



*Protecting the Future for*

**ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

**NARFE ENGLEWOOD - VENICE CHAPTER 0717  
CELEBRATING OVER 55 YEARS - FOUNDED 1959  
NEWSLETTER**

**June 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:

June 7, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting at  
11:00am at Jacaranda Library

June 21, 2018 Annual Chapter Meeting at 11:00am  
and Installation of Officers

June 30, 2018 National Internet and Mail Voting  
Ends

My Last Communication as Chapter 717 President

Notwithstanding an unexpected occurrence, this is my last communication to you as President of Chapter 717. I shall hereafter be found at the Secretary's desk. For the record, I served a while as chapter Secretary until becoming President from 2001 – 2007 and again from 2011 – 2018, for a total as President of 14 ½ years. I thank John Burton for serving as President 2008 – 2010. And I thank Past President of both the Chapter and the Florida Federation, Roy Reichelt Jr., for talking me into agreeing to be nominated for the President's job in October 2000.

I sincerely thank all of the officer volunteers and committee members who managed to keep the chapter functioning under my leadership over the years. I thank the Senior Advisors for their guidance and support. A special mention of thanks for their tireless work goes to all the volunteer Callers without whose efforts the Chapter would not have survived all these years. I thank all the Chapter members who have given me their support and friendship. Most especially, I thank Linda Braswell for her continuous affection, guidance and

support, without which I could not have served as President since 2011.

I leave office knowing that we have an operational chapter with recently updated Bylaws fully in compliance with the most recent NARFE HQ requirements and guidelines, and a Treasury with adequate funds to operate the chapter and a substantial reserve fund. What we need from time to time are member volunteers to step up and take jobs so we may keep the chapter operational.

It is the nature of organizations to change over time. Changes in leadership usually produce significant organizational change in the short run. I sincerely wish my successor a good and successful term in office.

Let's keep meeting at Pelican Pointe

One change I hope does not occur is a change in meeting venue from Pelican Pointe Clubhouse. Clubhouse management has been extremely supportive of our Chapter over the years and does not want us to leave. We have no reason to change meeting location. The current proposal to move to another location, including the Moose, in my opinion, is unnecessary and a bad idea. In my opinion, Pelican Pointe provides us better food, a better meeting room, better table and wait service, more modern facilities, better and safer parking, better ambiance, and better technical support equipment.

It is true that the cost of meals is less at the Moose, and there is no hill to walk. However, I feel the meals at the Moose are inferior to the meals prepared and served at Pelican Pointe Clubhouse. The Pelican Pointe meals are primarily prepared by Chefs from scratch. Parking at the Moose, in my opinion, is dangerous. There are 42 parking spaces there, and overflow parking is along the alley or across it at other establishments. Walking across the alley is dangerous.

*Continued on Page 2—From the President's Desk*

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

The hill at Pelican Pointe can be avoided by parking up by the sidewalk at the right side of the Clubhouse, and since it is a gated community, people and cars at the Clubhouse parking lot are safer and more secure than at the Moose. The cost of meals at Pelican Pointe will increase to \$20.00 per meal, an increase of \$2.00. In my opinion, there is no place we can meet and get an equivalent meal for less than \$20.00. As I leave this "Bully Pulpit", I urge you to resist the call to change our meeting venue from the Pelican Pointe Clubhouse. I'll see you at the next meeting!

NARFE National Elections and Balloting. The most important issue facing us in June is the NARFE National Elections and Balloting on proposed National Bylaws changes and Resolutions. With a few exceptions, NARFE members can vote on candidates for National Office and proposed Bylaws and Resolutions. Ballots were published in the June 2018 issue of *narfe* magazine. Internet voting began on 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. 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.

The NARFE recommendations which appeared on page 56 of the April 2018 edition of *narfe* magazine and the Federation EB Recommendations can be found on page 8 of last month's Newsletter. The recommendations are not all the same.

