



National Active and Retired FEDERAL EMPLOYEES Association

NARFE ENGLEWOOD - VENICE Chapter 0717
Celebrating our 60th Year, founded 1959.

NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Published Monthly (Except July & August)

Safeguarding and improving your earned rights and benefits.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

President Steve Shoub



Sandy Walker was terrific. A Chapter photo slide show ran during the meeting. We will again display many of the items displayed at the February meeting at the March 21st meeting.

Upcoming Event Reminders:

March 7, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting
11:00am at Jacaranda Library

March 21, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting with
Venice MainStreet, Inc.

April 4, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting
11:00am at Jacaranda Library

April 18, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting

April 25, 2019 Annual Chapter Picnic

Chapter 717 Gala 60th Anniversary Celebration at our meeting on February 21, 2019 was a grand success. We honored our 90-plus year old members and Past Presidents. Also attending were Venice Mayor John W. Holic, Author and Reporter Kim Cool, NARFE Region III Vice President Clarence Robinson, Florida Federation District 8 Vice President Dave Ross and his wife Nancy, North Port Chapter 1713 President Arpad Szatori and other guests, visitors and members (56 attendees total). Musical Entertainment was provided by the Martin Duo. There was a large display of chapter 717 historical documents and photos. A patriotic miniature display created by

Venice Mayor Holic read and presented the chapter a Proclamation declaring February 21, 2019 as NARFE Day in Venice. Region III VP Robinson read a letter and presented the chapter with a Certificate of Appreciation from NARFE President Ken Thomas, and District 8 VP Ross presented the Chapter with a Certificate of Appreciation in honor of the Chapter's 60th Anniversary. Chapter President Steve Shoub and Region III VP Robinson presented Linda L. Braswell with a Presidents Award plaque for her many years of dedicated service to the Chapter. President Shoub presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Honorees and the Honored Guests.

During the meeting, Programs Chair Linda L. Braswell introduced and interviewed the four attending 90-plus year old Honorees who each spoke briefly of their Federal service. Any 90-plus year olds who were not honored at this meeting will be honored at the March 21 meeting. I encourage our "hidden" 90-plus year old members to come forward and be recognized! If this is you, contact me, please.

Kim Cool wrote a very supportive, lengthy article including a few photos which appeared in the Venice Gondolier Sun newspaper on the front page of the Our Town section in the Wednesday, February 27 edition. I hope you read it! It does contain a few factual errors, but it is a very positive article and promotes our Chapter 717 in the Venice area. We thank her!

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

We thank the Pelican Pointe Clubhouse for the use of their projector, for their generous donation of the champagne for our Anniversary Toast, and for their continuous efforts to provide us with the best venue and service at modest prices.

Chapter 717 Election of Officers. The Chapter is in need of volunteers for the positions of Secretary and Vice President. Chapter election of officers will be conducted at the meeting on May 16. Officer Nominations will be announced at the meeting on March 21. Installation of elected officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) will be conducted at the Annual Meeting on June 20. Terms of Office run from June 2019 thru June 2020. Anyone interested in running for office should contact me or another officer as soon as possible! Please consider serving the Chapter in one of these important positions. If not you, then who?

March 21 Meeting. Programs Chair Linda Braswell has arranged a presentation by Nick Sperry, from Venice MainStreet, Inc. We are considering joining Venice MainStreet as a non-profit organization member. There is a lot to know about Venice MainStreet, so you should come and hear all about what it is, what does, and what it can do for our Chapter.

NARFE HQ Legislative Conference. Our Legislative Officer Tim Sherer will attend the NARFE Legislative Training Conference March 10 – 13, 2019. He will provide a report to the Chapter upon his return.

NARFE HQ Legislative Hotline. Current Legislative Hotlines are posted on our chapter website and they are available on the NARFE HQ website and can be heard by telephone at 1-800-456-8410, and select option 4.

NARFE Florida, Inc. Training Conference May 8-9, 2019 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando. All NARFE members in Florida are eligible to attend this conference. More information about content and costs are available on the NARFE Florida, Inc. web page at www.narfe-fl.net.

Annual Audit. The Audit Committee consisting of John Worden and Paul Caron will meet with Treasurer Jon Cantor this month to review the Chapter's financial "books" and produce an audit report of findings.

Kudos to our Membership Chair Don Gray. Don has been working diligently and creatively in the areas of member recruitment and retention and the management of our membership list. Be sure to thank him when you see him!



Address Corrections Cost Money. Postal rates have gone up! 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 so you can keep getting our Chapter Newsletter and the national *narfe* magazine.

