



*Protecting the Future for*

**ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

**NARFE ENGLEWOOD - VENICE CHAPTER 0717**

**CELEBRATING OVER 55 YEARS - FOUNDED 1959**

**NEWSLETTER**

**October 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:

October 4, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting at 11:00am at Jacaranda Library

October 18, 2018 Regular Chapter Meeting with Attorney Steven W. Ledbetter

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

November 15, 2018 Regular Chapter Meeting and Thanksgiving Meal

December 13, 2018 Regular Chapter Meeting and Holiday Party with Musical Entertainment

October 18 Meeting. Our presenter will be Attorney Steven W. Ledbetter. He will speak about Estate Law, Wills, Trusts, Probate, Beneficiaries, and any recent changes to the laws. We meet at the Pelican Pointe Golf and Country Club (G&CC) clubhouse in Venice. The October luncheon menu is on the back page of this Newsletter. Meal price is \$20.00 per person. That includes the actual meal cost, tax, and tip: the clubhouse does not charge us separately for use of the room, room setup, cloth napkins and tablecloths, equipment, etc. All upcoming regular chapter meetings listed above will also be at the Pelican Pointe G&CC Clubhouse. Please plan to attend this informative meeting.

September Meeting. It is fitting and proper to thank those of you who attended the September meeting and brought donations of items or money for the Suncoast Humane Society. We had a good turnout of 36 members and guests. The food was good and the presentation was informative. See page 8 for a photo of the donation table.

FEDcon18. Our Membership Chair Don Gray and his wife Carol attended FEDcon18 in August. We thank them for their support of NARFE and Chapter 717. A recap of the goings on at FEDcon18 is available on the NARFE HQ web site. See page 9 for a photo of Don and Carol.

NARFE Presidential Election. Due to publication deadlines, this article is being written before the last day of voting on September 30, 2018, so I don't have the final results. Results should be available on the NARFE web site by the time you read this!

December 13 Meeting and Holiday Party. Be sure to attend this meeting. We plan to party! Gifts for all! Special meal goodies! Musical entertainment by the Martin Duo!


February 21, 2019, Chapter 717 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting and Celebration. Our chapter will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we will do it in style! Programs Chair Linda Braswell and her committee are planning a great event. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee needs a few more members. Interested? Call Programs Chair Linda Braswell to volunteer or for more information.

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

**FEHBP 2019 Rate Increases.** On September 26, in response to OPM's release of Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) rates for 2019, NARFE HQ issued a News Release. It is available on the NARFE HQ web site. In it NARFE includes a summary of the plans 2019 payment increases and some comments which read, in part: "...with this very modest premium increase, federal employees still face the prospect of their take-home pay decreasing due to the proposed federal pay freeze. It is up to Congress to step up to prevent that from happening. Unfortunately, it appears House and Senate negotiations have stalled on the appropriations bill that, if passed, would provide a 1.9 percent average pay increase, and the decision on federal pay likely will be delayed until after the election. We urge supportive members of Congress to continue to push for a federal pay raise to cover even this very modest premium increase." It is up to you to continue to contact your Senators and Congressman in order to fight attacks on our earned benefits and to prevent benefits erosion. NARFE HQ Legislative Action Center has prepared letters you can easily send. Act now!

**Open Season.** The annual period when you can make changes to your health benefits coverage for 2019 will be held November 12 through December 10, 2018. FEHBP Plan brochures will be available in November and FEDVIP brochures will be available in October.

**Help Wanted.** The Chapter has the following vacant position: Vice President. Call me if you want more information about this position.



**Local Contacts for Your Senators and Representatives**

<p><b>Senator Bill Nelson</b> 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><b>Senator Marco Rubio</b> 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><b>Honorable Thomas Rooney</b> 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><b>Honorable Vern Buchanan</b> 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 \$0.59 for every misaddressed Newsletter it cannot deliver each month because your address of record in NARFE 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 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!

I'll see you at the next meeting!

Please continue to support NARFE and this Chapter. You need NARFE and NARFE needs you!

"Thanks!" to members who have submitted their \$14 annual chapter dues!

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

**CHAPTER OFFICERS:****Chapter Elected Officers**

President, Steve Shoub	473-7395	Email: slshoub@verizon.net
Vice-President, VACANT		
Secretary, Ruth Ann Worden	864-710-0502	Email: lvsnaills@gmail.com
Treasurer, Jon Cantor	497-7972	Email: jon.cantor@comcast.net

