



Protecting the Future for

ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

**NARFE ENGLEWOOD - VENICE CHAPTER 0717
CELEBRATING OVER 55 YEARS - FOUNDED 1959
NEWSLETTER**

January 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:

January 3, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting
11:00am at Jacaranda Library

January 17, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting at Pelican Pointe GCC Clubhouse

January 28, 2019 Florida Federation District 8 Annual Training Seminar in North Port

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

February 21, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting and 60th Anniversary Celebration with Musical Entertainment

New Legislative Officer. Now that the Holiday Season religious and New Year celebrations are over, we begin our work in 2019. We are pleased to announce the appointment of new chapter member Tim Sherer to the position of chapter Legislative Officer. He is planning to attend the NARFE HQ Legislative Training Conference March 10 – 13, 2019. All members of NARFE are eligible to attend the Legislative Conference.

December 13 Meeting and Holiday Party Report. Our meeting was well attended by 45 members and guests. Everyone received a gift. Musical enter-

tainment by the Martin Duo was very entertaining and well received. Look for photos of the party in this Newsletter. A big “Thank you!” to our Programs Chair Linda Braswell for producing this event. Thanks also to: Peg Oatley and Linda Braswell for gift shopping, Treasurer Jon Cantor and Matt Prisutti for event photos, the Callers for making sure we had a good turnout for the meeting, and Celeste Iacampo for working at the reception table with Jon Cantor.

Monday, January 28, 2019, Florida Federation District 8 Annual Meeting/Training Seminar in North Port. All NARFE members and Chapter Officers are invited to attend the annual meeting of all the chapters in District 8 (Southwest Florida). State Federation Officers will also attend. Any members interested in attending should contact me ASAP for meeting reservations. The meeting will be held in the Olde World Inn. Lunch will be available at cost.

February 21, 2019, Chapter 717 60th Anniversary Meeting and Celebration. Our chapter will celebrate its 60th Anniversary and we will do it in style! Programs Chair Linda Braswell and her committee are planning a gala event. We are discussing having the Martin Duo appear at our 60th Anniversary Celebration on February 21. Their performance songs will not be same as the ones they sang at the Holiday Party in December. The 60th Anniversary Committee needs a few more members. Interested? Call Programs Chair Linda Braswell to volunteer or for more information.

Help Wanted. The chapter has the following vacant position: Vice President. Call me if you want more information about this position.

Continued on Page 2—From the President's Desk

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

Chapter Meal Reservations. A point of clarification is needed. All members who regularly attend our chapter meetings at Pelican Pointe will be called by our calling committee several days before each meeting. The Callers will ask you if you are going to attend the next meeting and, if the answer is yes, they will ask for your meal choice(s). In case you are not contacted by a Caller by the Sunday before the meeting, please call me with your meal choice(s) and for reservation(s). Please do not call or email me before Sunday, as the Callers are your primary contact for meal reservations.

Internet Trouble. As we informed you last month, we had some trouble caused by an Internet hacker. You will notice we created a new chapter email account, narfechapter717@gmail.com, which will be published in place of the chapter officers personal contact info. However, our Service Officer and Membership Chair requested that their info remain posted to facilitate contact by our members. If you receive a suspicious email message from my imposter, contact me before you respond to it! I'll never ask you for money or other financial favors.

COLAs. As announced in October, there will be a 2.8 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuities and Social Security benefits in 2019, but only a 2 percent COLA for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees.

NARFE Legislative Hotline. As was previously reported, Ken Thomas was elected NARFE National President. The current NARFE Legislative Hotline contains information about the progress of the NARFE Legislative Agenda. In it, President Thomas describes the status of important legislative initiatives and urges NARFE members to contact our Congressional representatives and urge them to support these important legislative proposals. 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.

Address Corrections Cost Money. Postal rates are going up this year! The U.S. Postal Service now charges the chapter \$0.59 for every misaddressed Newsletter it cannot deliver each month because your address of record in NARFE is wrong. 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 *narfe* magazine.