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

“Thanks!” to members who have renewed membership and have chosen to pay the \$14 annual chapter dues!

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

CHAPTER CONTACT email: narfechapter717@gmail.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President : Steve Shoub

Vice President – VACANT

Treasurer: Jon Cantor

Secretary: Ruth Ann Worden

Service Officer: Sheila Nichols, tel. 301-788-3464, email: hr4u2@comcast.net

Membership Chair: Don Gray, tel. 941-918-1516, email: dandcgray@live.com

Legislative Officer: Tim Sherer

Programs Chair, Chaplain, and Alzheimer's Fund Chair: Linda Braswell

Sunshine Committee: Jean Marie Burton

Newsletter Editor: Barry Bye

Webmaster: John Burton

Facebook Manager: Wilfredo Lopez

Senior Advisors: Terry Greenwood, Nancy Marik, and Roy Reichelt, Jr.

WEB ADDRESSES:

Chapter – www.narfe717.org

Florida Federation – www.narfefl.net

National – www.narfe.org



Linda Braswell, Alzheimer's Fund Coordinator

CONGRATULATIONS TO NARFE MEMBERS!

NARFE members made a good effort to reach the \$13M NARFE National goal for the Alzheimer's Research Fund for 2018! As of December 31, 2018, NARFE members donated \$12, 946,540.47.

Chapter 717 members continue to be generous. We give a big THANK YOU to the member who donated \$150.00 to the Research Fund at the February Chapter 60th Anniversary Celebration. Every donation, large or small, is used for research and counts toward a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Donations of any amount are always welcome at any time.

Bring your check to a meeting made out to NARFE Chapter 717 with Alzheimer's Fund written in the memo section or mail it to Chapter 717, P.O. Box 2203, Venice, FL 34284. Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you to all.



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

Membership Report by Donald Gray
Chapter 717 Membership Chair

Chapter membership continues to hold at about 160 members. Good news in that the trend of annual decrease of membership has at least paused. All members must help to maintain a strong recruiting effort because factors that decrease membership never stop.

Resources to help your recruiting effort are available at every monthly meeting.

- Flyers with chapter meeting and contact information to post at your neighborhood club house or notice board.
- Chapter calling cards you can personalize and use at businesses and gatherings to direct prospective members to you.
- No money down membership applications. Provides reduced annual National membership dues by monthly dues withholding.
- Social membership applications for those not eligible for National NARFE membership but interested in the local chapter.

Request a Recruiter kit containing these items by giving me a call or e-mail.

Please remember to make your address, phone number, and e-mail changes to your NARFE National record, or submit a change request form to a chapter officer.

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 Don Gray at 918-1516.



Service Officer's Corner

by Sheila Nichols, Chapter 717 Service Officer



Happy March! Here are my 4 teacup poodles wishing you a Happy St. Patrick's Day. From left to right are Shaker, Martini, Margarita, and Salt.

This is a good time to talk about the upcoming changes to your “pot of gold” – your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

The TSP has said that widened withdrawal options will become effective in September 2019. Authority for the changes was enacted in late 2017 after years of criticism that the program's withdrawal choices were too limited.

The TSP had proposed the changes after surveys showed that many separated participants transfer their money to other retirement savings accounts such as IRAs because those accounts offer more tailoring of withdrawals. The TSP currently allows only one partial withdrawal after separation, with a subsequent withdrawal election having to cover the remaining balance. Even the one partial withdrawal is not allowed for those who took an in-service “age-based” withdrawal (allowed after age 59 1/2; only one of those is allowed, as well).

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Continued from page 5— Service Officer's Corner

While announcing the effective date, the TSP added some details of the new policies. The law allowed the TSP to limit the number of age-based in-service withdrawals and post-separation withdrawals; the TSP has now said that age-based withdrawals will be limited to four per year but there will be no limit on post-separation withdrawals.

The law also created more flexibility in the option to choose “substantially equal” withdrawals. Currently such payments must be taken monthly, account holders can change the amount only once a year, and those who stop such payments may take out the remainder only as a lump sum. As of September, they will be allowed to choose quarterly or annual payouts as well, change the amount or schedule at any time, and the requirement to take a lump-sum with the balance remaining after stopping the payments will be ended.

The law did not change the requirement, which applies to all similar retirement savings programs, that investors take minimum distributions after age 70 ½ (or after retirement if they worked beyond that age). However, there will no longer be a requirement to make a full withdrawal decision by that point.

The TSP earlier had announced a coming change that was not part of the law but that the TSP will carry out under its own authority: allowing account holders who have both traditional and Roth balances to specify how much of a partial withdrawal they want taken from each type of balance. Under current policy, withdrawals must be taken proportionately from each.

