



**The Shawnee Signal**  
**Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas**  
**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**  
**October 2015**

[www.narfe-chapter1162.org](http://www.narfe-chapter1162.org)

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you know of any mem-  
bers who may be sick.

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

**Please join us for our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chapter 1162 Celebration and Business meeting October 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Overland Park Lutheran Church. Program: Sheldon Schelling, Alzheimer's Care Issues.**

**President's News - Louise Lloyd**

As I write this article, the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline passed without the need for a government shutdown as Congress passed a Continuing Resolution. Over the next few months Congress has much work to do. The NARFE Legislative Department and our coalition partners are working diligently to prevent provisions affecting federal employees and retirees from being included in future legislation. All members are strongly encouraged to stay informed about proposals made by Congress. NARFE makes it easy to contact your congressional delegation via Legislative action alerts. It is also easy to utilize the NARFE website to stay current on legislation and to contact your congressional delegation. Don't forget you can follow NARFE on Twitter and Facebook.

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced October 1 that notification letters are being sent, starting September 30, to those individuals whose personal information was stolen in the cyberattack on background investigations and security records at OPM. The announcement emphasized that official notifications from OPM will **be mailed** via the U.S. Postal Service and that email will **not** be used. The mailed notifications will contain a personalized identification number (PIN), which is necessary for the individual to enroll in the three years of identity theft protection and credit monitoring services being provided free of charge by the government. OPM has updated its special website [www.opm.gov/cybersecurity](http://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity) with additional information and answers to common questions.

Election of officers will be held at the November meeting. If you are willing to run for an office, contact any of the chapter officers to let them know which office you would be willing to serve and they will provide your name to the nominating committee. We need more members to step up into leadership roles to bring new ideas and help us continue to keep the chapter viable.

Our Chapter will be celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a chapter at our October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. We want to recognize the large number of Distinguished Members in our chapter, those members who have been in NARFE for at least 20 years. NARFE Certificates and pins were mailed out to most of these members, and a few will be presented at the meeting to those who regularly attend monthly meetings. We would love to have as many of these dedicated members as possible join us this meeting. We are also planning a brief "Memorial" service to honor those members who have passed away over the past 12 months.

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

Well here we are at budget time again and struggling with threats of another government shutdown which does nothing but cost the nation billions of dollars and hurts active federal employees and American citizens who need and use the services and facilities provided through U.S. Government agencies. We got a continuing resolution to continue operating the government through 11 December and then we get to go through all the hassles yet again

Our concerns about future budget discussions and the potential issues that could affect federal employees and retirees are still there. These issues include potential changes to the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) in terms of changing the premium cost sharing formula; proposed changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used in calculating annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs); supporting fair and accurate compensation and staffing levels necessary for an effective federal workforce; and the unnecessary prefunding requirement contained in the postal reform legislation.

As many of you are already aware Medicare premiums are increasing for next year and unless some special legislation is passed all federal retirees who do not have their Medicare premiums paid out of their Social Security payment will have their premiums increase from about \$104 per month to about \$159. This is caused by the fact that there will be no COLA for Social Security for next year and the law says Social Security payments cannot decrease so those recipients are "held Harmless" for the Medicare premium increase. Therefore everyone else has to make up for the increase in Medicare premiums by paying more to cover for those who receive Social Security. If this was not the case then your Medicare premium would only increase about \$8. This is yet another good reason to contact your legislators to request they take action to correct this huge premium increase for the rest of the retiree community.

All of this is why our advocacy program is so important and why each one of us must do all we can to contact our legislators on a regular basis and let them know how such changes would affect us personally. That is also why we also must do all we can to recruit new members, especially active federal employees, and let them know what is at stake and how we provide them with a means to fight back. Everyone should be aware of the recruiting incentive program being offered by NARFE Headquarters through December of \$10 per new recruit you get to sign up.

