



Protecting the Future for

ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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

March 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:

March 1, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting at 11:00am at Jacaranda Library

March 15, 2018 Regular Chapter Meeting and Annual Auction for Alzheimer's Research

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

April 19, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting

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

District 8 Chapters Meeting. On Monday, February 5, we hosted the Florida Federation District 8 meeting. Our Chapter is one of the Chapters in District 8 and was represented by seven members: Steve Shoub, Nancy Cornell, Joan Leonard, Linda Braswell, Sheila Nichols, Terry Greenwood, and Kathleen Quigley. Over 40 members from the Chapters in the District and the Federation State Officers attended. The 50/50 game resulted in our Chapter collecting over \$150 for our Alzheimer's Fund. Thanks to Treasurer Joan Leonard and Terry Greenwood for their work at the District 8 meeting.

Chapter 717 Anniversary. At our chapter's meeting on February 15, we celebrated the 59th Anniversary of the Chapter, honored our loyal members who have reached their 90th or more birthday. See the article and photos on Pages 8 and 9 for a report

on the celebration.

Luncheon meal costs. 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 that, perhaps as soon as the April meeting, there will be an increase in the per-meal charge to us. 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 soon, and we are working with Clubhouse management to negotiate the smallest price increase. We will be offering different meal choices at our meetings over the next few months as a test to find low cost and satisfactory meals. Your input is necessary and always welcome: call or email me.

Chapter 717 election of officers. We have received notice 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, which we expect later this month. Chapter officer nominations (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) will be announced at the March 15 meeting. Election of officers will be conducted at the meeting on May 17. Installation of officers will take place at the Annual Meeting on June 21. Anyone interested in running for office should contact John Burton, Nominating Committee Chair, me or another officer as soon as possible.

Chapter Annual Auction on March 15. Please bring your unwanted treasures to the meeting. Somebody will want them! Proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Charity Fund. Cash or checks only: sorry, no credit or debit cards.

Continued on Page 3—From the President's Desk

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President, Steve Shoub
 1st Vice-President, Nancy Cornnell
 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
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 Email: whentheangelsask@gmail.com
 Email: jlbsktcase@msn.com

Appointed Officers

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

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 473-7395
 473-7395
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 412-8543
 703-989-1099
 412-9181
 412-8543
 412-8543

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WEB ADDRESSES:

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

2018 Federal Tax Withholding

OPM has made wholesale changes to all annuitant's Federal tax withholding. Please check your OPM annuity statements and compare your January payment to your February statements to determine if the federal withholding change that OPM has implemented will be sufficient to cover your tax liability at the end of the year. If not, you need to make your changes as soon as possible so you are not underpaying your taxes and have a bill due at the end of the year.

Nancy Cornnell
 1VP and Membership Chair



Liz Banta
 Alzheimer's Fund
 Coordinator

The main official NARFE charity is Alzheimer's funding for research, and to that end we push for donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Fund. Since donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Fund are tax deductible, please think about donating to get the tax benefit.

Make your check out to "**NARFE Chapter 717.**" 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.

alzheimer's
 association

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

Florida 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.

Alzheimer's fund raiser cruise. Florida NARFE Fund Raiser Cruise for Alzheimer's Association on February 26, 2019 on the Royal Caribbean Majesty of the Seas departs 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 CTSNC@gmail.com.

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.