Kudos to our Editor Barry Bye for his creative and outstanding work on our Newsletters during 2018. Be sure to thank him when you see him!

January Program Note. We are exceptionally pleased to announce that Eric Watters, representing the Venice Theater, will be our program presenter at our meeting on January 17, 2019. He has visited our Chapter several times over the years, and his presentations have been well received. Please come to this meeting for an informative, interesting and entertaining presentation.

I'll see you at the next meeting!!

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

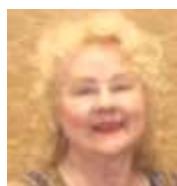
Senior Advisors: Terry Greenwood, Nancy Marik, and Roy Reichelt, Jr.

WEB ADDRESSES:

Chapter – www.narfe717.org

Florida Federation – www.narfefl.net

National – www.narfe.org



Linda Braswell, Alzheimer's Fund Coordinator

PROMISING NEW RESEARCH TO BEGIN HUMAN TRIALS IN 2019

According to recent publications, pharmaceutical remedies have failed in 99% of trials in Alzheimer's disease. Many companies have stopped making and testing new drugs to cure the fatal brain disease. As I reported in my presentation for National Alzheimer's Month in November 2018, research is concentrating on methods of treatment other than drugs.

One method which has worked in animal testing is the use of ultrasound to bombard the signature toxic amyloid proteins of Alzheimer's disease which invade the brain and lead to dementia and death. Researchers discovered that ultrasound clears the amyloid proteins from the brain in animals and testing on humans is slated to begin in late 2019.*

Thank you to all the Chapter 717 members who have donated to the Alzheimer's Research Fund in 2018. You have made a big difference in contributing to a cure. As of October 31, 2018, NARFE members nationally contributed \$12,867,484 toward the goal of the \$13 Million Fund for Alzheimer's Research.

Donations can be made at any time by check made out to NARFE Chapter 717 with Alzheimer's Fund written in the memo line. Bring your check to any Chapter meeting or mail it to Chapter 717, P.O. Box 2203, Venice, FL 34284-2203. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank You!

*Research citations provided upon request.

**Membership Officer****Donald Gray**

918-1516

dandcgray@live.com

**Membership Report by Donald Gray
Membership Chair**

Reduce your NARFE membership cost in 2019. NARFE National offers a membership dues reduction for retiree members who select dues withholding. How much? Presently annual national plus chapter dues total \$54 per year if paid annually. Select dues withhold, pay no money with your membership or renewal application, and \$4 will be withheld from your monthly benefit payment. That results in an annual cost of \$48, an annual savings of \$6, and a time saving for you in that renewal is automatic. No need for NARFE to send renewal reminders requiring your response every year. You may also have dues withheld for your member spouse. See me for more information and the required form.

Forms and information may also be obtained from the National web site. Enter "Dues Withholding" in the search box, select the form and download the resulting file. The brochure file can be opened, read and also downloaded.

NARFE also offers a lifetime national membership. A onetime payment depending on your age eliminates the need for annual national dues payment. Annual payment is required for Chapter dues. If you are interested, please request full information and application form from me. Call me (941) 918-1516 and I will mail one to you.

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 any one of the Chapter Officers listed on page 2.



Service Officer's Corner

by Sheila Nichols, Chapter 717 and Florida State Federation Service Officer

Happy New Year to Everyone!

I thought I would take this opportunity to talk a little about the new changes coming down the pike for the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). As you may recall, the TSP Modernization Act was passed and is expected to be fully implemented by mid-September 2019.

Under the new system, participants will no longer be forced to make a full withdrawal election—a choice between setting up annuity payments, taking a partial lump sum withdrawal, or a full lump sum payment—when they reach 70 and a half years old. People on installment payments can tell TSP that they want to stop taking installments for a while if desired.

TSP is working on three new forms to help participants make use of the new flexibilities, including one that allows participants to change the amount and frequency of their annuity payments at any time. You can change your monthly installment payments currently only once a year during a specific timeframe, but, in the future, you can choose between monthly, quarterly and annual installment payments, and changes can be made to that at any time during the year.

