



Protecting the Future for

ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

NARFE ENGLEWOOD - VENICE CHAPTER 0717

CELEBRATING OVER 55 YEARS - FOUNDED 1959

NEWSLETTER

April 2018

Published Monthly (Except July & August)

Safeguarding and improving your earned rights and benefits.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

President Steve Shoub



Upcoming Event Reminders:

April 5, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting at 11:00am at Jacaranda Library

April 19, 2018 Regular Chapter Meeting – Speaker: NARFE Florida Federation President

April 26, 2018 Annual Chapter Picnic at the North Jetty Pavilion in Nokomis

May 1, 2018 Final Day to sign-up for the NARFE Alzheimer's 2019 Charity Cruise to Cuba

May 3, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting at 11:00am at Jacaranda Library

May 10, 2018 Internet Voting Begins for National Officers, Bylaws and Resolutions

May 17, 2018 Regular Chapter Meeting-Chapter Officer Election

June 30, 2018 National Internet and Mail Voting Ends

Luncheon Meeting Meal Cost To Increase In September. For many years, Pelican Pointe Clubhouse management has maintained the cost of our meeting luncheon meals at \$18, including tax and service charges. We have been informed by Club management that there will be NO increase in the per-meal charge to us at our meetings through June. We have been receiving the lowest per-meal charge in the Clubhouse scale of charges to customer organizations. We anticipate that the revised

schedule of meal charges will again keep us at the low end, but an increase is coming in September. In this case, it is an increase in the Clubhouse costs for food, labor, etc. which must be passed on to us and other groups. We are working with Clubhouse management to keep any increase to the minimum.

Chapter Bylaws. We previously announced that the Chapter 717 Bylaws we enacted on May 18, 2017 have been reviewed and are tentatively approved by Jon Dowie, NARFE Secretary/Treasurer. We are proceeding as if they are fully approved. We are waiting for our copy of the approved and signed Bylaws from NARFE HQ.

Chapter Election of Officers will be conducted at the meeting on May 17. Officer nominations were announced at the March 15 meeting. There have been some changes to the slate since then. Nominees are: for President Nancy Cornnell; for Vice President Joan Leonard; for Treasurer Jon Cantor; and for Secretary Steven Shoub. Election of Officers will be conducted at the May 17 meeting. Federation District 8 Vice President Dave Ross will conduct the Installation of Officers at the Annual Meeting on June 21.

Federation Newspaper. NARFE Florida Federation is finalizing the establishment of a Federation Newspaper which will be sent to all Florida NARFE members at no charge. Look for the first edition in June, 2018.

Cruise. Florida NARFE Fund Raiser Cruise for Alzheimer's Association departs on February 26, 2019 on the Royal Caribbean Majesty of the Seas from Fort Lauderdale to Havana, Cuba and returns on March 2, 2019. Deposit of \$200 per cabin due by May 1, 2018. More information is available from Chris Stearns at ctsnc2012@gmail.com.

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President, Steve Shoub
 1st Vice-President, Nancy Cornell
 2nd Vice-President, Linda Braswell
 Secretary VACANT
 Treasurer, Joan Leonard

Chapter Elected Officers

473-7395
 703-989-1099
 473-7395
 497-1017

Email: SLSHOUB@verizon.net
 Email: narfe0717@gmail.com
 Email: whentheangelsask@gmail.com
 Email: jlbsktcase@msn.com

Appointed Officers

Alzheimer's, Linda Braswell
 Chaplain, Linda Braswell
 Legislative Officer, Steve Shoub
 Membership, Nancy Cornell
 Service Officer, Sheila Nichols
 Sunshine, Jean Marie Burton
 Meal Coordinator, Nancy Cornell
 Newsletter Editor, Barry Bye
 Public Relations, Jean Marie Burton
 Webmaster, John Burton
 Facebook Manager, Will Lopez

