



National Active and Retired FEDERAL EMPLOYEES Association

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

NEWSLETTER

June 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:

June 6, 2019. Executive Committee Meeting
1:00pm at Venice Library

June 20, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting at Pelican
Pointe Clubhouse

July and August – NO MEETINGS – NO NEWS-
LETTERS (Summer Break)

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

September 19, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting at
Pelican Pointe Clubhouse

New Chapter 717 Web Site. As previously reported,
Chapter WebMaster John Burton has created a new
web site for our chapter. It can be reached at
www.narfevenice.org or go to the old web page at
www.narfechapter717.org and click on the link for
the new web page. Our chapter email address re-
mains unchanged at narfechapter717@gmail.com.
The new web site is still a work in progress. Look
for more additions and improvements in the future.
John Burton is putting a lot of time and effort into
this project and we thank him!

Executive Committee is meeting at 1:00pm at the
new Library in Venice on the first Thursday of each
month (except July and August).

Bring Food Donations to the June 20 Meeting. The
South County Food Pantry will make a presentation
and take our food donations to the Food Pantry after
the meeting. See our article inside this Newsletter
(Pages 7 and 8) for a detailed list of needed items.

Reorganization of OPM. It is no secret that OPM is
being dismantled. Funding for OPM was not includ-
ed in the President's 2020 Budget Proposal. The
proposed reorganization includes the background
investigation portion of OPM being transferred to
the Department of Defense; the retirement and bene-
fits services portions of OPM being moved to the
Government Services Administration (GSA); and
the legislative policy portions of OPM going to the
Executive Office of the President. There are several
stated reasons/arguments for this action, none of
which satisfy those in favor of the status quo. It will
be interesting to see if congressional legislation will
support the changes or they will be accomplished by
"existing authorities" such as Executive Orders. On
May 21, NARFE National President Ken Thomas
testified before the House Oversight and Reform's
Subcommittee on Government Operations about
why the proposed merger of OPM and GSA lacks
transparency and sufficient planning and jeopardizes
the independence of HR functions. Stay tuned for
more information.

Venice MainStreet, Inc. We have joined Venice
MainStreet as a non-profit partner. The VMS web
site address is www.VisitVeniceFL.org. Please
check it out.

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

Chapter 717 Election of Officers. The Chapter elected the following Officers for the 2019-2020 term: President Steven Shoub, Vice President Donald Gray, Secretary Gordon Wilkie, and Treasurer Jon Cantor. Installation of elected officers will be conducted at the Annual Meeting on June 20. Terms of Office run from June 20, 2019 thru June 18, 2020.

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.

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 telephone at 1-800-456-8410 and select option 4.

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.

Changes Next September. We have been informed by Pelican Pointe Clubhouse management to expect changes in our meal cost or menu choices starting with our September 19 meeting. We will be in discussions over the Summer with them. We will negotiate the best deal for us.

Local Contacts for Your Senators and Representatives

<p>Senator Rick Scott 716 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5274 http://rickscott.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 Steube U.S. House of Representatives 17th Congressional District 521 Cannon HOB Washington, DC, 20515 (202) 225-5792 http://Steube.house.gov Alternate Contact for W. Greg Steube 225 Taylor St. #230 Punta Gorda, FL 33950 (941) 575-9101</p>	<p>Honorable Vern Buchanan U.S. House of Representatives 16th Congressional District 111 South Orange Avenue, Suite 202W Sarasota, FL 34236 941-951-6643 http://buchanan.house.gov</p>

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 – 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.narfevenice.org

Florida Federation – www.narfevl.net

National – www.narfe.org



Linda Braswell, Alzheimer's Fund Coordinator

**CHAPTER 717 HAD 2ND HIGHEST DONATIONS IN THE STATE
FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH**

Chapter 717 has received a thank you letter from the Byrd Alzheimers' Center and Research Institute at the University of South Florida in Tampa for this year's donation of \$1111.00 and for our continued support in eradicating this incurable disease.

Notably, the NARFE Florida, Inc. State Federation awarded a Citation for Distinguished Service to Chapter 717 at the Florida Federation Conference on May 9, 2019 for the second highest donations in the Florida Federation of Chapters for the years since 2017. See the photo on Page 9.

Members of Chapter 717 accomplished this wonderful service to Alzheimer's Research Fund and should be commended for their dedication and commitment.

All contributions, large and small, are welcome, and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Bring your check to the next meeting made out to NARFE Chapter 717, with Alzheimer's Research written in the memo line or mail it to NARFE Chapter 717, P.O. Box 2203, Venice, FL 34284.

Thank you, one and all!