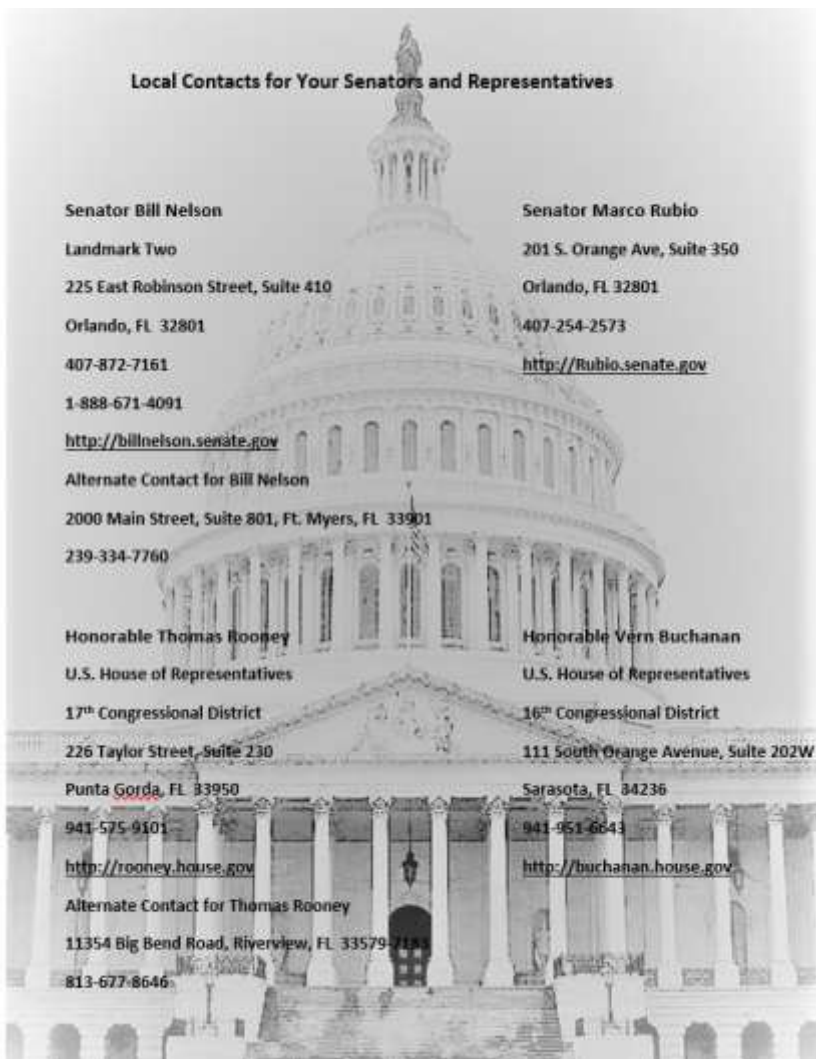
Snow Birds. Be sure to come out to our meetings! If you don't have a reserved meal, come anyway. There are always a few extra meals! Call 1stVP Nancy Cornell and let her know you have returned so you can be added back to the calling list. Please remember to go into the NARFE HQ web site and change your address so you can keep getting our Chapter Newsletter and the NARFE Magazine!

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.

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. SnowBirds must do this, too!

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

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



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 http://billnelson.senate.gov 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 http://Rubio.senate.gov</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>



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

CHAPTER ANNUAL AUCTION PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH

Chapters 717 members are generous. You donated the third largest amount to the Alzheimer’s Research Fund in the Florida Federation of Chapters in three of the last five years. Chapter President Steve Shoub accepted a Certificate of Achievement from the NARFE National Alzheimer’s Committee Chair Olivia Williams on behalf of the members in 2017.

The Executive Committee of our Chapter has declared that all proceeds of the March Annual Auction will benefit the NARFE National charity, Alzheimer’s Research Fund.

Bring your treasures and one-of-a-kind items to the March Annual Auction on March 15, 2018 and help boost the amount of the Chapter donation this year.

Donations nationally reached over \$12.5 Million by December 2017 and are well on the way to the \$13Million goal this year.

You can continue our support for Alzheimer’s research while being a savvy shopper at the Auction.



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



Let’s take a moment to send our best wishes to those chapter members who are ill and need a call, card or visit.

Our Annual Support for Alzheimer's Disease research will be demonstrated in our Annual Auction on March 15. Most of us have a family member or friend who has had the disease. It is a time to remember those individuals by a healthy turnout.

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

Did you watch the Olympics? What was your favorite sport? I personally love the pairs ice skating. Why? Because of the coordination that is required from both partners in producing a perfect performance. They work on their performance and skills daily in order to show the world just how great they can be. Do they do this alone? Not at all; they have coaches, family and friends that work with them to ensure the performance they produce is flawless.

Let’s talk about the performance of NARFE at its lowest level, its members. NARFE wants to be sure that every month you get to read their magazine of which they are extremely proud. All the writers, editors, photographers put in a stellar performance to produce the magazine every month. So what is your part in making this production turn into a flawless event? Maintaining your data in the NARFE database is extremely important. Are you a snowbird who travels for a few months at a time? When you land in your winter or summer home do you make sure that NARFE is on your list to change your address? If we don’t have a good address, we can’t reach you with great information.

What about your phone number? With folks eliminating landlines and converting to using cell phones, your NARFE record should be updated to reflect that information as well. You may ask why NARFE cares about my phone number? Maybe HQ will not call you, but your local chapter Venice-Englewood Chapter 717 would like to reach out to you. Every month we contact all our members and invite you to attend the member’s meeting on the third Thursday of the month and have lunch with us. If we don’t have a valid phone number for you, we can’t reach out to you.

Which brings up the question, when was the last time you were at a member’s meeting? Each month we have a hot lunch followed by a current topic speaker and then a business meeting for the Chapter. If you have not attended recently, come and check us out. I think you will be glad you did. Information on the members meeting is on the last page of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Nancy Cornnell, 1st VP & Membership Chair

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



“Good luck will come to all, I’m told, who wish upon this pot of gold.” Well, as we all know, that is not quite the case, especially when it comes to your benefits and retirement planning. It takes lots of planning versus good luck!