TSP officials said they plan not only to provide new flexibilities to participants, but make it easier to make use of those flexibilities. TSP will roll out four new “wizards” on the TSP website to help federal employees and retirees go through the various new processes. The “wizards” will tell you what’s in your account and will ask if you want to take withdrawals out of your Roth distribution or your traditional account. The “wizards” will understand what you have, so the “wizards” can suggest what distribution you can take – they will take you from start to finish in your withdrawal process.

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The first phase of implementation, focused on installment payment maintenance and removal of the withdrawal selection deadline, is slated to go into testing shortly. The public rollout of the new features is slated to occur on September 15th, although TSP officials will begin communicating with participants about the coming changes as soon as February of this year.

Be sure to check TSP's website at www.tsp.gov for the latest and greatest news on all things TSP-related. TSP has also created a fact sheet entitled "Questions & Answers about Changes to TSP Withdrawal Options" which can be found at: <https://www.tsp.gov/PDF/formspubs/tspfs10.pdf>

May you have a happy and healthy 2019!

**Sheila Nichols
Chapter 717 and Florida State Federation
Service Officer**

Continued from page 4— Membership Chair's Report

The National reward for your recruitment of new members ended December 31, 2018, but we still need your help in attracting new members. Chapter membership has slightly increased primarily due to existing NARFE members transferring into Chapter 717. Talk to your NARFE eligible friends about the great benefits of membership. Help us reach our desired goal of 200 Chapter members.

Use the address form on Page 4. to advise us of any change in your address, phone or e-mail address. Seasonal members should indicate their alternate address, along with usual dates of residency. This provides us a back-up in the event you forget to change your National record when you make the move between residences.

A Happy and Healthy New Year!

**Donald Gray
Chapter 717 Membership Chair**



Linda L. Braswell, Program Chair

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SCROOGE?

After 15 years playing Scrooge at the Venice Theatre in the production “A Christmas Carol”, Eric Watters was so well known in the role that people would shout when they saw him at the grocery store, “Hey! Scrooge shops at Publix!” Retired now from his Scrooge role---What’s next?

Eric is coming to see us on January 17th at the Chapter Luncheon Meeting! The debonair, always fascinating actor, entertainer, retired banker and stockbroker and Director of Development at Venice Theatre, will share with us news of his latest project on stage and his myriad other projects and interests, along with news of the award winning, internationally recognized Venice Theatre.



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

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



Past President John Burton and Jean Marie Burton celebrate their 58th Wedding Anniversary with good friend Karen Bosley at the Chapter Holiday Party.

Past Chapter 717 President and President of NARFE Florida Federation of Chapters, Roy Reichelt, Jr. and Chapter 717 Callers Betty and Bob Stern are seated at the table in the background.

Good will to all!



Photo by Linda Braswell

HOLIDAY PARTY 2018



Chapter 717 Treasurer Jon Cantor and Celeste Iacampo at the Reception Table for the Holiday Party.

Chapter 717 Secretary Ruth Ann and John Worden pose for a photo after setting up the Holiday Gifts for members.



Peg Oatley was one of the Elves who purchased, wrapped and arranged the Gifts Display for the Holiday Party .

And More Holiday Photos



The Martin Duo perform
at the Holiday Party.
They were wonderful!

Photo by Jon Cantor

Chapter 717 members enjoy
The Martin Duo performance
at the Holiday Party.



Muriel and Paul Caron enjoy the
Holiday Party festivities.

Photos by Linda Braswell

Englewood-Venice
NARFE Chapter 717
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS LABEL

The meeting of the Englewood-Venice Chapter 717 will be held on **Thursday, January 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 \$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. BBQ Baby Back Ribs**
- 2. Chicken Savannah with Pecans and Peaches**
- 3. Sweet Pear Salad with Mixed Greens and Coconut Shrimp and Cup of Chef's Soup du Jour**

Included with Entrees 1. and 2. —

**House Salad with Choice of Dressings,
Sweet Potato Fries and Succotash**

Dessert: Red Velvet Cake

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.