473-7395
 473-7395
 473-7395
 703-989-1099
 301-788-3464
 412-8543
 703-989-1099
 412-9181
 412-8543
 412-8543

Email: whentheangelsask@gmail.com
 Email: whentheangelsask@gmail.com
 Email: SLSHOUB@verizon.net
 Email: narfe0717@gmail.com
 Email: hr4u2@comcast.net
 Email: johnburton140@gmail.com
 Email: narfe0717@gmail.com
 Email: barryvbye@gmail.com
 Email: johnburton140@gmail.com
 Email: johnburton140@gmail.com
 Email: wlopez5193@aol.com

Senior Advisors:

Roy Reichelt 408-8822
 Terry Greenwood 492-6916
 Nancy Marik 416-1560
 Jon Cantor 497-7972
 Donald Gray 918-1516

Email: reichelt348@aol.com
 Email: tmg@gte.net
 Email: nancymarik@comcast.net
 Email: jon.cantor@comcast.net
 Email: dandcgray@live.com

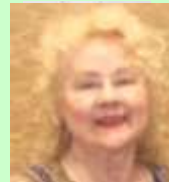
WEB ADDRESSES:

Chapter – www.narfe717.org
 Florida Federation – www.narfeffl.net
 National – www.narfe.org

Chapter Picnic Thursday, April 26**Pavilion at the North Jetty in Nokomis.**

Parking is nearby as are restrooms. Joan Leonard at (941) 497-1017 is the Food Coordinator for the picnic. Please contact her if you intend to bring a salad or dessert or something else to share. There is no charge for this event. It is open to chapter members, their guests and prospective members. The chapter will provide sandwiches (cold cuts, bread, condiments, etc.) and non-alcoholic beverages. The event will run from 11:00am – 2:00pm.

Please RSVP to Joan so we may have a count from which to order the proper amount of food.



Linda Braswell
 Alzheimer's Fund
 Coordinator

The main official NARFE charity is Alzheimer's Research Fund with 100% of all contributed funds going to Alzheimer's research. As of January 31, 2018, NARFE members have contributed \$12.6 million toward the goal of the \$13 Million Fund.

The contributions from Chapter 717 members for the last 12 months under the leadership of Liz Banta will be sent this month to the Florida Federation Treasurer for distribution. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Make your check out to NARFE Chapter 717 and in the memo section write Alzheimer's Fund. Send your check to NARFE Chapter 717, PO Box 2203, Venice, FL 34284-2203 or bring it to the next meeting. Thank you.

From the President's Desk...continued from Page 1

NARFE Webinars. NARFE's Federal Benefits Institute webinars and other programs can be viewed as an on-demand video available on the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute page of the NARFE HQ web site. If you are interested in viewing any of the several Institute webinars, log in at www.narfe.org/member/FederalBenefitsInstitute.

Help Wanted. We are currently seeking a volunteer for the position of Chapter Caller Coordinator. Duties begin ASAP. Please contact Nancy Cornell or me if you are interested in or want more information about this position. Additionally, we need a volunteer to serve as Chapter Legislative Officer to lead us in our fight to protect our earned benefits. For more information or to volunteer, please contact John Burton or me. NARFE needs us and we need NARFE!

Chapter Alzheimer's Chair. Liz Banta has decided to retire from the position of Alzheimer's Chair effective this month. 2nd VP Linda Braswell has volunteered and been appointed to that position. Please direct all future inquiries and donations to Linda Braswell. On behalf of the chapter's membership, I sincerely thank Liz Banta for her years of service as Alzheimer's Chair.

About FEDcon18. Registration for FEDcon18 began on February 1, 2018. FEDcon18 is NARFE's first national training conference and annual meeting. It is open to all NARFE members. It replaces the annual convention due to the changes to the NARFE National Bylaws enacted in 2016. Dates of FEDcon18 are

August 26 – 28. It will be held in Jacksonville, FL. More information is available on the NARFE HQ web site and in the *narfe* Magazine.

