



Protecting the Future for

ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

NARFE ENGLEWOOD/VENICE CHAPTER 0717

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS (1959 - 2009)

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, Issue IX

Published Monthly (Except July & August)

Safeguarding and improving your earned rights and benefits.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

President John Burton

Items of Interest

Federal Benefits Open Season - November 9 - December 14, 2009: My health insurance company, Blue Cross Blue Shield, just sent me their publication explaining changes from 2009 to 2010. If you have this type of insurance, you also have probably received such a booklet. Make sure you read and understand it, and also research what the other available insurance companies offer. You must advise OPM of your decision by December 14th if you wish to make a change. The web site <http://opm.gov/insure/> provides you with the links you need to find out all about your plan or about any other plan.

If you are over 65 and entitled to Medicare, your Federal group health insurance operates as a Medigap policy. For you it may make sense to choose the cheapest available policy that also includes prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as the coverage offered in Medicare Part D.

We do not plan to have a specific insurer speak to us this year, but I will be available to help you with any questions about this subject. I retired from Medicare -Main Headquarters in Woodlawn, Md. If I cannot answer you immediately, I promise to research the question and provide an answer.

Reemployed annuitants:

During political campaigns, we hear lots about the need for bipartisanship, but once governing commences, too often bipartisanship goes by the wayside. Fortunately for us Civil Service Retirees, this was not the case in recently passed legislation that allows retirees to be reemployed by the Federal Gov-

ernment without having their pension offset by their pay. For this we can thank Republicans John McCain (Senate) and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (House) and Democrats Carl Levin (Senate) and Ike Skelton (House), co-chairs and Chairs of the involved committees in both House and Senate.

Long Term Care Insurance: Look out! Premiums for the Long Term Care Insurance Program have increased by twenty five percent. Insurance companies blame the increase on a number of factors. First, the lapse rate they predicted was significantly higher than the lapse rate actually experienced. In other words, they expected folks to start with the insurance, pay for it for a while, then give up and drop it, freeing the insurance company of the inconvenience of actually having to pay a claim. Next, they argue that the return on the premiums they invested has been smaller than they predicted, putting a pinch on them financially. The bottom line is, according to NARFE, you are getting a huge increase in premium if you have this insurance.

Sponsoring New Members: The Chapter is still offering a free Chapter luncheon to any member who sponsors a new member. The conditions are that the sponsored person join the Chapter and pay the dues.

NOTICE OF ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2010

Nominations for the five principal officers for 2010 were announced by the Nominating Committee at the Chapter Meeting on October 15, and are as follows:

- For President: John Burton
- For First Vice President: William Leatham
- For Second Vice President: Jean Marie Burton
- For Treasurer: Liz Banta
- For Secretary: Carolyn Bach

All nominees are incumbents. At the meeting, additional nominations were requested from the floor and none were received. The election will be conducted at the Chapter Meeting on November 19.

CHAPTER OFFICERS:**Chapter Elected Officers**

President, John Burton	525-4264
Email: johnburton@comcast.net	
1st Vice-President, Bill Leatham	480-9382
Email: secretary@narfevl.net	
2nd Vice-President, Jean Marie Burton	412-8543
Email: johnburton@comcast.net	
Secretary, Carolyn Bach	445-4536
Email: carolyn.bach@comcast.net	
Treasurer, Elizabeth Banta	493-0854
Email: lizbanta@aol.com	