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. Deposits of \$200 per cabin are due by September 1, 2018 (note the date change from May 1). More information is available from Chris Stearns at [ctsnc2012@gmail.com](mailto:ctsnc2012@gmail.com).



**Local Contacts for Your Senators and Representatives**

<p>Senator Bill Nelson Landmark Two 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410 Orlando, FL 32801 407-872-7161 1-888-671-4091 <a href="http://billnelson.senate.gov">http://billnelson.senate.gov</a> Alternate Contact for Bill Nelson 2000 Main Street, Suite 801, Ft. Myers, FL 33901 239-334-7760</p>	<p>Senator Marco Rubio 201 S. Orange Ave, Suite 350 Orlando, FL 32801 407-254-2573 <a href="http://Rubio.senate.gov">http://Rubio.senate.gov</a></p>
<p>Honorable Thomas Rooney U.S. House of Representatives 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 226 Taylor Street, Suite 230 Punta Gorda, FL 33950 941-575-9101 <a href="http://rooney.house.gov">http://rooney.house.gov</a> Alternate Contact for Thomas Rooney 11354 Big Bend Road, Riverview, FL 33579-7134 813-677-8646</p>	<p>Honorable Vern Buchanan U.S. House of Representatives 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 111 South Orange Avenue, Suite 202W Sarasota, FL 34236 941-951-6643 <a href="http://buchanan.house.gov">http://buchanan.house.gov</a></p>

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 you have your current and correct address 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. Snow-Birds 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](http://narfe717.org) and our Facebook page!

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

**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 Fund, 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

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 473-7395  
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**Senior Advisors:**

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 Terry Greenwood  
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 Jon Cantor  
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**WEB ADDRESSES:**

Chapter – [www.narfe717.org](http://www.narfe717.org)  
 Florida Federation – [www.narfefl.net](http://www.narfefl.net)  
 National – [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

**CHAPTER 717 OFFICERS  
for 2018—2019**

Chapter Election of Officers was conducted at the meeting on May 17. The officers for the coming year are:

**President — Nancy Cornell**

**Vice President — Joan Leonard**

**Treasurer — Jon Cantor**

**Secretary — Steven Shoub**

Federation District 8 Vice President Dave Ross will conduct the Installation of Officers at the Annual Meeting on June 21.



**Linda Braswell, Alzheimer's Fund Coordinator**

**BASIC WAYS TO PROTECT THE BRAIN THAT  
AREN'T ROCKET SCIENCE**

Challenging the mind on a regular basis as you age helps to lower the risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Mentally stimulating activities, such as reading the newspaper, checking out and reading library books, playing chess, doing crossword puzzles, learning a new language or learning to play a new instrument, going to the theater and other mentally engaging pursuits give the brain a mental "workout". Decades of research and studies have shown that mental challenges are associated with a decreased risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Researchers speculate that mental challenges help to build up new neuronal pathways in the brain, making it less susceptible to the lesions associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Stay hydrated. Drink water. It is essential for efficient cognitive performance. Even mild dehydration can impair cognitive function. The eyes and the brain are especially vulnerable to lack of water. Dehydration can cause sleepiness, bewilderment, fatigue, confusion, unsteadiness and falls. Water is a basic building block of life and is essential for emotional stability, focus and ability to concentrate.

Make your check out to NARFE Chapter 717 and in the memo section write Alzheimer's Fund. Send your check to NARFE Chapter 717, P.O. Box 2203, Venice, FL 34284-2203 or bring it to the next meeting. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you.



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

### Membership Report by Nancy Cornnell, President-elect and Membership Chair

I have noticed that with all the rain in April and May, our grass looks greener, the flowers are blooming and multiplying. I have looked at the numbers on the OPM site and not that many active employees are retiring in April and May, as compared to December and January. But that should not stop us from multiplying our numbers with recruiting active employees or as they enter retirement.