Local Contacts for Your Senators and Representatives

Senator Bill Nelson

Landmark Two
225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410
Orlando, FL 32801
407-872-7161
1-888-671-4091
<http://billnelson.senate.gov>

Alternate Contact for Bill Nelson

2000 Main Street, Suite 801, Ft. Myers, FL 33901
239-334-7760

Honorable Thomas Rooney

U.S. House of Representatives
17th Congressional District
226 Taylor Street, Suite 230
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-575-9101
<http://rooney.house.gov>

Alternate Contact for Thomas Rooney

11354 Big Bend Road, Riverview, FL 33579-7188
813-677-8646

Senator Marco Rubio

201 S. Orange Ave, Suite 350
Orlando, FL 32801
407-254-2573
<http://Rubio.senate.gov>

Honorable Vern Buchanan

U.S. House of Representatives
16th Congressional District
111 South Orange Avenue, Suite 202W
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-951-6643
<http://buchanan.house.gov>

Address Corrections Cost Money. The U.S. Postal Service charges the chapter for every misaddressed Newsletter it cannot deliver every month your address of record is wrong. Please make sure your current address is correct in the NARFE HQ data base. You may notify us if a change or correction needs to be made, or you can go on the NARFE HQ website to review and make any necessary update to your information. SnowBirds must do this, too! Please remember to go into the NARFE HQ web site and change your address so you can keep getting our Chapter Newsletter and the NARFE Magazine!

Please continue to check out our Chapter Website at narfe717.org and our Facebook page!

**Steven Shoub, President
NARFE Chapter 717
Englewood-Venice,
Florida**



Linda L. Braswell, 2nd Vice President and Program Chair

NARFE Florida Federation President Terry Zitek will speak at our meeting on April 19.

His topic will be the NARFE National Officer Election and Balloting on proposed Bylaws Changes and Resolutions. He will explain the proposed Bylaws changes and resolutions which you will vote on in the upcoming months. He has conducted an analysis of them and will share his opinions about the most important of them.

In a Commentary for Public Service Recognition Week published in the Tampa Tribune on May 10, 2012 titled “The Value of Federal Workers”, Terry Zitek wrote, in part:

“I am a member of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), a non-partisan advocacy organization, and the President of South Tampa Chapter 0109. I proudly served this community as an assistant U.S. attorney for about 30 years until I retired in 2010. I prosecuted all sorts of crimes and did it honestly and with sound discretion.”

Terry Zitek was elected in 2016 as President of NARFE Florida, Inc. and he represents you as President of the NARFE Florida Federation of Chapters. He brings his analytical skills, experience and dedication to present to you this vital understanding of the balloting process and the proposals. The future of NARFE may be affected by the outcome of this election and balloting.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.



Jean Marie Burton, Sunshine Chair, (941) 525-4263



We sent Get Well Wishes to the following:

Pat and Jim Flanagan, Claire Shomody, Phyllis Jackson, Sheila Nichols, and Eunice Herr.

A Get Well card was sent to Lois Paul, at her new address in Pennsylvania -- Cards Appreciated, address available upon request.

Lastly, John Burton continues with his bout with Bronchitis.

Please stay well--Hope to see you at picnic!

Please call me with news of our members who need a SUNSHINE call or card.

Good will to all!



Membership Officer
Nancy Cornnell
703-989-1099
narfe0717@gmail.com

Membership Report by Nancy Cornnell, 1VP and Membership Chair

Pay for Performance!?

Did you read about this possible change coming the way of active federal employees? There is consideration being given to the concept of compensating employees based on their performance. I know that in my years of service, I have heard this concept bantered about in the past. There was never any agreement on whether this should apply government wide, across all civil service grades, and/or occupations. Therefore, it was never implemented.

