



National Active and Retired FEDERAL EMPLOYEES Association

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

NEWSLETTER

October 2019

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 3, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting
1:00pm at Venice Library

October 17, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting at Pelican Pointe Clubhouse

November 7, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting
1:00pm at Venice Library

November 21, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting at Pelican Pointe Clubhouse

December 5, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting
1:00pm at Venice Library

December 19, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting and Holiday Party

Luncheon Meal Menu Changes. As I previously reported, our luncheon meal menu choices at the Pelican Pointe Clubhouse were modified by the Clubhouse management primarily due to cost inflation. On page 6 of this Newsletter, more information is provided concerning the menu change decision. On page 10, you will see the meal choices for the October meeting, including the reinstatement of the small dinner salad and the price increase to \$22.00 per meal.

October 17 Meeting. Please come out to hear a presentation by a speaker from the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida whose programs serve the needs of elders in SW Florida.

NARFE National Balloting for 2019 Bylaws Amendments Referendum. At the time of this writing, the results of the national balloting are not available. Please check the NARFE HQ web site for the results. I hope you all had the opportunity to vote during September. It is your right as a member of NARFE. We discussed this referendum at the September 19 meeting.

September 19 Presentation. As previously reported, the Chapter 717 Legislative Officer Tim Sherer and I, along with two other local District 8 NARFE officers, met with District 17 Representative Greg Steube at his office in Venice for a Legislative Program discussion. See Tim's article about this meeting in the September Newsletter. At our September Chapter meeting, we briefed attendees about the meeting with Rep. Steube, including Rep. Steube's responses. In addition to Tim Sherer's presentation about COLAs, we informed Representative Steube about the NARFE-PAC program, specific NARFE Legislative Agenda issues, and some facts about Federal employee and retiree/survivor resident numbers and our significant financial impact in Florida and in his District 17. Rep. Steube said, and I paraphrase, that he is not in support of new legislation which would negatively impact current retirees and survivors.

Continued on Page 2—From the President's Desk

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

Venice MainStreet, Inc. We have joined Venice MainStreet as a non-profit partner. The VMS web site address is www.VisitVeniceFL.org. At the September Chapter meeting, Kathy Quigley volunteered to serve as the Chapter 717 Liaison to Venice MainStreet. We thank her for taking this important position.

Kudos to outgoing Secretary Ruth Ann Worden for her outstanding service during her term of office. We welcome Secretary-elect Gordon Wilkie who will be installed during October.

New FEHBP Healthcare Plan. As reported in the September 2019 edition of the *Federal Times*, OPM has contracted with GEHA to offer an FEHBP insurance plan called Indemnity Benefit Plan (IBP) this Open Season November 11 – December 9. Information about the new plan is expected to be released prior to the Open Season.

NARFE Legislative Action Center on the NARFE HQ web site is your home for information and action on the NARFE Legislative Agenda. In the Center, you can easily send prepared email messages to your Representatives and Senators about pending legislation and policies impacting our earned retirement benefits. This is a perfect method for "Armchair Activists" to actively pursue our mission of protecting our earned right and benefits. You can do this.

Executive Committee is meeting at 1:00pm at the new Library in Venice on the first Thursday of each month (except July and August). All chapter members are welcome to attend.

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. SnowBirds must do this so you can keep getting our Chapter Newsletter and the national *narfe* magazine.

Local Contacts for Your Senators and Representatives

Senator Rick Scott

716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

202-224-8274

<http://rickscott.senate.gov>

Senator Marco Rubio

201 S. Orange Ave, Suite 350
Orlando, FL 32801

407-254-2573

<http://Rubio.senate.gov>

Honorable W. Gregory Steube

U.S. House of Representatives

17th Congressional District

871 Venetia Bay Blvd.

Suite 112

Venice, FL 34285

(202) 225-5792

<http://Steube.house.gov>

Honorable Vern Buchanan

U.S. House of Representatives

16th Congressional District

111 South Orange Avenue,

Suite 202W

Sarasota, FL 34236

941-961-6643

<http://buchanan.house.gov>

Census Help Wanted. Temporary 2020 Census Jobs with the U.S. Census Bureau. Apply Online now at 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-562-2020. The announced pay is \$15.50 per hour and 58 cents per mile for travel. Paid training and flexible hours.

