

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

NARFE National Balloting for 2019 Bylaws Amendments Referendum. On page 6 of the September *narfe* Magazine you will find an article describing the National Bylaws Amendments Referendum and instructions for balloting. Seven (7) of the eight (8) proposed Amendments should be, in my opinion, approved and adopted. The other and most important and controversial proposed Amendment is number 1905 which proposes a change to the method of voting for national officers in NARFE from “Majority Voting” to “Preferential Voting.” Think of preferential voting as “weighted” voting: giving variable points for each voter’s first, second and third candidate choices for an office and declaring the candidate with the most total points the winner. According to Headquarters, this proposed amendment is being included because it is cheaper and easier for NARFE Headquarters to administer preferential rather than majority voting when there are more than two candidates for a national office. But, take a moment to think about proposed amendment number 1905 before you cast your vote, and ask yourself whether a change to preferential voting will provide NARFE with better leadership — better than selection by majority voting. The real question should not be: which voting method is the cheapest and easiest for Headquarters to administer? Think about it before you vote on proposed amendment 1905. Balloting ends on September 30. We will discuss this referendum at the September 19 meeting.

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.

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.

Local Contacts for Your Senators and Representatives

<p>Senator Rick Scott 716 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5274 http://rsc.senate.gov</p>	<p>Senator Marco Rubio 201 S. Orange Ave, Suite 350 Orlando, FL 32801 407-254-2573 http://rubio.senate.gov</p>
<p>Honorable W. Gregory Meeks U.S. House of Representatives 17th Congressional District 871 Venetia Bay Blvd. Suite 112 Venice, FL 34285 (202) 225-5792 http://wmeeks.house.gov</p>	<p>Honorable Vern Buchanan U.S. House of Representatives 10th Congressional District 111 South Orange Avenue, Suite 202W Sarasota, FL 34236 941-901-6643 http://buchanan.house.gov</p>

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

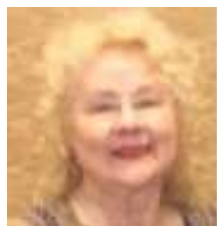
Senior Advisors: Terry Greenwood, Nancy Marik, and Roy Reichelt, Jr.

WEB ADDRESSES:

Chapter – www.narfevenice.org

Florida Federation – www.narfevl.net

National – www.narfe.org



Linda Braswell, Alzheimer's Fund Coordinator

STAYING MENTALLY ENGAGED AND MAKING GOOD HEALTH A PRIORITY MIGHT HELP TO WARD OFF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

In 2017, the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society reported that brain-stimulating activities such as researching your genealogy, taking a class on a new topic, and using a computer are associated with a reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease. As with physical exercise, which can slow muscle deterioration, exercising your brain is thought to build reserves of healthy brain cells and connections between them, according to the study.

As reported in the American Academy of Neurology 2018 publication Brain and Life, Neurology for Everyday Living, researchers are also taking broader measures to combat the disease by expanding the number of approaches in clinical trials. Combination therapies are being explored and researched, such as testing a multi-component lifestyle interventional approach, which includes physical activity, nutrition, diet and management of cardiovascular risk factors to determine the impact on cognition after two years.

Donations to the Alzheimer's disease 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.

Research references supplied upon request.



Membership Officer
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



Welcome Back! Since it is “back to school” for everyone else, we should be doing our homework as well, especially as it pertains to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). New withdrawal options are just around the corner as of September 15th!

If you need to withdraw money before the changes take effect, TSP must receive your properly completed request by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on September 6th. They will not be able to accept withdrawal requests during a brief period between September 7th and September 14th.

Remember, you are only gaining options. They are not taking anything away. You may want to wait until September 15th or later to request your withdrawal so that you can take advantage of more flexibility and use new, more efficient online tools to initiate your request.

- You’ll be able to choose whether your withdrawal should come from your Roth balance, your traditional balance, or a proportional mix of both.
- You will no longer need to make a full withdrawal election after you turn 70 ½ and are separated from federal service. You will still need to receive IRS required minimum distributions (RMDs).
- You’ll be able to take monthly, quarterly, or annual payments.
- You’ll be able to stop, start, or make changes to your installment payments at any time.
- You’ll have enhanced online tools to help you make withdrawals in the My Account section of www.tsp.gov.

You can find details on the new TSP rules by reading “Questions and Answers about Changes to TSP Withdrawal Options” at <https://www.tsp.gov/PDF/formspubs/tspfs10.pdf>.

As always, NARFE has many retirement related webinars that you can take advantage of, free of charge as a member, at <https://www.narfe.org/federalbenefitsinstitute/>. Even if you miss a particular session, they are all archived for you to “do your homework” at a later time.