Appointed Officers

Alzheimer's, Lou Spataro	484-1441
Email: louspataro@yahoo.com	
Chaplain, Linda Braswell	
Historian, Jean Marie Burton	412-8543
Email: johnburton@comcast.net	
Legislative Officer, Dick Brettle	497-4493
Email: rbrettle@comcast.net	
Membership, Bette Gore	497-4479
Email: bettegore@aol.com	
Newsletter Editor, Carolyn Bach	445-4536
Email: news@narfe717.org	
Public Relations, Terry Greenwood	492-6916
Email: tmg@verizon.net	
Recruitment and Retention, Don Jahnke	486-0970
Senior Advisors,	
Roy Reichelt	408-8822
Email: rreichelt@aol.com	
Lou Spataro	484-1441
Email: louspataro@yahoo.com	
Steve Shoub	473-7395
Email: sshoub@verizon.net	
Service Officer, Paul Caron	475-9435
Email: dd-970@verizon.net	
Sunshine, Lillian Karmel	475-1340
Email: charlil@verizon.net	
Telephone, Jean Marie Burton	412-8543
Email: johnburton@comcast.net	
Karen Bosley	496-7694
Email: splkb@aol.com	
Ways and Means, VACANT	
NARFE Net Coordinator, Bill Leatham	480-9382
Email: secretary@narfevl.net	
Webmaster, Nancy Marik	485-5458
Email: webmaster@narfe717.org	

WEB ADDRESSES:

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

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**SUNSHINE
REPORT**

Lillian Karmel

SUNSHINE REPORT

I hope everyone is enjoying a healthy and happy fall in ‘paradise’ and we all remain healthy throughout the upcoming holiday season.

Please call me, Lillian Karmel, at 941-475-1340 or email me at charlil@verizon.net with any news concerning ailing members.

NARFE Alzheimer’s Fund

The 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 are tax deductible, please consider donating and get the tax benefit. 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-

Help Wanted

We have the following critical appointed committee position vacancy. **Urgent – we need you to volunteer!**

Ways and Means – Duties related to raising money for the chapter.

Anyone interested in more information or volunteering should call me. Isn’t it your turn to help out for a year? It’s only a few hours a month. You can do it.

Announcing!

For NARFE Members & Spouses Only

Exclusive Prices On Premium Hearing Aids

941-244-2922

Limited time offer Call for appointment now!

Hearing Clinic of Venice Inc.™

Dr. Richard Tibbitts, Au.D.

MEAL RESERVATION

PLEASE! If you need to cancel a reservation, call a meal coordinator up to the day before. We must give an accurate account to our dining representative at Pelican Pointe. They can order a meal when necessary, but cannot guarantee your preference of choice.

Remember, we welcome your guests at our meetings. Your donated door prizes are also appreciated at each meeting.

- Meal Coordinators

Jean Marie Burton, 941-412-8543

johnburton@comcast.net

Karen Bosley, 941-496-7694

splkb@aol.com

Support our Advertisers!

We extend our continued appreciation to our sponsors. NARFE Chapter 717 members are encouraged to consider their services for themselves, family and friends. Or, investigate possible volunteer opportunities within these organizations.

**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
Fax: 407 872-7165
Website: <http://billnelson.senate.gov/>

Senator Mel Martinez
Landmark Center One
315 East Robinson Street, Ste 475
Orlando, FL 32801

Phone: 407 254-2573
Fax: 407 423-0941
Website:
<http://martinez.senate.gov/public/>

Hon Vern Buchanan
US House of Representatives
Sarasota District Office
235 N. Orange Avenue, Suite 201
Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: (941) 951-6643
FAX: (941) 951-2972
Website: <http://buchanan.house.gov/>



Have address/phone/email changes?

Contact me, your Membership Chair, Bette Gore, Phone: 941-497-4479 or Email: bettegore@aol.com or complete and mail form provided below.

Greetings from your Membership Chairperson Please remember to let me know of any changes to mailing address, telephone, or email address so you never miss our Chapter news.

All members are responsible for membership growth. Bring a retired or current federal employee to a meeting or give them an application for membership. **Remember, only you can keep NARFE and Chapter 717 strong.** If you need an application form, contact any officer.

New NARFE Web Site to Share

www.fedemployees.org is a link to a new NARFE Headquarters site advertisement. You may direct potential new members to this site for more information about NARFE and how they can join! Check out this site for on-line information.