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

It is more important than ever to renew your NARFE and Chapter membership!

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

CHAPTER CONTACT email: narfechapter717@gmail.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President : Steve Shoub

Vice President: Don Gray

Treasurer: Jon Cantor

Secretary-elect: Gordon Wilkie

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

Venice MainStreet Liaison: Kathy Quigley

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

WEB ADDRESSES:

Chapter – www.narfevenice.org

Florida Federation – www.narfevl.net

National – www.narfe.org



Linda Braswell, Alzheimer's Fund Coordinator

DONATIONS BY CHAPTER 717 MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN CONTRIBUTING TO A CURE

Donations by Chapter 717 members to the Alzheimer's Research Fund were recognized by the NARFE Florida Federation of Chapters in 2019 with a certificate of honor for the second highest donations in the state over a two year period. Chapter 717 Vice President Don Gray and Carol Gray accepted the certificate on behalf of the Chapter at the Federation Conference in Jacksonville.

NARFE's official charity is Alzheimer's Disease Research. Chapter 717 members continue their longstanding history of generously supporting the research toward NARFE's goal of \$14 Million with individual donations. You are contributing to finding a cure for the disease which has been called the greatest challenge to the medical community worldwide.

Donations to the Alzheimer's Disease Research fund are always being accepted by your check made out to NARFE Chapter 717 at a monthly Luncheon Meeting or by mail to NARFE Chapter 717, P.O. Box 2203, Venice, FL 34284 with Alzheimer's Fund written in the memo line.

All donations, large and small, are gratefully accepted and appreciated. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



Vice President and Membership Chair

Donald Gray

918-1516

dandcgray@live.com

Membership Report by Donald Gray Chapter 717 Membership Chair

Chapter membership currently totals 157. This is down a few from earlier this year and below the 200 needed for us to receive the lowest postage rate. We maintain a mailing list of 200 by adding prospective members, local congress members, newspapers, and other interested organizations. Please check status of your membership and join us in recruiting new members.

NARFE started the National membership drive on September 1st. Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member recruited during the drive, and compete for monthly prizes of \$25 Amazon.com gift cards. A grand prize of a Kindle Fire will be awarded to a randomly selected recruiter at the end of the drive December 31, 2019. The new member application must include your NARFE member ID number for you to be credited. While there are various ways to apply for membership, I suggest you provide the F-135 brochure application form. Pre-mark the form with your information. The new member initial payment includes the chapter 717 dues for the first year. Please call me if you have questions.

Welcome back seasonal residents. Hope you enjoyed the summer and convinced your former work friends to move to the Venice-Englewood area to join the best NARFE Chapter in Florida! Don't forget to update your address in the National record, or submit a form to me or other 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



Service Officer's Corner

by Sheila Nichols, Chapter 717 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? This year's campaign theme is *We Give Because We Care*. Federal retirees and survivors are able to support any number of the almost 8,000 charities vetted and approved by OPM. It is simple and easy for retirees to participate. You can use your monthly annuity and/or credit card to contribute through the CFC.

In 2018, retirees pledged more than \$1.5 million to their favorite charities through CFC.

This fall, the CFC open solicitation period will run from September 9, 2019 through January 12, 2019. To help those in need by making a pledge, please visit the CFC's Online Donor Pledging System at <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov>.

If you have any questions, please email cfc@opm.gov or call (202) 606-2564.

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 are archived on their website, and all of their webinars are free. Just check out <http://www.ltcfeds.com>. Below are some of the webinars that might be of interest to you.

[Understanding VA Long Term Care Benefits](#)

[Aging in Place: Adapting Your Home](#)

[Aging in Place: Improving Mobility and Protecting Independence](#)

[Cognitive Rehabilitation and Strategies to Manage Cognitive Change](#)

[Medicare and the FEHB](#)

[Resistance to Assistance](#)

Continued from page 5— Service Officer's Corner

And, as most of you know by now, NARFE has wonderful webinars which are located at the link to the Federal Benefits Institute which can be found at <https://www.narfe.org/federalbenefitsinstitute>. These webinars are free to NARFE members.

