



National Active and Retired FEDERAL EMPLOYEES Association

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

NEWSLETTER

February 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:

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

February 21, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting and
60th Anniversary Celebration with Musical Entertain-
ment

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

March 21, 2019 Regular Chapter Meeting and An-
nual Auction

**Chapter 717 Gala 60th Anniversary
Celebration.** You should attend the cele-
bration at our meeting on February 21,
2019. We will be honoring our 90plus
year old members and Past Presidents.
Also attending will be Venice Mayor John
Holic, Author and Reporter Kim Cool,
Florida Federation District 8 Vice Presi-
dent Dave Ross, North Port Chapter Presi-
dent Arpad Szatori and other visitors.
Musical Entertainment will be provided
by the Martin Duo. There will be a large
display of chapter 717 historical docu-
ments and photos. Cost is \$20 per person.
Start time for this meeting is 11:30am!
See the article inside for more information
about this event.

New Decade – New Look! For our 60th
year, we have a new Banner for this
Newsletter and our web site: “Many
Thanks!” to our creative graphic designer
Nancy Marik and Barry Bye, Editor.

Monday, January 28, 2019 Florida Federation Dis-
trict 8 Annual Meeting/Training Seminar in North
Port. Jon Cantor, Linda Braswell and I attended
the annual meeting of all the chapters in District 8
(Southwest Florida) hosted by North Port Chapter
and led by our District 8 Vice President Dave Ross.
State Federation President Terry Zitek presented a
briefing on the state of the state of NARFE. Feder-
ation Service Officer John Ventura presented an
informative briefing about services available to
members. The meeting was held in the Olde
World Inn in North Port.

Government Shutdown. As I write this, the month
long government shutdown is temporarily resolved
pending budget talks in Washington. When you
read this we may be in another shutdown. I hope
not. Nothing good for Federal employees and retir-
ees ever comes from such events. I do see oppor-
tunity for NARFE recruitment as a result of the
press attention to the plight of disadvantaged Fed-
eral employees. Perhaps, unaffiliated retired Fed-
eral employees may reconsider and join NARFE in
the battle to protect their earned retirement bene-
fits. Rarely, before now, have I ever read or seen
positive comments in the media about government
workers. Recent articles and reports on TV about
the Shutdown's negative effects on Federal em-
ployees have, for whatever their reasons, included
the notion that Federal workers are a positive and
valuable segment of the workforce and should be
protected and allowed to work. I hope this new
attitude lasts beyond this crisis.

Continued on Page 2—From the President's Desk

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

Chapter 717 Election of Officers. Chapter election of officers will be conducted at the meeting on May 16. Officer Nominations will be announced at the meeting on March 21. Installation of elected officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) will be conducted at the Annual Meeting on June 20. Anyone interested in running for office should contact me or another officer as soon as possible!

Internet Trouble. As previously reported, 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.

NARFE HQ Legislative Conference. HQ Legislative Training Conference March 10 – 13, 2019. All members of NARFE are eligible to attend the Legislative Conference.

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.

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.

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

Kudos to our Programs Chair Linda L. Braswell for the outstanding speakers and creative events at our monthly meetings. Thanks also to programs committee members Nancy Marik, Ruth Ann Worden, Sandy Walker, Peg Oatley, Matt Prisutti, Jon Cantor, and others. Be sure to thank them when you see them!

Address Corrections Cost Money. Postal rates have gone up this month! 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.



Correction. At the meeting on January 17, I incorrectly reported that in 2018 the chapter spent over \$500.00 more than we took in. The actual figure, as reported by the Treasurer, is \$218.95. The shortfall could have been much larger, but we did receive \$1,306.00 in donations to the chapter treasury during the year. As a separate matter, donations to the Chapter Alzheimer's Charity Fund totaled \$1,270.00 in 2018. Thanks to the donors and may there be many more this year!

I'll see you at the gala Anniversary meeting!!

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

**NARFE MEMBERS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO FINDING A
CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

The NARFE National Charity is Alzheimer's Research Fund. Alzheimer's disease has eluded a cure so far. Pharmaceutical cures have proved disappointing and frustrating.

Alzheimer's Disease is a specific form of Dementia. It is the most common form of Dementia and makes up over 70% of Dementia cases. The biggest risk factor is age and the disease is most often diagnosed after age 65. From research on dementia, Alzheimer's disease appears to be affected by a number of interlinked causes and factors.

The causes are debated; but many scientists think that a combination of factors, including genetics and lifestyle, are big contributors. Brain health and aging are likely to be affected by factors including diet, exercise, smoking, alcohol use, blood pressure, sleep, socializing and genetics. Researchers have proposed that following healthy habits including good dental habits can lead to a sharper brain in later life.