Federal Times has joined with NARFE to extend a Special Discount Offer to NARFE members. Support NARFE by subscribing to Federal Times for 52 weekly issues. In addition to a great rate, *Federal Times* will remit \$5 of every subscription to NARFE! Call 1-800-368-5718.

NARFE Legislative Hotline.

Learn what's up with Congress and our benefits at the NARFE Legislative Hotline. It is a recording 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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Effective date of change _____

Name: _____

Member Id (if known): _____

Email: _____

Chapter Area Address

Phone Number: _____

Street/Apt: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Check here _____ if you change your local address/phone each year you return. If so you will need to send in your new address/phone each new season.

Alternate (Away) Address

Phone Number: _____

Start with Month: _____ Thru

End Month: _____

Street/Apt: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Tear out the completed form and mail it to:

Membership, NARFE Chapter 717

P.O. Box 2203

Venice, FL 34284-2203

Chapter Web Site Our Chapter web site has valuable links and information as well as the current and past newsletters. It is up and running 24/7 for you. Please view it at: www.narfe717.org.

It is very informative and has links to other sites. You can join our e-mail list by clicking on the **SUSCRIBE** button on the left side of the Home Page. This will automatically create an email message for you to send with your request to receive Chapter 717 newsletters via email.

Consider paying your dues through dues withholding. If you pay dues by automatic deduction by OPM, you will receive the lower rate of \$24.85 per year – a saving of over \$4.00 per year. Call the Membership Chair or the Chapter President for more info.

E-Mail & Phone Number The Chapter's health depends on our ability to communicate with all of our members. For this reason, we ask that you provide us with your e-mail address and telephone number.

You can send this information to:

NARFE Chapter 717

PO 2203

Venice, FL 34284

Or you can e-mail to: johnburton@comcast.net or bettegore@aol.com.



Thanksgiving Blessings

Our November meeting will be November 19th. Mike and Debbie Gippert of the South County Food Bank will join us in giving thanks for all the blessings we as federal employees and spouses have enjoyed over the years. The South County Food Pantry distributes food to needy families and individuals in Venice, Nokomis, Laurel and Osprey. The number of people needing help is growing. Let us share this wealth by bringing a donation of a canned good for our food contribution basket to the Food Bank. Please be sure and make your reservation early with your caller. Price of meal is \$15.00. Guests and family are very welcome. For information call Karen Bosley or Jean Marie Burton.

The following non-perishable food items are needed: pasta (1 lb bag or boxes), spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, fruit juices (large size - apple, grape, cranberry, etc), pork and beans, canned fish (tuna and salmon), canned spaghetti or ravioli, canned chilli, canned beef or chicken stew, macaroni and cheese, canned tomato products, rice (1 lb bags), canned soup, cake mix, frosting, cereals (hot or cold). Bar soap, toilet tissue, shampoo and dishwashing detergent are also appreciated and so are financial contributions.

Holiday Luncheon

Plans are underway to have a successful holiday party with our traditional social hour followed by the luncheon, musical entertainment, a Santa Claus, gifts provided by our Chapter, and dancing! Sound Investment performs musical entertainment with songs from the 1940's to current hits. Don't miss this!

Kudos to the following volunteers for our Holiday Party committee: **Liz Banta, Dorothy Behm, Karen Bosley, Janet Buckland, Celeste Iacampo, Annemarie King, Carol Peek and Jean Spataro**. We need everyone to make this a memorable Holiday Meeting. Invite your friends and family! For this occasion there will be reservations paid in advance. The price is \$15.00 per person. Please complete the reservation form below to reserve your spot! This reservation form will also be available at the November meeting. Please call **Jean Marie Burton at 941-525-4264** if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help. Visit www.soundinvestmententertainment.com for a preview of the entertainers who will perform for you!



NARFE ENGLEWOOD-VENICE CHAPTER 717 – Holiday Party, 2009

Thursday December 17, 2009 at 11:00 AM at

Pelican Pointe Country Club
499 Derbyshire Drive, Venice Florida 34285

YES. Count me in to celebrate the Chapter 717 Holiday Party. I have enclosed a check for \$15.00 per person for each guest attending the luncheon. Includes hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar.

