



National Active and Retired FEDERAL EMPLOYEES Association

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

NEWSLETTER

April 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:

April 4, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting
1:00pm at Venice Library

April 18, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting with Ven-
ice MainStreet

April 25, 2019 Annual Chapter Picnic

May 2, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting 1:00pm
at Venice Library

May 16, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting at Pelican
Pointe Clubhouse

Venice MainStreet, Inc. will make a presentation at our meeting on April 18. After a discussion, the Executive Committee decided to join Venice MainStreet as a nonprofit member. This will give our Chapter local exposure via the Venice MainStreet calendar of events, Internet connections, and publications. Plan to attend this informative and interesting presentation at our meeting.

Chapter 717 Election of Officers. The Chapter is in need of volunteers for the positions of Secretary and Vice President. Chapter election of officers will be conducted at the meeting on May 16. Installation of elected officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) will be conducted at the Annual Meeting on June 20. Terms of Office run from June 2019 thru June 2020. Anyone interested in running for Secretary or Vice President should contact me or

another officer as soon as possible! Please consider serving the Chapter in one of these important positions. If not you, then who?

Back to Basics. See my article inside this Newsletter on page 8.

Letters to the Editors of our local newspapers have never been easier to write and distribute. Using the NARFE Legislative Action Center template you can fill in the boxes and send your letters by pushing a button. You can pick a topic of concern to active and retired federal employees, prepare your letter and add your point of view to those received by the local media. All you need to do is sign on to the NARFE HQ web site, click on the Legislative Action Center and then Letter to the Editor. There you can compose and send your letter. There is no shortage of items in the NARFE Legislative Agenda to write about. You can do this.

Executive Committee will once again meet at 1:00pm at the new Library in Venice on the first Thursday of each month (except July and August). We held meetings at that time, date and location until the Venice Library was closed for demolition and reconstruction. During the construction period the Executive Committee met at the Jacaranda Library.

In Memoriam Lois Paul. Our loyal, long time and 90plus year old member Lois Paul passed from this world on March 27. You will remember she and her late husband John Paul attended chapter meetings regularly for 20 and more years. Due to failing health, last year she relocated to live with relatives in the north where she was well taken care of until the end. She and John participated in chapter events and regularly donated to the Alzheimer's Research Charity Fund. We will remember her fondly.

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



NARFE HQ Legislative Hotline. Current Legislative Hotlines are posted on our chapter website and they are available on the NARFE HQ website and can be heard by phone at 1-800-456-8410 and select option 4.

NARFE Florida, Inc. Training Conference May 8-9, 2019 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando All NARFE members in Florida are eligible to attend this conference. More information about content and costs are available on the NARFE Florida, Inc. web page at www.narfefl.net.

Annual Audit. The Audit Committee consisting of John Worden and Paul Caron met with Treasurer Jon Cantor and reviewed the Chapter's financial "books" and produced an audit report. The committee reported all is in order and well documented. The report complimented Treasurer Jon Cantor for his fine work. We thank the committee and Treasurer.

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.

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

"Thanks!" to our dedicated members for renewing NARFE membership and Chapter annual 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

\$13 MILLION GOAL REACHED NATIONALLY PLUS ANOTHER BIG ANNUAL DONATION FROM CHAPTER 717!

The NARFE \$13Million Alzheimer's Research Fund Goal has been reached and exceeded! As of January 31, 2019, the total donated by NARFE members was \$13,012,034.73. All donations are purely voluntary and made up of individual NARFE member donations.

Thanks to the generosity of Chapter 717 members, the donation to the Alzheimer's Research Fund for the year ending March 31, 2019 totaled \$1111.00!

All monies donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund are used for research. Our Chapter 717 donation stays in Florida and benefits the Byrd Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute at University of South Florida In Tampa, Florida. The key activities of the Institute are laboratory research, clinical trials, family caregiver support and professional services.

Thanks to all Chapter 717 members for advancing research into this deadly disease which is one of the leading causes of death in the United States.