Enjoy March and look forward to the upcoming flexibilities available to your TSP (that pot of gold!).



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

Please call me if you are in need of a Sunshine Call!

For all members who were unable to attend our anniversary, we wish them "get well"s.



We sent cards to: Ilse Cavalier, Leroy Herman, Bob Morris, and Phyllis Angelastri.

To every member, Good Health and Good Will to all!



Linda L. Braswell, Program Chair

Venice MainStreet Visits at our Meeting on March 21, 2019

Venice MainStreet, Inc. is a volunteer driven nonprofit organization focused upon historic preservation, economic development, beautification and promotion. It collaborates with the City of Venice and local community groups. Venice MainStreet sponsors local events, concerts and programs. Its influence and reach is year round.

You have probably already participated in events and programs sponsored and arranged by Venice MainStreet without knowing it.

The Executive Committee of Chapter 717 is considering joining Venice MainStreet as one of its community partners in the Greater Venice area to promote and advertise our Chapter at their events and to be placed on the organization's broad outreach of directory and website listings.

Come out and hear all about the current operation and programs sponsored by Venice MainStreet at our meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at the Pelican Pointe Clubhouse.

The Chapter 717 60th Anniversary Celebration Exceeded All Expectations

As Chair of the 60th Anniversary Celebration, I asked Committee Members to create specific displays and exhibits based on examples I have seen of their talents and their past work. Each and every committee member surpassed all expectations with wonderful, meticulous, professional work! I thank **Nancy Marik** for creating Invitations and displays, **Sandy Walker** for her wonderful, patriotic miniature display, **Matt Prisutti** for his marvelous photos of Past Presidents **Roy Reichelt** and **John Burton**, and Matt's photos of the Chapter 50th Anniversary Tree on West Venice Avenue as it looks 10 years after planting. Thank you to **Ruth Ann Worden** for creating the elegant Honoree Name Tags and Display of Chapter Past President Names and Dates of Service, **Jean Spataro** for her historical photo tribute to Past President **Lou Spataro**, photographers **Jon Cantor** and **Terry Greenwood** for photos taken before and during the event, photographers **Matt Prisutti**, **John Burton**, **Jon Cantor** and others for photos which **Steve Shoub** incorporated into a continuous slide show, and **Tim Sherer** for renting a wheelchair and escorting the Honorees. I thank all those who worked tirelessly and willingly to set up and ensure the success of the event, including **Peg Oatley**, **Celeste Iacampo**, **Jon Cantor**, and **Betty and Bob Stern** who stayed to make certain that every display was safely packed away including Chapter historical items on loan from Venice Museum and Archives. And finally, thank you to the dedicated Chapter Callers who never fail.

Linda L. Braswell, 60th Anniversary Celebration Chair

The Chapter 717 Gala 60th Anniversary Celebration was Wonderful!



60th Anniversary Display Table

The right side has many historic photos and awards and a display of "Service to Community" created by Linda Braswell. The center has the anniversary cake. The immediate left has Sandy Walker's display, and middle left back, a display of "Service to America" created by Linda



Nancy Marik shows her design work. The items include Chapter Ads in Florida Federation Annual Convention Books just to Nancy's left, Display of Invitations sent to Honorees for 60th Celebration in front of the Ads, and Display of 2009 NARFE DAY Tree Planting in Centennial Park at Nancy's feet.

Sandy Walker displays her patriotic miniature creations. The middle display is entitled, "United We Stand." The left display is an open book of patriotic miniatures. The right display is Betsy Ross and is titled, "God Bless America."



And more from the 60th Anniversary Celebration



**90 Plus Year Old Honorees
At The 60TH Anniversary
Celebration.**

**(l-r) Marcy Sarkozy,
Esther Schmitt,
Tom Martorana,
Marian Kelly**

**Chapter 717 Members Enjoying
The 60TH Anniversary Celebra-
tion.**



**Mayor John Holic Presenting A Proclama-
tion Declaring February 21, 2019 NARFE
Chapter 717 Day in Venice.**

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 21, 2019** 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**

Warm Rolls and Butter

Choice of Entrée:

1. Corned Beef and Cabbage with Boiled Potatoes
2. Salmon with Dilled Hollandaise Sauce with Green Beans Almandine and Boiled Potatoes
3. Normandy Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast, including Greens and Craisins, Raisins, Sliced Apples, Dates and Pralines (candied Pecans) and Chef's Soup du jour

Included with Entrees 1. and 2. —

House Salad with Choice of Dressings

Dessert: Irish themed dessert

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.