Meal Selection: ___ Traditional Holiday Dinner + ___ White Fish = ___ Total Meals X \$15 per meal

Reservations MUST be mailed by December 3, 2009

**Make check payable to
Mail to**

**NARFE Chapter 717
Elizabeth Banta, 1903 San Silvestro Drive, Venice, FL 34285**



SERVICE REPORT

Paul Caron

DEFINITIONS OF HEALTH TERMS

People say with time history repeats itself. Well with the current talks about revamping the U.S. Health System I guess it does. I was working in the Washington, DC area when President Clinton's wife came on the scene and started her COLOSSAL review of the U.S. Health Care System. After a couple of months with thousands of people working on her failed plan, many things started to emerge. One in particular was a list of new spoof type definitions for the medical area:

VEIN.....CONCEITED
ARTERY.....THE STUDY OF PAINTING
BACTERIA.....THE BACK DOOR OF A CAFETERIA
BARIUM.....WHAT DOCTORS DO WHEN PATIENTS DIE
BOWEL.....A LETTER LIKE A,E,I,O, OR U
CAT SCAN.....SEARCHING FOR KITTY
CAUTERIZE.....MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH HER
CAESAREAN SECTION.....A NEIGHBORHOOD IN ROME
COLIC.....A SHEEP DOG
D & C.....WHERE WASHINGTON IS
DILATE.....TO LIVE LONG
ENEMA.....NOT A FRIEND
FESTER.....QUICKER
GENITAL.....NOT A JEW
G I SERIES.....SOLDIER BALL GAME
HANGNAIL.....COAT HOOK
IMPOTENT.....DISTINGUISHED WELL KNOWN

LABOR PAIN.....GETTING HURT AT WORK
MEDICAL STAFF...A DOCTOR'S CANE
MORBID.....A HIGHER OFFER
NITRATES.....CHEAPER THAN DAY RATES
NODE.....WAS AWARE OF
OUTPATIENT.....A PERSON WHO FAINTED
PAP SMEAR.....A FATHERHOOD TEST
PELVIS.....A COUSIN TO ELVIS
POSTOPERATIVE.....A LETTER CARRIER
RECOVERY ROOM.....A PLACE TO DO UPHOLSTERY
RECTUM.....DANG NEAR KILLED HIM
SEIZURE.....ROMAN EMPEROR
TABLET.....A SMALL TABLE
TERMINAL ILLNESS....GETTING SICK AT THE AIRPORT
TUMOR.....MORE THAN ONE
URINE.....OPPOSITE OF YOUR OUT
VARICOSE.....NEARBY

Someone once told me that life is too short to take too seriously and to remember that laughter is good for the soul.

- Paul F. Caron, Service Officer



Member in the Spotlight

Dorothy (Dottie) Behm



Dottie retired from the Department of Defense in January 2003. She served as a high school teacher and elementary school principal on overseas U.S. military bases. She loved her job and taught school in Germany and in Japan. Dottie grew up in southern New Jersey and attended college in Ohio. Now she lives in Florida and loves it! Her mother and her brother also live in Venice.

Dottie enjoys reading, computer games and puzzles and especially traveling (when she can afford it!) She has traveled to many countries in Africa, Europe and the Far East as well as India and Afghanistan. She keeps busy now doing private tutoring from kindergarten children to adults. She is also an active member of Grace United Methodist Church in Venice.

Dottie's career took her far from her first job. When she was 10, she had a job catching chickens for \$1/hour!

Chapter 717 is especially grateful to have her as a member. She recently volunteered to take over our Public Relations beginning in January 2010.

- Written by Carolyn Bach



2010 FEHB Open Season

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB) Open Season for 2010 will open Monday, November 9 and close Monday December 14, 2009. Eligible annuitants, survivor annuitants and former spouse annuitants should receive information packets on Open Season by November 9. All Open Season changes for retirees and survivor annuitants are effective January 1, 2010, and premium changes are reflected in February 1, 2010 annuity payments. Open Season health insurance questions from annuitants should be directed to 888-767-6738.