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Upcoming NARFE webinars are as follows:

2019 Webinar Schedule (All Webinars start at 2:00 p.m. ET)

- September 5: Find a Clear Path to a Smooth Retirement
- September 19: Survivor Benefits: Pain-Free Planning
- October 24: FEHB and Medicare: What’s Your Best Choice?
- November 7: The Pros and Cons of Consumer Driven Health Plans
- November 21: Health Plans – What’s Your Best Option?
- December 12: Estate Planning for Feds – Protect Your Assets

On a separate note, please let me know if you have any suggestions that I can use as topics for future newsletter articles related to benefits or retirement. You can email me directly at hr4u2@comcast.net.

Happy “Homeworking” to you!

**Installation of Officers, Englewood-Venice Chapter 717,
for the 2019-2020 Term**

At the Annual Meeting on June 20, 2019, John Burton, former Chapter President, installed the following Officers for the 2019-2020 term:

President— Steven Shoub

Vice President— Donald Gray

Treasurer— Jon Cantor

Secretary-elect, Gordon Wilkie, will be installed at the September Executive Committee meeting.



Photo by Sheila Nichols



Chapter 717 Legislative Officer Tim Sherer

NARFE Englewood-Venice Chapter Meets With Congressman Greg Steube

On August 29, Chapter President, Steve Shoub, and Legislative Officer, Tim Sherer, met with District 17 Congressman Greg

Steube. Robert Waters, NARFE's District 17 Congressional District Lead also attended. The Congressional District Lead is tasked as the NARFE point of contact for congressional districts.

Our Chapter's primary reason for requesting this meeting with Congressman Steube was to protect Federal employee pensions. The President's budget for fiscal year 2020 included the following cuts to pensions:

1. Eliminating cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for current and future Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees.

FERS retirees already receive "COLA Light" which is a reduced amount of COLA when COLA goes over 2% a year. The typical FERS annuity is only \$14,000 per year.

2. Reducing COLAs for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees by 0.5 percent per year.

3. Eliminating the FERS Annuity Supplement for new retirees who retire before they are social security eligible. This is particularly harmful to law enforcement officers, firefighters and air traffic controllers who are mandated to retire before they are social security eligible.

4. Basing federal retirement on the highest 5 years of salary, instead of the highest 3 years of salary. This would apply to vested employees near or even above retirement age, thereby reducing their annuity.

The focus of NARFE's presentation was to voice our strong objection to cuts in federal pensions, particularly for those who have already retired. Congressman Steube voiced support for federal pensions not being cut for those already retired, which was certainly good to hear.

Steve Shoub wrapped up the presentation by going over the NARFE legislative agenda with Congressman Steube, listing current proposed legislation which NARFE supports or opposes. Overall, we were delighted that Congressman Steube was able to meet with us for 30 minutes, and that our presentation was well received.





Linda L. Braswell, Programs Chair

**CHAPTER 717 OFFICERS REPRESENT
YOU WITH OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS**

As part of NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month, your Chapter 717 President, Steve Shoub, and Chapter Legislative Officer, Tim Sherer, met with Congressman Greg Steube, who represents District 17 in Florida.

Their timely message was well received as they expressed the unfairness of changing the rules on earned benefits of retirees who gave so many years of service to America.

Legislative Officer Tim Sherer and President Steve Shoub will update Chapter members at the September 19th Luncheon Meeting about their message and presentation to the Congressman from your District and his responses. Also, we will discuss the NARFE Legislative Agenda that we, as NARFE members, should emphasize in the current term.

Come hear their report on keeping the NARFE message and your interests represented before Congress.



Jean Marie Burton, Sunshine Chair



Cards of Sunshine were sent to members reporting health or injury problems.

John Burton had five hour aneurysm surgery and is recuperating at home. Thanks for all your prayers.

If you have any Sunshine to report, you can call me at 941-525-4264 and I will send a card. Or you can email me at johnburton140@gmail.com.

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

Presentation of the South County Food Pantry at the June 20, 2019 Annual Meeting



Rosie Schroeder from the South County Food Pantry making her presentation.

Photo by Jon Cantor

Rosie Schroeder with some of the items donated by Chapter 717 members at the June meeting.



Photo by Steve Shoub

And also at the June 20 meeting

President Steve Shoub presents a Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing Chapter Secretary Ruth Ann Worden for her service to the Chapter.



Photos by Jon Cantor

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS LABEL

The meeting of the Englewood-Venice Chapter 717 will be held on **Thursday, September 19, 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**

Menu

Warm Rolls and Butter

Choice of Entrée:

1. Baked Salmon with Mango Sauce

**Green Beans Almandine
Red Potatoes**

2. Greek Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast

Dessert: Chef's Choice

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.