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

Membership Report by Donald Gray Chapter 717 Membership Chair

NARFE National maintains a database of current and prospective members. The listing is considered confidential, in particular your telephone and e-mail information, and is not to be released to outside agencies. A few Chapter and Federation officers are granted access to the database under specific security control for specified use only. Those granted access are to maintain security of any documents they generate from the information. Consequently, we are unable to use the information to generate a Chapter Members Directory in print or on the web site.

Also I want to notify you that someone is using my name and telephone number as their caller ID for telemarketing. Sorry if you have been a victim of this scam. I rarely call members, but if needed, I will use a phone number other than that published in the newsletter.

Enjoy your summer. See you in September.

And thanks for your membership in NARFE and Chapter 717.

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

APPLYING FOR SURVIVOR BENEFITS

An eligible surviving spouse can receive survivor benefits from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), but often doesn't know what the first steps are and how the process works. Here are the necessary steps to take when a retiree dies. You should provide this information to your spouse if you have designated survivor benefits for him/her. Keep it in a safe but easy-to-find space. This information was found directly on the NARFE website.

FIRST, notify the bank or financial institution where the retiree's monthly annuity was being deposited. Annuity payments received by the bank or financial institution after the date of the retiree's death need to be returned to the U.S. Treasury. This will be done automatically and the survivor usually doesn't need to take further action.

THEN, report the death of the retiree to (OPM). This can be done in several ways:

- Call OPM directly at 1-888-767-6738 between the hours of 7:45am and 5pm ET Monday through Friday. Have available the deceased's Civil Service Annuity (CSA) retirement claim number for OPM.
- Complete an on-line Report of Death at: <https://rsreporting.opm.gov/AnnuitantDeath>
- E-mail OPM at retire@opm.gov. Again, provide the deceased's CSA retirement claim number in the email.
- Write to OPM at Retirement Operations Center, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA. 16017 ATTN: Death Benefits. Again, you will need to provide the CSA retirement claim number of the deceased.

OPM GOES TO WORK. After receiving notification of the retiree's death, OPM will pull the deceased's retirement file to determine who is eligible for both annuity death benefits and for proceeds from the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), if the deceased was enrolled. OPM will then mail a Death Benefits Application package to those entitled to benefits. The package will contain application forms for both annuity and life insurance, and a return envelope bar-coded so it reaches the correct department as quickly as possible. Copies of the death certificate will need to be included in the returned package. If the eligible surviving spouse wants to change the federal health insurance coverage to Self Only, include a request for OPM to do that. OPM will create a survivor annuity file and assign a unique CSF number to it.

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After OPM receives the returned application forms, they will certify the amount of life insurance and send that along with the beneficiary's life insurance applications to the Office of Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) for them to make payment. If it has all the needed information, OPM will then adjudicate the survivor annuity claim and put the survivor into a pay status.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN. If the deceased had funds in a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account at the time of death, call them at 1-877-968-3778 or write to Thrift Savings Plan, P.O. Box 385021, Birmingham, AL 35238 to report the retiree's death and ask about survivor benefits. Most of the information concerning death benefits is available on the TSP website at www.tsp.gov.

SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVOR BENEFITS. If the deceased was drawing Social Security at the time of death, survivors may be eligible to apply for widow/widower benefits based on the deceased beneficiary's Social Security amount. Widows and widowers age 60 and older may be eligible to receive 71.5 percent to 99 percent of the deceased's basic monthly benefit, depending on the surviving spouse's age. Widows and widowers at any age can receive a benefit equal to 75 percent of the deceased's basic benefit if caring for a child under age 16. Minor children who are survivors of the deceased also may be eligible for a Social Security benefit. A child under age 18 (19 if still in school) or disabled could receive 75 percent of the deceased's basic Social Security benefit.

FIRST, notify the Social Security Administration of the death by contacting your local **Social Security office** or call 1-800-772-1213 (1-800-325-0778). You can speak to a **Social Security** representative between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Note: In most cases, the funeral home will **report** the person's **death** to **Social Security**.

THEN, you can apply for widow or widower benefits by calling or visiting your local Social Security office to make an appointment to come in and apply. You will need to have with you:

- Proof of death
- Your and the deceased's Social Security numbers
- Your marriage certificate
- Your birth certificate
- Dependent child(ren)s Social Security numbers and birth certificates.
- The deceased's most recent W-2 forms or, tax returns if self-employed
- Name of your bank and account number for direct deposit
-

OFFICE OF FEDERAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAMS (OWCP). If the deceased was drawing retirement benefits from OWCP, survivors should report the death to the district office that was handling the worker's compensation claim. There are 12 district offices across the country, and contact information can be found on the OWCP website at <https://www.dol.gov/owcp/contacts/fecacont.htm>. If the retiree's death was a result of the injury the retiree was being compensated for, the surviving spouse may be eligible for continued OWCP survivor benefits. At the same time, the surviving spouse also may be eligible for a survivor annuity from OPM. Survivors should report the death to both agencies. If eligible for a survivor benefit from both agencies, the surviving spouse must choose which benefit to receive.