Our numbers have fallen slightly, and we are now down to 173 members. In the majority of cases, it is because the member has failed to check the box on the bottom of the renewal form to elect to remain in Chapter 717. I realize it is an easy mistake to make and I talk about it all the time. There are also cases of members leaving the area to head back up north to join family members. In either case, I hope that you decide to continue your support of NARFE in Chapter 717 or in your new home.

This is the last report before the summer break. I hope you have a very enjoyable summer and as the song goes, "See you in September!"

Nancy Cornnell  
Membership Chair/President-elect/

**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**

As many of us already know, June 21<sup>st</sup> is the first day of summer. It's "Summertime Summertime Sum Sum Summertime" (song by the Jamies that hit the top Billboard 100 in both 1958 and again in 1962). My husband and I (and our 4 teacup poodles) moved from Maryland to Florida last year, so it actually feels like summer time all the time to us now!

Summer time is always a wonderful time to start reading a good book or two. It is also a good time to read some of the great publications from NARFE's website, if you haven't already done so. NARFE has a great link to Benefit Briefs at: <https://www.narfe.org/federalbenefitsinstitute/?fa=BenefitBriefs>. Below are some excellent ones to check out, whether you are a current federal employee or a federal retiree.

- How Much Money Do You Need to Retire?
- 10 Worst Mistakes Federal Employees Can Make
- 10 Worst Mistakes Retirees Can Make
- FAQs About Your Federal Benefits
- Speeding The Retirement Journey
- Top 10 Things Federal Spouse Needs to Know
- Survivor Benefits Guide
- Guide to TSP Withdrawal Options

These publications are available to both NARFE members and non-members alike. If you aren't already a NARFE member, why not consider joining? There are many benefits to joining. Check out all the many benefits at: <https://www.narfe.org/Membership/>

*Continued from page 5— Service Officer's Corner*

If you are a federal retiree, hopefully you are reading emails that come to your inbox from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). OPM is in the final stages of preparation for the launch of their completely redesigned Retirement Services Online website. It will be more user-friendly and work with more devices. Although the screens will look different, you will still access the system from the same website at: [www.serviceline.opm.gov](http://www.serviceline.opm.gov). If you are already a user, your current password will work. If your account is locked for inactivity or for entering an incorrect password, you will need to contact OPM at 1-888-767-6738 between 7:40 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Summer time is also a great time to watch a webinar or two. Check out the Federal Benefits Institute at: <https://www.narfe.org/member/FederalBenefitsInstitute/>. The upcoming June webinar will be entitled “Steps to a Speedy Retirement” on June 21<sup>st</sup> (that first day of summer!) at 2:00 p.m. presented by federal retirement and benefits expert, Tammy Flanagan. Speaking of Tammy Flanagan, don't forget to read her superb weekly articles in the Government Executive magazine (for free!) at <https://www.govexec.com/voices/tammy-flanagan/2340/>. There are webinars and articles for employees and retirees alike!

June is also the month for honoring Fathers.

A Happy Father's Day to all the fathers out there, mine included, from my brother and me.





Linda L. Braswell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Chaplain

WHAT IS COMPARABLE TO THE SUN RISING  
IN THE WEST?

The President of the NARFE Florida Federation, Terry Zitek, said it best:

“It is going to take some getting used to—Steve Shoub will not be President of Chapter 717. It is almost like the Sun rising in the West.”

Steve was always at his post. He showed up for work every day. He called it “Just keeping everything on an even keel “ or “Just keeping the ship stable” or “Just getting the job done” or “I’m just another pair of helping hands.” With a terrific work ethic and acceptance of the duty he understood came with the title, he led the Chapter.

Steve believed that those who lead successfully are those who serve. And so he did. He served for 14 and one-half years as President of Chapter 717 from 2001 to 2007 and again from 2011 to 2018. He served in every capacity in the Chapter. Whenever an officer post became vacant, he quietly filled the position and carried out the duties in addition to leading as President until another Chapter member responded to his request and took over. He then was a patient teacher, giving plain, helpful direction and leading by example. Simply put, he was a team player and he worked at being one. Howard Schultz said, “Success is empty if you arrive at the finish line alone. The best reward is to get there, surrounded by winners.”