**Appointed Officers**

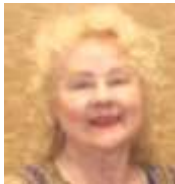
Alzheimer's Fund, Linda Braswell	473-7395	Email: wentheangelsask@gmail.com
Chaplain, Linda Braswell	473-7395	Email: wentheangelsask@gmail.com
Programs Chair, Linda Braswell	473-7395	Email: wentheangelsask@gmail.com
Legislative Officer, VACANT		
Membership, Donald Gray	918-1516	Email: dandcgray@live.com
Service Officer, Sheila Nichols	301-788-3464	Email: hr4u2@comcast.net
Sunshine, Jean Marie Burton	412-8543	Email: johnburton140@gmail.com
Calling Coordinator, VACANT		
Newsletter Editor, Barry Bye	412-9181	Email: barryvbye@gmail.com
Public Relations, Jean Marie Burton	412-8543	Email: johnburton140@gmail.com
Webmaster, John Burton	412-8543	Email: johnburton140@gmail.com
Facebook Manager, Will Lopez		Email: wlopez5193@aol.com

**Senior Advisors:**

Roy Reichelt	408-8822	Email: reichelt348@aol.com
Terry Greenwood	492-6916	Email: tmg@gte.net
Nancy Marik	416-1560	Email: nancymarik@comcast.net

**WEB ADDRESSES:**

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



**YOU ARE CONTRIBUTING TO A CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S  
DISEASE**

Chapter 717 members continue to be generous with donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Your contributions help to push toward the NARFE goal of \$13 Million by the end of 2018. 100% of contributed funds go to Alzheimer's research.

For an excellent overview of the need for the NARFE National charity of the Alzheimer's Research Fund, read the article on pages 46-47 of your September NARFE magazine by Olivia A. Williams.

Ms. Williams, Chair of the NARFE Alzheimer's National Committee presented a certificate to President Steve Shoub at the 2017 NARFE Florida, Inc. Convention. President Shoub accepted the award on behalf of Chapter 717 members. The certificate was awarded for achieving the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest donation of all the Florida NARFE Chapters to the Alzheimer's Research Fund. Chapter 717 members achieved this level of giving for 3 years!

Make your check out to NARFE Chapter 717 and in the memo section write Alzheimer's Fund. Send your check to NARFE Chapter 717, 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!**

Linda Braswell, Alzheimer's Fund Coordinator



**Membership Officer**  
**Donald Gray**  
 918-1516  
 dandcgray@live.com

**Membership Report by Donald Gray**  
**Membership Chair**

Chapter membership numbers continue to decline by natural causes. Members move from the area or become deceased. Member recruitment is essential to maintain our current total. Adding even more increases strength of NARFE and the Chapter. All Chapter members need to help with this effort.

NARFE National will award \$10 for every member you recruit from now to the end of 2018. Top recruiters have signed up to 15 new members during this annual event. This is not usual, but everyone you recruit is significant to NARFE and Chapter 717. You could give the new recruit the \$10 to help with their first year of membership. Be sure that the membership form indicates that you are the recruiter. I suggest that you pre mark the form with your recruiter information.

Speaking of saving money on membership, the NARFE dues withholding program for retirees and survivors offers a \$6 saving every year they renew their membership. NARFE form DW-3 is a combined membership and dues withholding application. No money down on submittal and a low deduction of \$4 from their monthly payment. OK to add a spouse to the application for an additional saving and \$4 deduction.

*Continued on Page 6— Membership Chair Report*

**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

**Did ??  
You ? ?  
Know ?**

Did you know that as a retiree you can contribute to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) just like current Federal employees can? The campaign theme for this year is *Show Some Love*. Federal retirees and survivors are able to support any number of the almost 8,000 charities vetted and approved by OPM. Last year, Federal employees and retirees pledged more than \$100 million in monetary pledges. To help those in need by making a pledge, please visit the CFC's Online Donor Pledging System at <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov>.

On a separate note, did you know that the Federal Long Term Care (LTC) Insurance Program has fantastic webinars on a variety of benefit and retirement issues at your disposal, regardless of whether you have long term care insurance or not? They have just recently posted their Fall Webinars, "LTC Partners Presents the Healthier Future Series by Harvard Medical School" on their website to include the following:

Cognitive Fitness: A 6-Step Plan for Long Term Brain Health (October 30, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.)

Caregiving: Caring for a Loved One and Yourself (November 8, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.)

Advanced Care Planning: Documenting Your Decisions for Medical Care (December 6, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.)

All webinars are free just by registering at <http://www.ltcfeds.com> and clicking on Webinars.

*Continued on Page 6— Service Officer's Corner*

*Continued from page 4— Membership Chair Report*

The \$4 deduction starts 2 or 3 months from the submittal. Until the end of the year you could offer a recruit \$10 to submit the form. You will be reimbursed by NARFE National. Let me know if you need a copy of DW-3. Current members may also change to this payment plan.

Finally, if you changed your address, phone or e-mail over the summer, be sure to check your NARFE National record to make needed changes. If you are unsure of how to do this, give me a call (941) 918-1516 or send an e-mail (DANDCGRAY@LIVE.COM) and I will make the required changes.