There are no guarantees that a healthy lifestyle can help avoid Alzheimer's disease. Until research rules out infectious disease, viruses and bacteria as contributing causes, a healthy lifestyle may reduce the chance of developing dementia.

NARFE has set a goal of 13 Million Dollars for contribution to Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund. Thank you to Chapter 717 members who continue to steadily contribute to that goal every single month. Bring your check to a meeting or mail it to P.O. Box 2203, Venice, FL 34284 with Alzheimer's Fund marked in the memo section. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



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

Membership Report by Donald Gray Membership Chair

What's Your Name? A question I often need to ask at our monthly meetings. While I have information on all 160 plus Chapter Members, it doesn't include photos. My only opportunity to relate names to faces is at the monthly meetings. A nametag would be a great help. A NARFE unique name badge is available from NARFE headquarters. Cost and ordering information will be available at the February meeting. Information is also available at the NARFE General Store on the National web site.

Flyers with Chapter meeting and contact information are now available for you to post at your neighborhood club & house or notice board. Call me if you want a copy. Hopefully we can add a few members.

Please remember to make your address, phone number, and e-mail changes to your NARFE National record. If you are unable to do this, please submit the change in writing using the Newsletter form. You can give it to a Chapter officer, or mail to the Chapter mail box.

HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY
TO CHAPTER 717!

Donald Gray
**Chapter 717 Membership
Chair**

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:

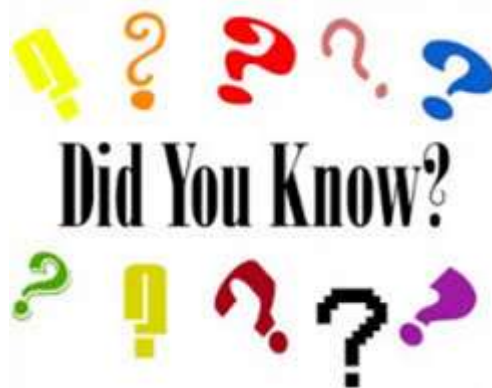
Membership, NARFE Chapter 717
 P.O. Box 2203
 Venice, FL 34284-2203

You may also update your address by calling Don Gray at 918-1516.



Service Officer's Corner

by Sheila Nichols, Chapter 717 Service Officer



As NARFE members, we receive the NARFE monthly magazine which is an excellent resource in so many ways. One of these ways we can use it is by reviewing all of the great benefit questions and answers provided in each magazine. Also, you might not know this, but NARFE published an entire booklet that includes a compilation of many of these great questions and answers all in one spot. It can be found at: https://www.narfe.org/pdf/NARFE_Q&A_Book.pdf (**Questions and Answers from the Pages of the NARFE Magazine**). What makes it even nicer is that it is sorted by specific topics with a table of contents in the front of the booklet. Take some time to review this at your leisure and you just might find some answers to your very own questions!

Speaking of questions, one of the questions emailed to me by a NARFE member involved the government shutdown and how it affects our annuity payments. The answer is that it does NOT affect them at all. Federal retirement payments, such as our pensions and any social security benefits, fall under the “mandatory” budget category not funded through annual appropriations, and are not affected by these kinds of funding deadlocks. OPM’s Retirement Services office employees are excluded from the shutdown because that office receives its operating money from the federal retirement trust fund. The Retirement Information Office is open and can be reached at 1-888-767-6738.

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Another question I receive many times concerns the COLA (cost-of-living adjustment). As most of you know, there was a 2019 COLA for CSRS annuitants of 2.8 percent and Social Security benefits were also increased by 2.8 percent. Those covered under FERS received a 2 percent COLA. This is the largest COLA increase for CSRS annuitants and Social Security recipients since 2012. One of the NARFE members was under the impression that the President had vetoed these COLAs. That is incorrect. I believe some of the confusion lies when they are talking about COLAs for current federal employees, which is different. President Trump is currently saying that there will be no COLA (i.e., pay raise) in 2019 for current federal employees. This has no bearing on us as retirees.

It is that time of year to be working on our taxes. If you are like me, you want your 1099R from OPM as soon as possible. You don't have to rely on the post office to get it to you. You will get it quicker on-line by using OPM's Services Online at <https://www.serviceline.opm.gov/>.

The 1099R form for the current tax year and for four previous years can be printed or downloaded to your computer or tablet or smartphone. If you are unable to print or save the document, you can request a mailed copy from the On Demand Documents module. If any of your tax information has changed or been amended during the current tax year or the previous four tax years, contact the OPM Retirement Information Office for further instructions. The phone number is 1-888-767-6738. If you wish to speak with an OPM Customer Service Specialist, you should call during OPM's regular business hours from 7:40 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is easier to reach them Tuesday through Friday and at 7:40 a.m.