Annuitants may enroll during Open Season for supplemental dental and/or vision programs under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). You can enroll in FEDVIP on the Internet at www.BENEFEDS.com or call 877-888-3337. FEDVIP information packets should be mailed to you prior to the start of Open Season. (Source: NARFE magazine, November 2009 issue)

LEGISLATIVE

OFFICER

Dick Brettle



Federal Long Term Care Insurance Increase

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste was encouraged by the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM's) announcement that it would extend the deadline for Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) enrollees to make changes in their coverage to avoid or mitigate a 25-percent premium increase. Most enrollees who added the automatic compound inflation (ACI) option to their FLTCIP plan are subject to the rate hike. OPM has moved the deadline from December 14, 2009, to February 15, 2010. (Source: NARFE Press Release of October 22, 2009)

My View on NARFE Uniform Dues Referendum

by Steve Shoub



I see it as critical to the life of NARFE as we know it that a Unified Dues Referendum be passed as soon as possible. You will have the opportunity to vote on the current Unified Dues Referendum proposed by NARFE Headquarters (Dues Referendum) at our Chapter meeting on November 19. As of this writing, all NARFE chapters in the USA must return their Dues Referendum ballots by December 8. I urge you to attend the meeting and vote YES for the Referendum.

Make no mistake about it. Without the approval of the Dues Referendum, NARFE Chapters and State Federations are living on borrowed time. As I understand it, the idea of Unified Dues mandates and guarantees Chapter membership for almost all current NARFE members and new members and State Federation membership for Chapters. Unified Dues means that NARFE will charge members one basic amount for annual dues (\$40); that amount being divided up among Chapters, State Federations and NARFE Headquarters; and thereby provide the Chapters and Federations dues income from almost all of their members. This will ensure the future of Chapters and Federations. The current proposed Dues Referendum will reduce the total annual NARFE dues you pay to \$40.00 from the current \$43.00. Under the proposal, Chapter 717 membership dues share will be reduced to \$9.00 from the current \$14.00 annual Chapter dues. Chapter 717 dues for Life Members will also be reduced to \$9.00. Our chapter can operate on the reduced amount.

Without Unified Dues, NARFE Chapters, including ours have a limited future. The current proposal is not perfect and many are nit picking it to convince people to vote against it. I urge you to be focused upon the need for Unified Dues now and to vote YES at the meeting. We can fix any of its imperfections at a future time. That's my view.

NOTICE OF BALLOT ON NARFE UNIFIED DUES REFERENDUM

The Chapter will conduct its balloting on the NARFE National Dues Referendum at the Chapter Meeting on November 19, 2009. All members are urged to attend this meeting and vote. Only those Chapter members present and voting will be counted. Those planning to attend should be sure that a meal reservation is made in advance so we can provide an adequate number of meals and seats for attendees.

Englewood/Venice
NARFE Chapter 717
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Venice, FL 34284-2203

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CHAPTER MEETING

The next meeting of the Englewood/Venice Chapter 717 will be held on **Thursday, November 19th**. Mike and Debbie Gippert from the South County Food Bank will be our guest speakers.

The luncheon meeting will be held at the **Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club**. Registration begins at **11:30 am**. The sit-down luncheon begins at **noon**. Cash bar is available.

All current and retired federal employees, spouses, and guests are welcome.

Make checks payable: NARFE Chapter 717

Cost, including tax and tip is \$15.00

MENU

- Garden salad
- Choice of Chicken **or** Fish Entree
- Chef's Choice of Side Dishes
- Rolls and butter
- Dessert
- Coffee, Decaf and Iced Tea

Door Prize Donations are Welcome!

MEETING LOCATION

**Pelican Pointe
Golf Country Club**

499 Derbyshire Dr., Venice, FL

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.