Linda L. Braswell, Program Chair

CHAPTER 717 MEMBERS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN FIGHTING HUNGER IN THE AREA



There is an urgent need for help to feed those less fortunate in our community. You can help by bringing canned foods and non-perishables within the “best before” date for the South County Food Pantry to our June 20, 2019 Luncheon Meeting.

Chapter 717 members responded several years ago with a very generous donation of food and necessities for the South County Food Pantry, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization which is dedicated to gathering, organizing, and distributing food to the hungry in Venice, Osprey, Laurel and Nokomis.

This organization, with no paid employees and no government funding, depends on the generosity of the community. You can help to feed senior citizens 70 years and older on a limited budget, the disabled, and families and single parent households who are out of work. Summer is coming, children are out of school, and families’ resources are stretched to the limit.

Florida is one of five states with highest child food insecurity rates in the country. Your donations will be transported by our speaker, a long-time volunteer and member of the Board of Directors of the Food Pantry who will tell us firsthand how they fill in the gaps for this area of Florida.

Every donation that you can bring helps to keep our Chapter involved in supporting and serving our Community.

See Page 8 for a list of the most needed items.



Jean Marie Burton, Sunshine Chair



Get Well cards were sent to Sandy Walker, John Burton, Jean Spataro. No sooner had we sent a get well card to Marian Kelly, Tom Kelly's mother, than we received the sad news that she has passed away. We have sent a card to Tom expressing the Chapter's sympathy on this sad event.

This is my last report until our September Newsletter. If you have any Sunshine to report during July and August, 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!

Items especially low at The South County Food Pantry are staples:

Canned Pork and Beans, Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Fruit and Vegetables
Rice, Dried Beans, Lentils, Macaroni and Cheese
Crackers (Saltines, Ritz, etc.)
Ground Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Dry Milk, Canned Juices
Laundry Detergents and Dishwashing Liquids

Canned Soup, Chili and Hash
Canned Fish and Meats
Canned Pastas (Ravioli, etc.)
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Personal Care Items
(Soap, Razors, Wipes)
Deodorants for both men
and women

**May 16, 2019 NARFE Luncheon Meeting
What can be done about the disastrous effects of Red Tide?**



Photo by Jon Cantor

We do live in a special place!

We have an abundance of sea life at our fingertips.

Sarasota County Environmental Protection Manager **John Ryan** making an important slide presentation on water quality in Sarasota County.

Continued on Page 9.

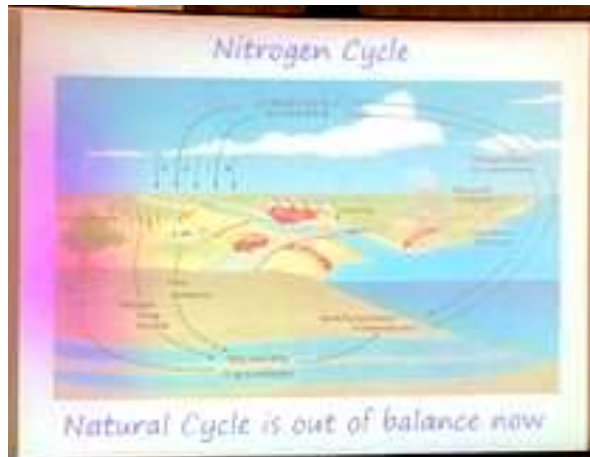


Photo by Steve Shoub

The nutrient pollution and concomitant harmful algae blooms are depleting the fish and causing harmful problems all around the State of Florida.

We must do something now to improve our water quality!

Nutrients entering our estuaries now are increasing the nitrogen levels.

The nitrogen cycle is out of balance, increasing the severity of Red Tide blooms.

And the Red Tide presents serious health and economic challenges for the County.



And also at the May 16 meeting, an Alzheimer's Award

Alzheimer's Chair **Linda Braswell** displaying a certificate of achievement presented to Chapter 717 by the NARFE Florida Federation, honoring our donations to the Alzheimer's Research Program for the recent two year period.



Photos by Jon Cantor

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS LABEL

The meeting of the Englewood-Venice Chapter 717 will be held on **Thursday, June 20, 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. Skirt Steak with Red Wine Demi Glaze
2. Salmon with Mango Sauce
3. Greek Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast and a cup of Soup of the Day

Included with Entrees 1. and 2. —

House Salad of Field Greens with
 Choice of Dressings

Sweet Potatoes (Chef's Choice) and Green Beans

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.