Let’s look at pay for performance from a different perspective. We are paying dues to NARFE to protect our earned benefits and pensions. Our dues are also working for the active employees to protect them from major changes in their compensation plan that would unduly harm them. So the question begs, ‘are we getting our money’s worth’? In my humble opinion, I would say “YES!!!” NARFE is working on the Hill to protect our benefits on a regular basis and as of now, they are succeeding. So I would say that NARFE has performed in the category of excellent in an evaluation report.

How is Chapter 717 doing? Are we providing you with the information you need? Are we doing our best to work with NARFE HQ and reach out to Congress to express our opinions about any changes to federal pay and benefits? That is a question for you to answer. I hope that you will rate our chapter as excellent.

Our chapter remains strong at 177 members. If all 177 members register their opinions either locally or nationally, we have a strong voice. That is what membership in our organization is about, speaking one message in a strong clear voice to protect our earned benefits and pensions.

Thank you for being a member of chapter 717.

Nancy Cornnell Membership Chair/1st VP

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Effective date of change: _____

Name: _____

Member ID (if known): _____

Check here if you change your local address/phone during the year. If so you will need to send in your new address/phone each new season.

Englewood-Venice Chapter Area Address

Street/Apt: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Alternate (Away) Address

From: Month _____ Day _____

To: Month _____ Day _____

Street/Apt: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cut out this completed form and mail it to:
Membership, NARFE Chapter 717
P.O. Box 2203
Venice, FL 34284-2203

You may also update your address by calling any one of the Chapter Officers listed on page 2.



Service Officer's Corner

by Sheila Nichols, Chapter 717 and Florida State Federation Service Officer



It is that time of year! “Spring has Sprung,” as we like to say! Although, in the case of us Florida residents, we do not have much of the four seasons like many of us did when we lived up north!

Spring is a great time to think about Spring Cleaning. Although Spring Cleaning is usually a time to think about what needs done to our house (cleaning windows inside and out, decluttering, etc.), it could also be a time to think about our retirement and benefits and to get those particular items decluttered and more organized. I know that I have a filing cabinet that could stand a bit of organizing!

April is tax time, as we all know! If you are a retiree, make sure that you have accessed your 1099-R by going onto Retirement Services On Line <https://www.serviceline.opm.gov/> and printing it if you have not done so already. It is a very simple process. This might also be a good time to consider tweaking your tax withholding. You can do that as well. In addition, take some time to verify your email address and home mailing address in the system as well. All you need to access the system is your CSA (Civil Service Annuitant) number and your password. If you do not have these items, simply call OPM (Office of Personnel Management) at 1-888-767-6738 and they will assist you.

Are you up-to-speed on the new TSP (Thrift Savings Plan) changes coming down the pike? This pertains to both current Federal employees as well as retirees too. If you are not familiar with these upcoming changes, be sure to check out the April NARFE webinar entitled “TSP: Maximizing Your Retirement Savings” given by Tammy Flanagan on April 26th at 2:00 p.m. Tammy will go over the provisions of the new TSP law and how it will impact your withdrawal options – there are exciting changes coming your way! This webinar is free to NARFE members and will also include a BONUS one-hour online Q&A with Tammy as well. For those of you (or your friends/colleagues) that have not joined NARFE yet, this is a great opportunity to do so. You can register for this webinar for \$39.95 and you will receive access to the webinar, along with a one year NARFE membership. All webinars are archived for you to view at your leisure if you happen to miss a “live” presentation. Be sure to put this on your “Spring Cleaning” list of things to do! <https://www.narfe.org/federalbenefitsinstitute/?fa=webinars>.

And, finally, Spring Cleaning would not be complete without a friendly reminder to utilize the NARFE document entitled “Be Prepared for Life’s Events” which can be found at: <https://www.narfe.org/pdf/f-100.pdf>. This is a great organizational tool for keeping all of your information in one place to make it very easy for yourself and your survivors when the time comes. This is a terrific document for both current Federal employees and retirees. Once completed, be sure to file it in that filing cabinet that has now been organized.