**October 27<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 p.m. 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration meeting of our NARFE Chapter, Overland Park Lutheran Church** Special recognition will be given to "Distinguished chapter members" those who have been members for at least 20 years.  
**Program:** Sheldon Schelling, Chief Executive Officer - Home Instead of Overland Park - **Care issues related to Alzheimer's**  
**November 24<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Overland Park Lutheran Church – Program:** Diane Smith - Dietitian, Tips for Healthy Eating During the Holidays  
**December 15<sup>th</sup> – Annual Christmas Luncheon/Installation Meeting – 11:30 p.m.** Overland Park Lutheran church. Silent auction of member donated items to be held to raise funds for Alzheimer's. Program: The SpinOffs - (Women's Chorale)

### Service Officer – Elizabeth Bornman

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced Tuesday that premiums for the 2016 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program will increase by an average of 6.4 percent. The [2016 FEHB open season](#) is Monday, November 9, 2015 through Monday, December 14, 2015. According to OPM, on average, enrollees with self only coverage will pay \$5.50 more each pay period; enrollees with self and family coverage will pay \$19.61 more per pay period. Those who opt for the new [self plus one coverage](#) will pay \$8.92 more per pay period than they previously paid for self and family coverage. The federal government contributes approximately 70 percent of the total cost of a plan's premium. OPM is offering the new self plus enrollment type for the first time for the 2016 FEHB plan year. This option will provide coverage for an enrollee and one designated eligible family member. OPM stated that all 2016 FEHB plans will offer a self only, self plus one, and self and family enrollment type. OPM stated that for over 95% of enrollees, the enrollee share for self plus one will be lower than the enrollee share for self and family in their current plan. **However, it is possible that some plans will have higher enrollee shares for self plus one enrollments than for self and family enrollments.** Therefore, OPM encourages enrollees to carefully review their choices before making a change. *Switching to self plus one is voluntary.*

### NARFE-PAC, Edward Acosta, Chairperson

Don't forget about NARFE-PAC. It exists to provide clout for you and I in dealing with those issues that are important to us. It is especially important given the chaos that exists in the U.S. House of Representatives. If you're unable to come to our next Chapter meeting you may put your donation in an envelope and mail it to 14311 W. 116th Terr. Apt 2008, Olathe, KS 66062.

#### 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

A reminder that retirees can sign up for the Dues Withholding option to obtain a 15% discount (\$6) on your annual NARFE dues. Dues withholding applications are included in each monthly NARFE magazine, and applications are also on the NARFE website at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

### Alzheimer's News – Judy Lukas Arnold, Alzheimer's Chairperson

October is National "Alzheimer's and Other Dementia Awareness" Month. In recognition of that fact, we have four announcements in support of NARFE's national service project.

1. Sheldon Schelling, Chief Executive Officer of Home Instead of Overland Park, will be our speaker at this month's meeting to discuss care issues related to Alzheimer's. Sheldon is quite knowledgeable about the disease and gives interesting presentations. As a former VA Social Worker, he also has a connection to and an understanding of federal employee concerns.
2. This year's local "Walk to End Alzheimer's" will have been held on 10/4/15. By your reading of this, I will have walked 2.5 miles as part of the fundraiser. Anyone who wishes to contribute to our cause, please write your checks to "NARFE-Alzheimer's Research" and bring to this month's meeting (or mail to Judy Arnold, 11605 W. 60th Place, Shawnee, KS. 66203).
3. If you would like to do more in the public arena toward the elimination of Alzheimer's, we can still contact our legislators, in order to ask them to support at least the additional \$300 million proposed in Congress for more funding for Alzheimer's research. Although this money in no way covers what is now estimated to cost taxpayers \$17.5 million per hour to American taxpayers, it would nevertheless represent a 50% increase of federal funding for the disease, which now affects more than 5 million afflicted Americans.
4. Our chapter will conduct its 3rd annual Silent Auction at our Holiday Party on 12/15. This has netted Alzheimer's Research over \$200 each of the last 2 years. Those participating in the camaraderie of the luncheon are welcome to participate in this fundraiser, which is a nice way to end the year. If you wish to donate items for auction, please come a bit early, in order to help in the description and display.

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

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

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Your October Shawnee Signal

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