His allegiance wasn’t just to the NARFE mission or to the Chapter as an entity, but to the members of the Chapter. In addition to presiding at meetings and communicating with Chapter members at any time, he was a volunteer at a full-time job. If it meant hours sitting in Hospice, counseling a survivor during grief and loss, he did it. If it meant giving practical advice about contacting OPM and helping with all the myriad steps about contacting agencies after a loved one’s death, he did it. If it meant helping a member to

*Continued on Page 8— Chaplain’s view*



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



Thinking of you cards were sent to the following members:

Frank & Ilse Cavalier, Joseph Tardif, Mary Ertel, Dagmar Olson, Pat & Jim Flanagan, and Lois Paul. And a phone call was made to Esther Schmitt.

During our Summer break, please call me with news of our members who need a Sunshine call or card, and I will continue Summer Sunshine.

Good will to all!

*Continued from page 7— Chaplain's view*

move, he carried boxes. If it meant having his work interrupted by phone calls about a member's questions and requests for help about dues, legislation, administrative questions or anything at all, he never said "I'm busy, I can't talk now." He simply responded immediately and thoroughly as long as it took to requests for help. He led by being there. And he was always available. All the time.

Why did he get so many calls and requests from members for help? First, if he didn't know the answer, which he usually did, he would find it and pass it on to the member. Second, if he couldn't help, he gave a reference to an expert who could help. Third, and most important, Chapter members trusted him. And well they should.

Chapter members recognized in him a stable person who is a reliable, dependable advisor. A good advisor has no hidden agenda. There is no substitute for integrity. In short, a good advisor is trustworthy.

He was and is able to submerge his ego for the greater good. An authentic person is able to do that. And an authentic person is sincerely able to give credit to others for their talents, contributions and hard work benefitting the Chapter. Steve did that unflinchingly.

He was chosen several times to help formulate By-Laws for several organizations, including NARFE Florida Federation By-Laws. Rules are fundamental to stability. Steve believed in transparency in guiding and leading Chapter 717. Chapter members were kept informed and part of the process. Never divisive nor disruptive, he leaves a stable organization united in purpose.

As he said often, "How would we all know one another and be friends if not for the Chapter?"

One of the best quotes I've heard decades ago was: "You don't get respect just because you think you deserve it because of your title, you get respect because you earn it." Rachel Maddow said "If you are someone people can count on, especially in difficult moments, that's a sign of a life lived honorably."

Steve Shoub earned the respect of good people who value living honorably. You will have the opportunity to let him know how you feel about his contribution by wishing him well as he celebrates at his retirement party at Pelican Pointe on June 21, 2018.

He will continue to help the Chapter by serving as Secretary. He will still be around.

By Linda L. Braswell, Chaplain



**At the May 17 Chapter meeting, Sarasota County staff presented a full review of current and future land development and transportation route plans for Sarasota County with a focus on South County, followed by a period of questions and answers.**



**Paula Wiggins**, Manager, Sarasota County Transportation Planning Department, and **Todd Dary**, Manager, Sarasota County Planning and Development Services Department, receiving Certificates of Appreciation from President, **Steve Shoub**, and 2nd Vice President, **Linda Braswell**.

**Paula Wiggins** and **Todd Dary** showing a map of Large Developments: Central Sarasota County. The map shows future roads and possible future land development. Chapter members received copies of four development maps, together covering all of Sarasota County, and three maps showing current and future road expansion.



Englewood-Venice  
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, June 21, 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 President-elect 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. **Beef Tips over Noodles**
2. **Chicken Florentine Crepes with Side of Fruit**
3. **Trio Salad with a Cup of Soup du jour**

**Included with Entrees 1. and 2. — House Salad with Choice of Dressings, and Cooked Broccoli and Carrots**

**Dessert: Key Lime Pie**

**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.