06. **Optional Chapter Membership.** This resolution would eliminate the requirement for all members to be members of a regular chapter. This resolution was **ADOPTED**.
- 16-07. **NEB authorized to adjust dues.** This resolution would have allowed the National Executive Board to adjust NARFE member dues by not more than 10 percent in the 2 year period between conventions. This resolution was **NON-ADOPTED**.
- 16-12,13,14,15,16,20, 36. **10 Regions.** These resolutions were combined by the bylaws committee into one amended resolution (BC-02) as they all sought to establish the number of NARFE Regions at 10. **This resolution was NON-ADOPTED by one vote.**
- 16-17. **Term for Regional Vice Presidents.** This resolution would have set term limits on NARFE Regional Vice Presidents at two, two year terms. This resolution was **NON-ADOPTED**.
- 16-18,19,37,38,41. **5 Regions.** These resolutions were combined by the bylaws committee into one amended resolution (BC-01) as they both sought to establish the number of NARFE Regions at 5. This amended resolution was **NON-ADOPTED**. This means the decision as to how many NARFE Regions there are remains a matter left up to the National Executive Board.
- 16-24. **One Member One Vote.** This resolution would change the method of voting on NARFE bylaws and constitution changes from one vote per 50 chapter members to one vote for each NARFE member and allow for each member to be able to run for national office. This resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Because of the change to one member, one vote, this is most likely the last "convention" that we will have. In the future there will most likely be "conferences" where there will be legislative status updates, results of National Officer Elections, results of resolutions voting, and Regional Vice President elections. All of that will have to be worked out by the NEB over the next two years before the next convention/conference in Jacksonville, Florida, 30 Aug. through 3 Sep., 2018.

The disposition of the rest of the resolutions will be available as a handout at the September Chapter meeting and they will be posted on the Chapter 1162 website for your review.

We also had excellent presentations from our National Legislative Director, Jessica Klement, and our new Grassroots Advocacy/Protect America's Heartbeat Coordinator, Molly Checksfield. The main thing from their presentations is: **Silence Equals Acceptance!** If you don't speak out about the changes Congress is considering to your active pay/retired annuity and benefits then your Congressman and Senators will think they are doing what you want or you don't care so it doesn't matter. A major consideration is Postal Reform because if the negative things in that package go through then it has the potential to trickle down to the rest of the active federal workforce and retiree annuitants. In other words **YOU! Keep informed, support NARFE issues, and contact your Congressman and Senators. No one cares about your pay and benefits more than you! No one!**

NARFE-PAC, Edward Acosta, Chairperson

Have you ever been to a store and found an article of clothing that you fell in love with. However, when you try it on you find that it looks terrible but the sales clerk, intent on making a sale, insists that you look good. This is similar to those who insist that federal agencies must be run like a business. They stress that this must be so even though the fit is bad.

Private business is concerned, among other things, chiefly with profit. However, if an elderly veteran completes blind rehabilitation, how would you show this on a profit and loss statement? Or when the air traffic controllers handle the logistics of numerous flights, or when FEMA responds to disasters how is that quantified?

This brings up the value of having allies who can spread this message to our legislators. The message is that one size does not fit all. Please consider becoming a sustaining contributor. This consists of making a monthly, \$10 donation billed to your credit card for at least a 2 year period. Not only would this rid you of the nuisance of having to remember to send your check in but you also get a lapel pin and a NARFE duffel bag. You can always mail your donation to me - E. Acosta, 14311 W. 116th Terrace, Apt. 2008, Olathe, KS 66062. For a minimum \$25 donation you would get a lapel pin.

For those members present at chapter meetings, NARFE baseball caps will be available for a \$20 donation to NARFE-PAC. These caps are navy blue with the NARFE logo on the front and NARFE-PAC on the back, adjustable so one size fits all.

Service Officer, Elizabeth Bornman

The 34th NARFE National Convention, held in Reno, NV was attended by 849 individuals representing 10 regions. This was down from previous years. They did carry proxies from chapters not having a representative. NARFE currently has 218,711 members with 1,158 chapters. 53 chapters closed in 2015, 48 closed to date in 2016 with 20 pending. Many chapters are on life support. We need new blood in our chapter. So please consider running for a position on our Executive board this November.