Keep in mind that we are very fortunate to have technology available. It is just as simple as using Google to ask questions. Even as a former retirement and benefits specialist working for the federal government, I would ask Google all kinds of questions related to my work. I still do. There is just too much information to be able to know all of it, so I encourage you to do the same. I still use it when someone asks me a question. I certainly can't remember it all myself either! Use your fingertips (on the computer!) to do the walking! You will be amazed at what you WILL know!

Sheila Nichols
Chapter 717 Service Officer



Linda L. Braswell, Program Chair

THE 'STARS' OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ARE OUR 90PLUS YEAR OLD MEMBERS AND PAST CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

60 Years is a BIG Milestone! Mark the 60th Anniversary of the founding in 1959 of Chapter 717 with a Celebration!

Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Chapter 717 at 11:30AM on February 21, 2019 with "stars", the 90 plus year old member Honorees of our Chapter and the Past Chapter President Honorees who have volunteered years of service to the success of Chapter 717. Some of the 90 plus year old members joined NARFE 30-40+ years ago and have been staunch supporters of this Chapter for decades.

Come enjoy the spectacular 60th Anniversary Cake, applaud the 90 plus year old Honorees who are members of the 'Greatest Generation', and the Past Chapter Presidents who are an upbeat, dedicated group. All are very proud of their years of federal service careers and their service to America. Their stories are an inspiration to all of us.

Entrance is through the atrium at the rear of the courtyard. You can view the display at the back of the Dining Room featuring the original Charter of the founding of the Chapter in 1959. Certificates of Achievement from NARFE National congratulate Chapter 717 on contributions to the Alzheimer's Research Fund. Do not miss the wonderful patriotic miniature created by Sandy Walker, the terrific photo displays of members of Chapter 717 included in historical displays created and contributed by Graphic Artist Nancy Marik, Photographers John Burton, Jon Cantor and Matt Prisutti, and Jean Spataro. Admire the displays by Crafts and Paper Artist Ruth Ann Worden assisted by Linda Braswell, Steve Shoub and Bob and Betty Stern.

Cap it all off with a delightful musical serenade of patriotic and inspiring melodies by the fabulous Martin Duo and you will leave with a renewed sense of pride and satisfaction in your Chapter and your federal service.

Photo by Jon Cantor



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

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




Thinking of You cards sent to Karen Bosley, Kitty Koscielney, and Dagmar Olsen.

Good will to all!

Chapter 717 Gala 60th Anniversary Celebration

This is the inside page of the invitation that was sent to our 90+ year old Honorees and all past Chapter president Honorees. The invitation was designed by our own Chapter 717 member, Nancy Marik.

Everyone Please Come!

 National Active and Retired
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES Association
NARFE ENGLEWOOD - VENICE Chapter 0717
Celebrating our 60th Year founded 1959

Thursday, February 21, 2019
Honoring Chapter 0717 90+ Year Old Members and Past Chapter Presidents

Honorees are Guests of the Chapter for Lunch
Entertainment by the Martin Duo

Pelican Pointe Golf and Country Club
625 Center Road
Venice, FL 34285

Social Hour: 11:30 AM with Passed Hors d'oeuvres

Luncheon at Noon

Menu of 3 Entrée Choices

(1) Corvina Orange Beurre Blanc
OR
(2) Beef Rouladen

Entrees (1) and (2) accompanied by Twice Baked Potato and Squash and Zucchini Blend
OR
(3) Normandy Salad of mixed greens, dried cranberries, pecans with Grilled Chicken Breast served with
Soup Du Jour

Anniversary Cake and Ice Cream

Luncheon Cost is \$20.00 per person Cash Bar Available



At the January Meeting

Linda Braswell, Programs Chair and Allan Kollar, Artistic Director, Venice Theater.

Mr. Kollar brought us up to date on the latest doings at the Venice Theater.

Photo by Steve Shoub

And More Holiday Photos from the December Meeting



Bob and Betty Stern, Jean Spataro and her sister Ginger at the Holiday party.

NARFE Chapter 717 members enjoying the Holiday party.



Photos by Matt Prisutti

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, February 21, 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

11:30am - Hot Hors D'oeuvres served during Social Hour

Noon - Champagne Toast and Lunch

Choice of Entrée:

- 1. Beef Rouladen**
- 2. Corvina with Orange Buerre Blanc**
- 3. Normandy Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast (includes Greens and Craisins, Raisins, Sliced Apples and Pecans) and Chef's Soup du jour**

Included with Entrees 1. and 2. —

**House Salad with Choice of Dressings,
Twice Baked Potato and Squash Blend**

Dessert: Anniversary Cake with Ice Cream

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.