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming Federal Benefits Open Season (November 11 – December 9, 2019). This is the time to seriously consider if your current health, dental, and vision insurances are meeting your needs. If you have recently enrolled in Medicare Part B (primary insurance), you might want to consider selecting a lower priced FEHB health insurance as your secondary insurance. It is always a good idea to “shop around” during open season. This is your opportunity to make a change. Last year I personally decided to select dental insurance for myself because I always seem to be in the dentist, periodontist, endodontist, you-name-it “dontist” chair!

Hope you are enjoying “Fall” here in Florida!

Luncheon Menu Changes at Regular Chapter Meetings

In a meeting in August with Pelican Pointe Clubhouse management, we were informed that to keep the meal cost at \$20.00 per person, including tax and tip, for the rest of this year, our meal menus will be changed as follows: 1. The small dinner salad and cup of soup will no longer be available; and 2. There will be two meal entrée choices instead of three each month. We will continue to be served rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and dessert.

At our chapter meeting on September 19, we had a long discussion; and we decided the following: 1. Reinstate the small dinner salad with hot meals; 2. Increase the cost of meals by \$2.00 to \$22.00 to cover the cost of adding the small dinner salad back in the menu; 3. Serve only hot meals and eliminate the large entrée salads with cup of soup as an option. Note that the decision to offer only two entrée choices instead of three was made by Clubhouse management and is not at this time negotiable.



**Chapter 717 Legislative Officer
Tim Sherer**

What About Our Senators?

Last month we reported that our District 17 Congressman, Greg Steube, met with Englewood-Venice Chapter representatives concerning NARFE legislative concerns. But what about our two Florida Senators, Rick Scott and Marco Rubio?

Greg D'Alessio is NARFE's Congressional Lead for the state of Florida. He has met with the staff of both senators in Washington DC in March, and in the Jacksonville area in August. He was unable to meet with the senators themselves. He reports the staff generally have been nice and receptive.

I am not surprised that staff members met with Mr. D'Alessio. I had a class on working with Congress. During that class we were told that if communicating with Congress through a twenty two year old staffer was beneath us, then we should have nothing to do with congressional interactions. This applies to Admirals and those in the Senior Executive Service as well as you and me. So while I am not surprised that our NARFE representative met only with staff, with 298,538 active and retired federal and postal employees in Florida, I certainly believe the Senators missed an opportunity to hear the concerns of a large voting block of their constituents.

Greg D'Alessio is continuing to try to arrange a meeting with the senators themselves. I wish him the best of luck!



Linda L. Braswell, Programs Chair

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROVIDES
RESOURCES FOR SENIORS**

The Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida is a non-profit organization tasked by Florida’s Department of Elder Affairs with improving the quality of social and health services for older adults in a seven county area. The Agency on Aging connects elders with resources, programs and workshops to enable them to live safely with independence and dignity.

Among the health and wellness classes they provide are the ones which concern senior adults most: maintaining balance and mobility and preventing falls. Medicare benefits counseling, elder abuse prevention, and education on fraud and scams are some of the topics they offer.

Our November 21st Luncheon Meeting will feature a presentation on the availability of these services for older adults here in Southwest Florida.



Jean Marie Burton, Sunshine Chair

941-525-4264

johnburton140@gmail.com



September has been a pleasant month.

A Thinking of You Card was sent along with our Best Wishes to Jean Spataro.

John Burton received a very positive discharge, and he is swimming and walking and enjoying a new life post heart surgery.

Remember to call or send me Sunshine News!

Presentation at the September 2019 general meeting



President Steve Shoub and Legislative Officer Tim Sherer reporting to the Chapter at the September 19 meeting.

Legislative Officer Tim Sherer reporting to the Chapter about meeting with Congressman Greg Steube held on August 29.



Vice President and Membership Chair Don Gray reporting to the Chapter with President Steve Shoub looking on.

Photos by Jon Cantor

Englewood-Venice
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS LABEL

The meeting of the Englewood-Venice Chapter 717 will be held on **Thursday, October 17, 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 \$22.00.
Make checks payable to:
NARFE Chapter 717**

**Pelican Pointe
Golf & Country Club
625 Center Road, Venice, FL**

Menu

House Salad of Field Greens with Choice
of Dressings

Warm Rolls and Butter

Choice of Entrée:

1. Pot Roast Jardiniere (wine sauce with mixed
vegetables)

OR

2. Baked Cod with Lobster Sauce

Entrees Come with Carrots and Vegetable Medley.

Dessert: Cheesecake 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.