Kansas came in Third in Support of Alzheimer's, contributing \$25,039. Our region held the top 2nd, 3rd and 4th place in the per capita category, KS contributing \$8.60 per person average. We currently don't have an Alzheimer's chair. The Region 5 Alzheimer's chair has resigned. Carol EK is looking for another replacement. The next goal is to raise \$13M before 2018. The position is open to anyone who is interested.

We lost 15,947 members due to deaths since Aug 2014. That's a large drop in revenue for NARFE. Big discussion was on Long Term Care Insurance by a Representative from OPM, John O'Brien who discussed the impact on individuals with the increase. The highest plan increased 126% with an average of 83%. 27% of those effected 72,000 have responded back to John Hancock. They are working with John Hancock in getting a better explanation for the increase. NARFE on their website has a dedicated topic on the Long Term Care Insurance which is set up for Questions and Answers. There will be a special NARFE webinar on September 9th to bring members up to date with the latest information to help with their decision making process.

The NARFE magazine has increased our revenue by \$900,000. Fund Raising added \$2.5M to our revenue. We have increased reinstatement of dropped members in 2015 to 50%.

A possible increase in Medicare premiums could still affect a lot of individuals due to no cost of living increase. No official confirmation until after 15 October, however it doesn't look good. Right now it is only 0.2% To avoid the hold harmless provision the COLA must be at least 1.5%. A workshop was held on the use of NARFE's OMA system for members and especially officers to use on their Website. It provides a great deal of information to help the chapters and members.

All politics is local. Constituents are voters and voters are our members. Remember our base of formation was on Grassroots advocacy. Please make a personal commitment to vote and connect with your representatives in Congress. It's important for you to stay up to date on issues that affect your Quality of Life that you planned for when you retired. That still can be taken away. Nothing in life is guaranteed these days.

The NARFE -PAC has contributed \$331,000 to candidates running for office. The PAC is looking for more sustainers. At the convention 40 individuals signed up. Remember the voting record of all the Congressional members is posted on the NARFE WEBSITE. KANSAS IS NUMBER 5 WITH THE MOST SUSTAINERS.

Phone numbers to keep handy: OPM 1-888-7670-6738, TSP 1-877-968-3778, Social Security 1-800-772-1213, Call early in the morning, after 7:15AM or late in the evening CST, and don't call on Monday' unless you want to be on the line for a long of time.

13 States tax Social Security, Kansas is one of them. The 2018 Convention will be in Jacksonville, FL. The 2020 convention will be in Scottsdale, AZ.

NARFE members enrolled in *NARFE's Federal Long Term Care Program* can schedule an appointment to discuss your benefits and options by calling 800-582-3337 or by e-mailing appointments@ltpartners.com.

For particularly sensitive or complex situations, LTCP has a small team of experts to help NARFE members. They are:

- Darcie LeTendre, 603-296-9350 dletendre@ltpartners.com;
- Don Mallett, 603-296-9336, dmallett@ltpartners.com; and
- Matt Piper, 603-433-3894, mpiper@ltpartners.com.

Also, special NARFE webinar – Sept. 9th, 2 p.m. Eastern - *Federal Long Term Care Premium Increases – Making an Informed Decision.*

Register on NARFE website. Also visit NARFE website for additional background information on premium increases.

Note: For those unable to attend the live event, the presentation will be available for all to view on the NARFE website the following week.

Upcoming NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinars – Information located on NARFE Website - www.narfe.org.

September 15th – Post Retirement, 2 p.m. Eastern

October 13th – FEHBP and Medicare, 2 p.m. Eastern.

Webinars are free to NARFE members. Individuals who are not NARFE members can access for \$39.95 registration fee and they will be given NARFE membership. Webinars are also available afterwards for viewing on the website.

Contact Information:

Senator Jerry Moran – jerry_moran@moran.senate.gov; Olathe, KS office: 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 – Kansas City, KS telephone:

913-621-0832, Washington D.C. Office: 202-225-www.yoder.house.gov.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

September 27th – 1:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell. **Program: Jerry Ireland, Vice-Chair, JoCo**

Delegation to the Kansas Silverhaired Legislature (SHL). – The SHL develops bills and resolutions to present to KS Legislature and Governor .

October 25th – 1:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell

November 22nd – 1:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell

December 13th – Chapter Christmas Luncheon/Installation of Officers

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

Your September 2016 Shawnee Signal

Nonprofit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 532.
Olathe, KS 66061



NARFE Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas