



Protecting the Future for
ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
NARFE ENGLEWOOD - VENICE CHAPTER 0717
CELEBRATING OVER 50 YEARS - FOUNDED 1959
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2012, Issue VIII

Published Monthly (Except July & August)

Safeguarding and improving your earned rights and benefits.



FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S
DESK

**President
Steve Shoub**

I received notice that, so far, the NARFE PAC Fund has given a total of \$7,000.00 to the Bill Nelson for US Senate campaign and a total of \$2,500.00 to the Keith Fitzgerald campaign. No NARFE PAC funds were listed as given to the other candidates in those two campaigns. Our work continues to focus upon supporting the NARFE Legislative Agenda and the providing of Benefit Services to our members. Plan to vote in November!

We will next meet on October 18, 2012, at the Pelican Pointe clubhouse restaurant for lunch, a speaker's presentation and a business meeting. The Social Hour begins at 11:30 a.m., Lunch is served at Noon, our speaker will begin at 12:45 p.m., and the business meeting follows the speaker's presentation. Our speaker will be Ken Thomas, President of NARFE Florida, Inc. He will inform us of the current NARFE issues and the objectives and programs of the federation of NARFE Chapters in Florida. Please show your support by attending this meeting.

Change in meeting date. Our Annual Meeting and Holiday Party meeting will be on the second Thursday in December this year: **December 13, 2012.** Mark your calendar. Plan to attend. Active and Retired Federal employees, NARFE Members and their guests are eligible to attend.

Entertainment will be provided. Santa will visit.

Member Craft Show. There will be table at our January meeting for our first Member Craft Show. Members are urged to bring in their self produced craft and artworks for display. We have talent, let's show it! No sales allowed at this event, please.

"Membership in NARFE is an investment, not an expense." Watch out for Congress! Sign on to the NARFE HQ web site at www.narfe.org and use the Legislative e-mail system there to e-mail your congressional delegation. Keep vigilant! Support NARFE! Protect our earned benefits! Do it now! Do it often!

Help Wanted. Now is the time to ask yourself if you should offer to take a position as a Chapter Officer or to work on a committee. We are searching for a **Chapter Secretary** and other officers and committee people for 2013. Think of the friends and acquaintances you've made in the chapter. We need each other and the Chapter. The Chapter needs you. Let's work together to keep the chapter strong for many years to come. Isn't it time for you to volunteer!

Thank you and Recognition

A special "Thank you!" to **Lillian Karmel**, our recently "retired" Sunshine Chair and to **Jean Marie Burton** our "new" Sunshine Chair.

Mark your calendars! This year the Federal Health Benefits Open Season will begin on Monday, November 12 and end on Monday, December 10, 2012. Check the OPM and NARFE HQ website for more information.

(Continued on Page 2.....From your President)

CHAPTER OFFICERS:**Chapter Elected Officers**

President, Steve Shoub	473-7395
Email: SLSHOUB@verizon.net	
1st Vice-President, Jon Cantor	497-7972
Email: jon.cantor@comcast.net	
2nd Vice-President, Linda Braswell	473-7395
Secretary, Carolyn Bach	445-4536
Email: carolyn.bach@comcast.net	
Treasurer, Maria Petrola	244-0915
Email: mariadeh@comcast.net	

Appointed Officers

Alzheimer's, Elizabeth Banta	493-0854
Email: lizbanta@aol.com	
Chaplain, Linda Braswell	
Historian, Don Jahnke	486-0970
Email: drjahnke@comcast.net	
Legislative Officer, Bill Leatham	480-9382
Email: w@data200.com	
Membership, Lucy Boyce	492-4546
Email: lucyboyce86@msn.com	
Newsletter Editor, Carolyn Bach	445-4536
Email: Carolyn.Bach@comcast.net	
Public Relations, Celeste IaCampo	966-8887
Email: mikeceleste@verizon.net	
Recruitment and Retention, Barry Bye	412-9181
Email: barryvbye@gmail.com	
Senior Advisors:	
Roy Reichelt	408-8822
Email: reichelt348@aol.com	
Lou Spataro	484-1441
Email: louspataro@yahoo.com	
Terry Greenwood	492-6916
Email: tmg@gte.net	
John Burton	412-8543
Email: johnburton@comcast.net	
Nancy Marik	485-5458
Email: nancymarik@comcast.net	
Service Officer, Jean Marie Burton	412-8543
Email: johnburton@comcast.net	
Sunshine, Jean Marie Burton	412-8543
Email: johnburton@comcast.net	
Tel. Meal Coordinator, Elizabeth Banta	493-0854
Email: lizbanta@aol.com	
Ways and Means, VACANT	
NARFE Net Coordinator, Bill Leatham	480-9382
Email: secretary@narfeffl.net	
Webmaster, John Burton	412-8543
Email: webmaster@narfe717.org	

WEB ADDRESSES:

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

Your story continues here...

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 Independent & Assisted Living
 a BROOKDALE® managed community
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Paula Carney
 Sales and Marketing Manager
 Main (941) 485-1196
 Fax (941) 484-6674

paula.carney@brookdaleliving.com
 1420 East Venice Avenue, Venice, FL 34292
 Assisted Living Facility # 7200

Continued from Page 1.....from your President

Membership. All members are responsible for membership growth. Bring an active or retired Federal employee to a meeting or give them an application for membership. Remember, only you can keep NARFE and Chapter 717 strong. Need an application for membership? Contact the Membership Committee Chair Lucy Boyce. Think about paying your dues through dues withholding or obtaining a NARFE life membership. Ask us about how to do it.

NARFE Alzheimer's Fund. The main official NARFE charity is Alzheimer's funding for research, and to that end we push now 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 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.

Chapter Web Site. Our Chapter web site is constantly improving and very informative, including photos of chapter events and links to other important sites. The web site is for you. Please view it at: www.narfe717.org. Comments, complaints, kudos - contact Web Master John Burton.

Welcome back, SnowBirds! Let the Membership Chair know you have returned!

We hope to see you at the next Chapter Meeting on October 18, 2012.

The following Executive Committee meeting will be on November 1, 2012.

- Steve Shoub, President



**Chapter 717 General Meeting
Thursday, October 18, 2012
11:30 a.m.
Pelican Pointe Golf & Country
Club**

The speaker for our October 18, 2012 meeting will be Ken Thomas, the President of NARFE Florida, Inc.. He was elected at the 60th Annual Convention in May on a platform of his years of experience as an officer at Chapter and Florida Federation levels and telling Congress "don't balance the federal budget on the backs of active and retired federal workers".

As a retired federal employee, you will want to hear this special and dynamic message from a leader who is committed to being proactive in protecting your earned benefits including health care and pensions.

What's on the WEB?

Our NEWSLETTER in color!

**By the 1st Monday after the
Exec Meeting (1st Thursday)**

Where? On the homepage just click the Newsletter Button to the left of the banner!

So need some info and can't find the paper? Just check-it out on our WEBSITE!

www.narfe717.org

Check out the Photo Gallery on the Web!



**Sunshine Officer
Jean Marie Burton**



This is my first monthly re-

p o r t

and I hope I can fill Lillian Karmel's shoes as Sunshine Officer. My first call was from Janet Buckland who lost her sister, a longtime member of the North Port NARFE Chapter, Marie Archambault, who was most active in their Alzheimer projects and will be greatly missed. Janet also is planning on entering Village on the Isle by the end of this year.

We would like to make a note of the correct address for our NARFE friends—Audrey Shaw and Virginia Smith who are residents of Venetian Gardens—1450 Venice East Blvd.-Venice-34293.

At the September meeting it was announced that Claire Shomody was hospitalized with a stroke. My last report is that Claire is home and receiving some in home rehab. Thanks to Pat Flanagan for keeping me abreast of Claire's progress.

Our own Treasurer, Maria Petrola, had a fall up there in beautiful, cool, Maine and suffered an arm injury which is healing nicely.

Please remember to call me with any information of interest to our fellow NARFE members or a member in need of help. *Please contact me by phone at 941-412-8543 or via email at johnburton@comcast.net*



Membership Chair

Lucy Boyce

941-492-4546

lucyboyce86@msn.com

ALL NARFE MEMBERS: YOUR membership is valued in making NARFE the strong organization that works very diligently to protect our benefits and rights. We need new members. Invite and welcome your neighbors and friends to a luncheon/meeting and share with them the wonderful, informative and entertaining programs we offer.

ACTIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES: You need to talk up NARFE at work—NARFE represents them ALL for lobbying to prevent reductions or eliminations of their salaries and health benefits. Remember up-to-date articles on legislation can be found in the monthly NARFE Magazine and on the Internet.

Our membership is aging; therefore, we need new members to take their places and to grow! NARFE has worked hard during the past years for the benefits we now enjoy. Dues are very low and can be paid by dues withholding.

Know the candidates and VOTE on November 6th! YOU can make a difference!

Address Changes: If you are changing address, email or phone numbers, please contact me.

Seasonal Residents: please notify me NOW of return date and any change in addresses.

Phone: (941) 488-7737

Ewing FUNERAL HOME

GEORGE B. KALBFLEISH
Licensed Funeral Director

140 E. Venice Ave
Venice, FL 34285

Welcome New Members!



Donald Cavern
Cynthia Christenson
Scott L. Fogo
Addie Paul

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Effective date of change: _____

Name: _____

Member Id (if known): _____

Email: _____

Englewood-Venice Chapter Area Address

Phone Number: _____

Street/Apt: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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.

Alternate (Away) Address

Phone Number: _____

From: Month _____ Day _____

To: Month _____ Day _____

Street/Apt: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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 via email to Lucy Boyce, Membership Chair, at lucyboyce86@msn.com. Please include all required information from this form in your message.

Reminder: When you are called about meeting meal reservations, please make a reservation only if you are relatively sure you will be attending the meeting. No reservation? You can attend the meeting anyway. We usually have a few extra meals on hand for late deciders and guests.



Service Officer

Jean Marie Burton**Considerations during FEHB Open Season**

November 12th thru December 10th is FEHB open season, the time when you can change your FEHB insurance carrier.

For those of you entitled to Medicare (over 65 or disabled under Social Security) your Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) insurance acts mainly as a supplemental insurance to your Medicare benefits. Medicare is your primary payer. Your FEHB insurance pays the Medicare deductibles and the Medicare coinsurances. All FEHB policies do this, regardless of their premium cost.

Some FEHB plans provide more generous prescription drug benefits when compared to other plans. This may be a consideration in your decision to opt for a plan with a higher premium.

Some FEHB plans provide a more generous menu of additional benefits that may or may not apply to your individual circumstances. You have to consider this issue, also, in arriving at a decision as to the best plan for you. If you take frequent trips outside the States - for example, lots of cruises - you may want a plan that provides you benefits in the event you get sick on the cruise or in a foreign port.

The difference in premium cost from one plan to another can be very substantial. As an example, the standard FEHB plan for Blue Cross – Blue Shield is over two hundred dollars more expensive than the standard FEHB plan for GEHA.

For the additional premium BC/BS offers some benefits that GEHA does not offer, such as more generous prescription drug benefits and some coverage while on foreign travel.

But both plans cover all the Medicare deductibles and coinsurances, and it is worth analyzing carefully the value of the additional services for the substantial difference in premium.

**January 17, 2013 Meeting
Arts and Crafts Display**

Along with devoting hours to local volunteer organizations since retiring from federal government careers, many of our Chapter members have been refining and expanding their artistic skills and creative talents. The January 17, 2013 Chapter Meeting is your chance to showcase your own original creation of your hobby, craft or artwork at our Member Arts and Crafts Display. Whether your creation is a result of a class you've taken in retirement, or a skill you've worked at for thirty years, we offer you the opportunity to showcase your pop art sculpture, painting, knitted shawl, pottery, metalwork, photograph(s), self-published book, woodworking, calligraphy, poetry, etc. You can contribute to the incredible variety of artistic and creative endeavors that Chapter 717 members have designed and executed. Display only--no sales. For further information, contact Linda Braswell.



My View by Steve Shoub

Legislation is one of the two missions of NARFE. The other is retirement benefits service to members. As an organization, we are against any legislative proposals that would reduce or compromise our earned pensions and earned benefits. Conversely, we support any legislation that would preserve or enhance them.

For NARFE, the election this November is primarily about the future of our earned pensions and earned benefits. Certainly, there are other legislative issues the citizens of this country must take into consideration when making decisions about for whom to cast votes. Some of the issues of great concern affect retirees and other senior citizens, including NARFE members. Some are in the NARFE Legislative Program.

I believe that at least 95% of us have already determined which candidates will get our vote in the races for President, Senator and Representative. Our membership is composed of citizens with various political points of view and affiliations. There are few minds now undecided.

We are a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization. It is my determination that we have a duty to publish in this Newsletter information which factually clarifies the political positions of the candidates or their political parties. We will leave partisan or incomplete commentaries for other venues, such as newspapers and television. At this stage of the race, I believe, it will change nobody's mind to print what some might label as political propaganda. We have differing political viewpoints. But, we must be united in support of the mission to preserve our earned pensions and benefits. Always remember, NARFE needs you and you need NARFE. NARFE is all we have to represent and lobby Congress for our retirement interests.

No matter what your political affiliation, or who you believe may best serve your political position, you must vote in the November election.

NARFE Legislative Hotline. Learn what's up with Congress and our earned benefits at the NARFE Legislative Hotline. It is a weekly recording for telephone callers made Fridays when Congress is in session. The number is 1-877-217-8234. The Hotline is also available on the Internet at www.narfe.org and click on the Legislative Hotline Message. Check out the full Legislative section of the NARFE HQ website; it's much improved, informative and even somewhat entertaining!

Local Contacts for Your Senators and Representative:

Senator Bill Nelson
Landmark Two
225 East Robinson Street, Ste. 410
Orlando, FL 32801
Phone: 407 872-7161
Toll Free in Florida 1-888-671-4091
Website: <http://billnelson.senate.gov/>

Senator Marco Rubio
3802 Spectrum Boulevard
Suite 106
Tampa, FL 33612
Phone: 813-977-6450
Website: <http://Rubio.senate.gov/>

**Honorable
Vern Buchanan**
U.S. House of Representatives
Sarasota District Office
111 South Orange Avenue, Suite 202W
Sarasota, FL 34236-5806
Phone: 941 951-6643
Fax: 941
951-2972 <http://buchanan.house.gov/>



Chapter 717 General Meeting September 20, 2012

Carroll Floyd, President of Sarasota Chapter 242, was our guest speaker. He was our Chapter designated proxy at the NARFE National Convention and highlighted the events and discussions at the convention.



BE SKEPTICAL OF BROCHURE TRAVEL TERMS

By Paul F. Caron

Murielle and I did a lot of traveling during the past two years (by car, bus, tram, vertical train, airline, ferry, train, cable-car, ship and on foot). I want to share with all of you some of the things we learned about **travel brochures**. For your convenience I have prepared a list which will help you determine what is really meant by the **terms and language used** by the travel industry:

BROCHURE/TRAVEL INDUSTRY

All the amenities
Gentle breeze
Airy
Brisk
Bustling metropolis
Open bar
Plush
Deluxe motor coach
Unique
Warmed by the Gulf Stream
Off the beaten path
Standard
Deluxe
Undiscovered
Convenient
Playground of the stars
You like being pampered?
Tree-lined boulevards
Old-world charm
Sun-drenched
Tropical
Panoramic vista
Majestic setting
Magnificent view
Authentic native dishes
Options galore
Secluded hideaway

TRANSLATION

Free shower cap
Gale force winds
No air conditioning
Freezing
Thousands of hostile locals
All the ice cubes you want
Top and bottom sheets
Bus with clean windows
No one else would do this
Cold
People stopped coming
Substandard
Standard
Not worth discovering
Bring bus fare
Regis Toomey stayed here
You can get waited on
No sightseeing
No bath
Arid wasteland
Rainy
A long way from town
A long way from town
A long way from town
Inedible but cheap
Nothing included
Unable to find or get to



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*Membership in NARFE
is an investment, not
an expense!*

ADDRESS LABEL

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

The October meeting of the Englewood/Venice Chapter 717 will be held on **Thursday, October 18, 2012..** Ken Thomas, President of NARFE Florida, Inc. will be our guest speaker. Please join us for this meeting at the Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club. The social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by a sit-down luncheon beginning at noon. A cash bar is available. **Reservations are required.** Liz Banta will coordinate this month's reservations. She can be reached on 493-0854 should you have any questions or want to make or change a reservation. *All current and retired federal employees, spouses, and guests are welcome.*

Make checks payable to **NARFE Chapter 717**

Cost, including tax and tip is \$16.00

**Pelican Pointe
Golf & Country Club
499 Derbyshire Dr., Venice, FL**

MENU

House Salad of Field Greens
Rolls & Butter

Choice of Entrée:

California Chicken
or
Salmon Veronique

Chef's Choice Vegetables
Roasted Potatoes

Key Lime Pie

Coffee, Decaf and Iced Tea

MEETING LOCATION

Directions:

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.