Display Created by Linda Braswell



Display features:

Photo of President Steve Shoub representing Chapter 717 in accepting the Certificate of Achievement from National Alzheimer's Committee Chair Olivia Williams for the 3rd highest NARFE Chapter donations in Florida (bottom left).

And

Photo of Miniature of Julia Child's Kitchen created by Sandy Walker in 2016 which raised \$350.00 for Alzheimer's Research (bottom right).



Membership Officer
Donald Gray
 918-1516
 dandcgray@live.com

Membership Report by Donald Gray
Chapter 717 Membership Chair

April features the Annual Chapter Picnic. This provides an opportunity to introduce prospective members in a more casual and low cost event compared to our regular monthly meeting. Some are more comfortable with this approach. Provide your Chapter calling card with the instruction to give you a call if they want to attend the picnic.

This month some seasonal members will be on the move to a summer residence. Remember to change your address in your National record to continue to receive the NARFE magazine and the Chapter newsletter. If you are unable to do this on-line, provide your information using the newsletter form on this page. Mail it to the address shown, and I will then make the change for 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 Don Gray at 918-1516.



Service Officer's Corner

by Sheila Nichols, Chapter 717 Service Officer

IMPORTANT



Do you know what one of the most important things you need to know as a Federal retiree is? Your CSA number! What does CSA even stand for, you might ask? It stands for Civil Service Annuitant. What is also important is that you learn how to use the Retirement Services OnLine System. I encourage you, as you read this article, to go onto a computer right now and access the system at: <https://www.serviceline.opm.gov/>. You can even print a new CSA card if desired and give it to your beneficiary to carry in their wallet, as well as one for yourself if you have lost your original one. If you do not remember your password to this system, make sure you go through the steps to reset it. If you are having difficulty, contact OPM at 1-888-767-6738 Monday through Friday (7:40 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

I can't begin to tell you how many times I have a retiree run into problems because they do not have their CSA number. In addition, they do not regularly access the Retirement Services OnLine system. Some of them have never accessed it at all. There are so many things you can do yourself by using the Retirement Services OnLine System. As you probably know by now if you have ever tried to contact OPM by telephone, many times you get a busy signal in your ear. I had the daughter of a Federal retiree contact me recently who was very stressed because her mother was moving to another address due to health issues and she needed to notify OPM of this change in address. She also needed to have her mother's bank

Continued on Page 6— Service Officer's Corner

Continued from page 5— Service Officer's Corner

account changed immediately. The daughter was having difficulty getting through to OPM on the phone and wanted my help. Unfortunately, there is only one phone number for OPM as listed above, and as mentioned earlier, they are hard to reach. I do not have a special or “magic” number, unfortunately. I asked her if she had her mother’s CSA number. She finally located it, but her mother had not established an account using the Retirement Services OnLine System, or if she had, she had not accessed it in a very long time. If you do not access the system on a regular basis, it will lock you out and you will then need to contact OPM for a temporary password which they must mail to you which takes an additional 7-10 business days. What should have been a simple and fast two steps to change the mailing address and to change the bank account information by using Retirement Services OnLine turned into a beyond frustrating experience because OPM could not be reached by phone.

Do yourself and your beneficiary a favor by doing two important things TODAY!

#1 Locate your CSA number and share it with your beneficiary. Tape it to the refrigerator door if you need to.

#2 Access a computer and log onto Retirement Services OnLine at <https://www.serviceline.opm.gov/>. Make sure you know how to review information or change it as needed within the system. Make sure your beneficiary knows your password to this system too. Your life will be much simpler for it, and your power of attorney or beneficiary will be grateful should the time arise that they need access.

Don't delay!



Jean Marie Burton, Sunshine Chair

Call me at **941-525-4263** if you or your loved ones need a sunshine card or phone call. Or you can email me at [**johnburton140@gmail.com**](mailto:johnburton140@gmail.com).



We sent a thinking of you card to some of our members.

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



Linda L. Braswell, Program Chair

Venice MainStreet Visits at our Meeting on April 18, 2019

Venice MainStreet, Inc. is a volunteer driven nonprofit organization focused upon historic preservation, economic development, beautification and promotion. It collaborates with the City of Venice and local community groups. Venice MainStreet sponsors local events, concerts and programs. Its influence and reach is year round.