Happy Spring Cleaning!

Call to Action

Earned Benefits in Jeopardy

The proposed FY2019 Budget submitted by the Trump Administration contains many provisions which are unacceptable to NARFE members and target the earned benefits of current and retired Federal employees. The NARFE Legislative Action Center provides a quick and easy way to learn about our legislative priorities and provides pre-produced letters and messages you can send to our elected officials. **You must contact your elected Congressional Representatives and Senators and tell them that you cannot tolerate the unfair attack upon our earned benefits contained in the 2019 Budget Proposals.** It's time to rededicate ourselves to being active in support of the NARFE Legislative Agenda. Please take the time to work to save our earned benefits: become an armchair activist! Do it now!

NARFE National Elections and Balloting

All NARFE members can vote on candidates for National Office and proposed Bylaws and Resolutions. Ballots will be published in the June 2018 issue of *narfe* magazine. Internet voting begins May 10 and all voting ends June 30, 2018. You can and should review proposed Bylaws and Resolutions and candidate bios on the NARFE HQ web site or obtain a copy from NARFE HQ. We will have some information about the candidates for National Office and the proposed Resolutions and Bylaws at our Chapter meeting on April 19, 2018. You can order a print copy of the proposed Bylaws and Resolutions from NARFE HQ online or by calling 703-838-7760. The booklet is 184 pages. Lists of Bylaws and Resolutions Recommended for Adoption or Rejection by the National NARFE Bylaws and Resolutions Committee are listed on page 56 of the April 2018 edition of *narfe* Magazine.

*Steven Shoub, President
NARFE Chapter 717
Englewood-Venice,*

Chapter Annual Auction on March 15.

The Auction was a Success!

We raised \$160.00, all of which will be donated to Alzheimer’s Research. Thanks to all of you who brought and bought your “treasures.” Somebody did want them!



Second Vice President and Program Chair Linda Braswell presenting Honored Guest, Nonagenarian Marian Kelly, with a signed gift book from Author Kim Cool.



Auction items donated by members.

Annual Auction...continued from Page 8



And more of the donated items.



President Steve Shoub presenting the Legislative Report at the meeting.

Linda L. Braswell, Chaplain
Photos by Jon Cantor

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NARFE Chapter 717
P. O. Box 2203
Venice, FL 34284-2203

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS LABEL

The meeting of the Englewood-Venice Chapter 717 will be held on **Thursday, April 19, 2018** at the Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club. See inside for program details. Social Hour begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by a sit-down luncheon. **Reservations are required.** Contact 1VP Nancy Cornell for reservations at 703 989-1099 if you have not been called. A cash bar is available. All current and retired Federal employees and spouses and guests are welcome.

**Cost, including tax and tip is \$18.00.
Make checks payable to:
NARFE Chapter 717**

**Pelican Pointe
Golf & Country Club
625 Center Road, Venice, FL**

MENU

Warm Rolls and Butter

Choice of Entrée:

1. **Herbed Roast Pork Loin**
2. **Baked Cod with Lemon Buerre Sauce**
3. **Southern Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast and a Cup of Soup du jour**

Included with Entrees 1. and 2. — House Salad with Choice of Dressings; Broccoli and Roasted Potato

Dessert: Strawberry Mousse with Berries

Coffee, Decaf, Hot or Iced Tea.

From I-75: Take exit 193. At the traffic light off exit, turn South onto Jacaranda Blvd. Continue to 3rd traffic light and turn right on to Center Road. Go approximately 1 1/2 miles and turn right into the entrance to Pelican Pointe (Horse and Chaise Blvd.)

Alt1: From Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail), turn east on Center Road. Proceed approximately 1 1/2 miles and turn left into the entrance to Pelican Pointe (Horse and Chaise Blvd)

If using GPS or a map service, use 625 Center Rd, Venice, Florida

Tell the guard at the gate that you are attending the NARFE luncheon. Park in the lot to the right.