For many Federal retirees, financial planning is very important! And especially when it comes to your “pot of gold” – Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

As Federal retirees, you cannot add to your TSP savings, as you know. However, you still have flexibility to change your investment mix by making interfund transfers. See this link for more information on how to do this: <https://www.tsp.gov/PlanParticipation/AccountManagement/IFTs.html>. In addition, you can always call TSP directly at 1-TSP-YOU-FRST (1-877-968-3778). The TSP Automated System is available 24 hours, 7 days a week. TSP also has extremely helpful representatives who are available Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

TSP is also looking to add flexibility to withdrawal options, which will be welcome news, especially for retirees. They are doing this through the TSP Modernization Act, which should be implemented in approximately 2 years. For additional information, TSP has created the publication, “Questions and Answers about Changes to TSP Withdrawal Options” found at <https://www.tsp.gov/PDF/formspubs/tspfs10.pdf>.

Take some time this month to reflect on your “pot of gold” and contact TSP if you have questions. They will be happy to help you! And you will be happy you did!

Good luck to you!

Call to Action

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. On February 12, 2018, NARFE President Thissen issued a Legislative Alert to NARFE members. It lists a summary of the proposals and contains arguments against the anti-Federal employee and retiree provisions of the Budget proposals. The NARFE Legislative Action Center provides a quick and easy way to learn about our legislative priorities and provides pre-produced letters and messages we 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 a 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! 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!

NARFE members will vote on candidates for National office and proposed bylaws and resolutions in the June 2018 issue of *NARFE* magazine. You can and should review proposed bylaws and resolutions and candidate bios on the NARFE HQ web site. We will have information about the candidates for National Office and the proposed resolutions at our Chapter meetings over the next few months.

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

CELEBRATE THE 90'S WAS A HAPPY EVENT

It was a privilege and an honor to introduce the 90 plus year old honorees at the 59th anniversary of Chapter 717 on February 15, 2018 at the luncheon meeting at Pelican Pointe.

Born in 1928 or before, the honorees wore corsages and boutonnieres courtesy of the Chapter and name tags made by Nancy Marik, Chapter Senior Advisor and graphic artist. Nancy also designed and crafted the keepsake invitations she sent to the 10 honorees. Special patriotic favors were designed and created by Chapter Treasurer and crafts artist Joan Leonard, who presented her gift to each of the honorees.

The honorees gathered for photographs taken by Jon Cantor. Speaker Kim Cool joined the honorees in a celebration photo.



L-R: Esther Schmitt, Frank Cavaliere, Marcy Sarkozy, Tom Martorana, Virginia Brisson, and Kim Cool.

The display table featured the celebration cake, the Chapter Charter, and certificates of congratulation and achievement. Chaplain Linda Braswell reminded attendees that chapter certificates of achievement for donating the 3rd highest amount in the State to Alzheimer's Research Fund for 3 out of the last 5 years was due to the generosity of Chapter 717 members.



The theme of service to others, their country and pride in dedication to their jobs was a constant in remarks by honorees as they shared memories of their Federal careers. There were nods of agreement from veterans Frank Cavaliere and Tom Martorana, when 96-year-old Esther Schmitt recounted that her husband served in World War II at the age of 19 and returned to work in civil service. She stated "We never asked anyone for a hand-out and we were never given any. We did our work."

Celebrate the 90's...continued from Page 8

The honorees continue to serve their community after retirement with years of dedicated service in volunteer work in their churches and service organizations.

Past Chapter President and Florida Federation President Roy Reichelt was recognized and honored, as well as past Chapter President Lou and Jean Spataro and past Chapter President John and Jean Marie Burton.

Honorees who were unable to attend were Mary Ertel, Dorothy Hassler, Marian Kelly, Lois Paul and Helen Worthington. Gifts of name tags and favors along with books written, autographed and donated by local author and celebrity, Kim Cool, were delivered by the Chaplain to honorees who were unable to attend.

Lois Paul sent a thank-you to all her Chapter 717 friends for their cards, calls and prayers during her illness.

NARFE national does not give birth dates of members, so members have to tell us their age to become a 90 plus honoree. All expressed happiness and thanks for the recognition and honor afforded them by Chapter 717.

And Chapter 717 members enjoyed the day.



L-R: Sue Anders, Chuck Anders, Ilse Cavaliere, Frank Cavaliere, Don Gray, Carol Gray, Chris Gray.



Speaker Kim Cool received a NARFE Certificate of Appreciation from Linda Braswell, 2nd Vice President and Program Chair. Kim Cool's presentation included a thorough history of Venice, and entertaining stories from some of the 14 books she has written.

Linda L. Braswell, Chaplain
Photos by Jon Cantor

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, March 15, 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. Corned Beef and Cabbage
2. Salmon Fillet Teriyaki
3. Chicken, Tuna and Egg Trio Salad Platter
with Fresh Fruit and a Cup of Soup du jour

House Salad with Choice of Dressings for
entrees 1. and 2.

Dessert: Chocolate 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.