Don Gray, Membership Chair

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

In addition, they are also gearing up for the next Federal Benefits Open Season (November 12 – December 10, 2018). They will hold a Virtual Benefits Fair throughout this period. All you need to do is register for free at the LTC website above. You will be able to watch instructional videos, review plan information, visit individual program booths, and on select dates (November 13 and December 5), chat with program representatives.

If you are like me, you might need to seriously consider picking up supplemental dental and/or vision insurance this open season if you aren't currently enrolled. If that is the case, make sure you check out the LTC webinar entitled, "FEDVIP: Shop, Enroll, and Manage Your Dental and Vision Insurance" on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Discussion will take place of FEDVIP options, the choices you have when researching and enrolling in FEDVIP during open season, web and mobile sites, and benefit comparison tools.

Happy Fall!

Sheila Nichols, Service Officer



Linda L. Braswell, Programs Chair

WHAT IS THE STATE OF YOUR ESTATE?

Whether you are a Florida resident or a snowbird, keeping up with constant changes in the tax and estate laws is challenging at best. These can be complicated areas for anyone, and especially for seniors.

The speaker for the October 18, 2018 Luncheon Meeting will be a local Venice attorney, Steven W. Ledbetter, who brings us his expertise in estate law, wills, trusts, probate and beneficiaries. He will inform us about changes in the law in these areas. He has been practicing law for over 15 years, focusing on these areas of law since 2002.

In addition to having served as President of the South County Division of the Sarasota Bar Association, Mr. Ledbetter serves on the boards of many local non-profit and charitable organizations.

He will be available to answer questions after his presentation.



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



We extend our sympathy to Ilse Cavaliere, who lost her Frank this past month.

Thinking of You cards were sent to Kitty Koscielny, and Don Jahnke, and we spoke to Esther Schmitt.

We sent a card of appreciation to Joan Leonard for her donated hand-crafted cards.

Looking forward to Autumn. Good will to all!

**Urgently need new donations of new cards!**

## The September 2018 Meeting

### CHAPTER 717 MEMBERS RESPONDED GENEROUSLY TO COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Thank you to the thirty six Chapter 717 members who brought their donations of towels, cleaning supplies, soaps and detergents, paper goods, boxes of office supplies and trash bags to the September 20, 2018 Luncheon Meeting.

Along with an abundance of these items on the Suncoast Humane Society's Wish List, Chapter members brought pet accessories, Nylabones and toys for the rescued animals and sent Suncoast Humane Society representative, Jackie Elliott, home with check and cash *donations* of at least \$240.00.



Photo by Jon Cantor



Jackie Elliott, Suncoast Humane Society presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Linda Braswell, NARFE Chapter 717 Program Chair.

President Steve Shoub Installing Don Gray as Membership Chair of NARFE Chapter 717.

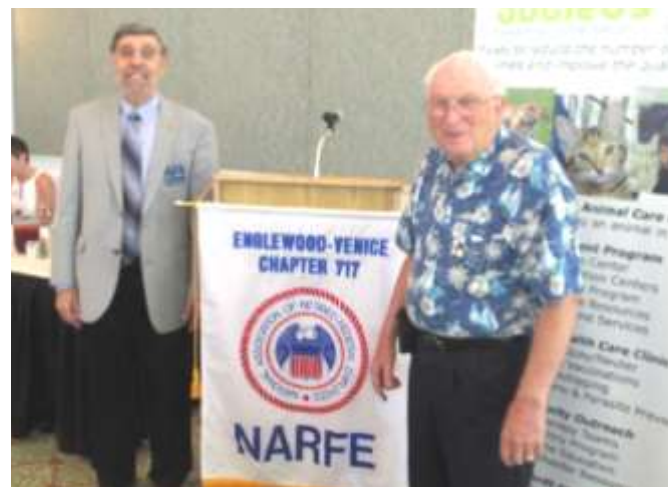


Photo by Jon Cantor



Membership Chair Don Gray and his wife Carol attended FEDcon18 in August.



Photo Courtesy FEDcon 18

Olivia Williams, far left, Chair of the NARFE Alzheimer's National Committee presenting a Certificate of Achievement to President Steve Shoub, 2nd from the right, of Chapter 717, at the 2017 NARFE Florida, Inc. Convention, for 3rd Highest Chapter Donations to the Alzheimer's Research Fund.



Photo Courtesy — Stanley Frazier

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, October 18, 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 Steven Shoub for reservations at 941 473-7395 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 \$20.00.  
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. Chicken Parmesan
2. Baked Salmon Veronique (white wine sauce with light grapes)
3. Pears in Greens Salad with Coconut Shrimp and a Cup of Soup du jour

Included with Entrees 1. and 2. —  
House Salad with Choice of Dressings,  
Orzo Pasta, and Italian Blend of Vegetables

Dessert: Tiramisu

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.