The Executive Committee of Chapter 717 is considering joining Venice MainStreet as one of its community partners in the Greater Venice area to promote and advertise our Chapter at their events and to be placed on the organization's broad outreach of directory and website listings.

Come out and hear the rescheduled presentation about the current operation and programs sponsored by Venice MainStreet at our meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at the Pelican Pointe Clubhouse.

Chapter Picnic Thursday, April 25

Pavilion at the North Jetty in Nokomis.

Parking is nearby as are restrooms. **Peg Oatley at (239) 628-5087** is the Food Coordinator for the picnic. Please contact her if you intend to bring a salad or dessert or something else to share. There is no charge for this event. It is open to chapter members, their guests and prospective members. The chapter will provide sandwiches (cold cuts, bread, condiments, etc.) and non-alcoholic beverages. The event will run from 11:00am – 2:00pm.

Please RSVP to Peg so we may have a count from which to order the proper amount of food.

BACK TO BASICS



Twenty years ago, the Chapter's 40th Anniversary, saw then Chapter President Roy Reichelt, Jr. write an article in the Chapter Newsletter titled "Back to Basics." Its concepts, as we celebrate the Chapter's 60th Anniversary, are just as appropriate and relevant and follow.

As we close out the 20th century and about to begin the 21st century, we must always keep in mind the basic ingredients that got us here. An association of dedicated members willing to do their part to build a strong foundation. This can come in both the form of leadership or support. We have made great steps forward in the way we do business, with reorganization, communications and technology. But one element must always remain intact, the basic principles as stated in the "Preamble of our National Association..." The updated original Preamble reads, in part, "In order that the retired employees may receive from the government of the United States remuneration to which their long and faithful service entitles them; to aid them in securing their rights under retirement law; for the promotion of their general welfare; and to secure legislation perfecting the retirement law, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association has been formed.

We should take a moment to ponder these words and then rededicate ourselves to the original vision and mission of our organization. The key NARFE activities, in short, are Legislation and Benefits Service: supporting Legislation to protect and enhance the EARNED entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors; and, Benefits Services advising and assisting members of their rights under retirement, health and other employee and retiree benefits laws and regulations.

This is why we are members of NARFE, and why we must work together to keep NARFE and the chapter strong. You know NARFE is not a social or fraternal organization. We are members of an organization dedicated to the long term welfare of the federal civilian employee/retiree community and we must work to keep it vital and able to protect our financial future. Without NARFE, I believe, we will suffer under Congressional budget cuts in the name of "fiscal responsibility" or "national debt reduction." Join me in reapplying ourselves to the missions of NARFE and our chapter. It's your money.

Stay a member! Get a member! Join NARFE!

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

Yesterday and Today



NARFE Chapter 717 Tree Planting in Centennial Park on West Venice Avenue in honor of the Chapter 50th Anniversary in 2009. Former Venice mayor Ed Martin (left), past Chapter President John Burton (right).

Photo by Ralph Alfaro

The NARFE Chapter 717 Tree as it looks 10 years later on the 60th Anniversary of the Chapter in 2019. Note the bench under the tree donated in 2010 by John and Jean Marie Burton in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Photo by Matt Prisutti



The 60th Anniversary Cake from the Anniversary Party in February.

Photo by Terry Greenwood

Englewood-Venice
 NARFE Chapter 717
 P. O. Box 2203
 Venice, FL 34284-2203

NON PROFIT ORG.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 MANASOTA, FL
 PERMIT # 865

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS LABEL

The meeting of the Englewood-Venice Chapter 717 will be held on **Thursday, April 18, 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. Herb Roast Pork Loin with Pan Gravy
2. Baked Salmon with Mango Salsa
3. Roasted Beet, Apple and Arugula Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast and a cup of Soup of the Day

Included with Entrees 1. and 2. —

House Salad with Choice of Dressings

Green Beans Almandine and Au Gratin Potatoes

Dessert: Cherry Pie

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.