



# NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Official Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Houston Association of Chapters

April 2009

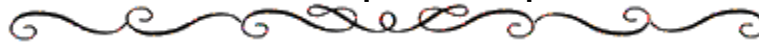
<http://www.narfehouston.org>



President: Dave Bloomer VP: vacant

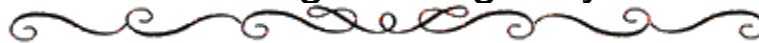
Secretary: Hazel Hicks Treasurer: Wilbur Doehring

## Join NARFE'S Rapid Response Team



Lawmakers sometimes schedule critical votes with little advance notice for the purpose of handicapping efforts to generate a grass-roots response. Fortunately, NARFE can respond to this challenge with e-mail action alerts, which mobilize members on short notice for or against legislation affecting federal workers and annuitants. If NARFE does not have your current e-mail address you won't know when you should contact your representative and Senators. If you have an e-mail address and want to help federal workers and annuitants to be treated fairly by Congress and the administration, you should join the NARFE Rapid Response Team. If you already have your email address on your NARFE member record and you are receiving the GEMS NARFE Legislative Hotline you are receiving the information needed to act. If not you can easily contact NARFE at [memsrvcs@narfe.org](mailto:memsrvcs@narfe.org) or 703-838-7760 to ask that your email be included in your member record. You can also send in the form on page 14 of the April 2009 NARFE magazine, or sign in <http://www.narfe.org> to update your member profile. Then when you receive Legislative Alerts be sure to contact your Congressional representative and Senators to inform them of your support for the legislative issue. Help with what to say and form letters are available on the national website. They are very easy to use and require very little input or time to complete. Visit the Legislative page on <http://www.narfe.org> to review how you can send email to your representatives. Then the next time there is an alert, respond by joining your fellow NARFE members by contacting your representatives and help influence legislation favorable to NARFE members.

## Update: Children's Age of Eligibility under FEHBP



In the most recent NARFE magazine a question on medical coverage for a child turning 22 was answered. As most NARFE members in this area would know, Chapter 2030 sent to the National Convention several times in a row a resolution to get NARFE to support raising the age of a child's eligibility for medical care to age 25. That resolution finally passed at the 2008 Convention and NARFE's Legislative program this year included seeking the increase to age 25. The interesting part of the answer in the NARFE magazine was the following statement: "OPM is in the process of seeking congressional approval for children to be eligible to stay on their parents plan until they turn age 25." See NARFE Magazine (April 2009, page 35-6). It is interesting that OPM elected not to do anything about this issue in the past when it was brought to their attention. Now suddenly OPM is reportedly acting on this when it could have done so much earlier. For several years OPM was supposed to be trying to find ways to improve employee benefits so the government could attract employees to federal service in view of the increasing retirements of Baby Boomers. Seems a change in Administrations, perhaps with a nudge from NARFE may have OPM suddenly reversing course and saying "Yes We Can." NARFE members should be prepared to let their Congressional Representatives know they support this legislation. See HB 5550

### NARFE Websites:

<http://www.narfe.org>   <http://www.txnarfe.org>   <http://www.narfehouston.org>

## Executive Board Proposes Dues Referendum

National President Margaret Baptiste has announced that the National Executive Board has proposed a referendum on a single dues structure for NARFE. Her memo forwards information on the referendum including a question and answer sheet. Chapter Presidents have been provided a copy of this material and will be making it available to chapter members starting in April. The information is also expected to be available on line and in the NARFE magazine. NARFE members should study this proposed referendum and discuss it with fellow members at upcoming Chapter meetings. The referendum will be sent out in September and responses by members will be due by December. A single unified dues does offer advantages for stabilizing and simplifying the NARFE dues structure.

## Agenda for HAC April Quarterly Meeting

The next Houston Association of Chapters meeting will be on Wednesday April 22nd at 10:30 AM at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston, Texas. Agenda items for the meeting will include:

Update on Bid for TFC Convention  
Election of Nomination Committee

Houston Association of Chapters Name Change -- Suggested names submitted to date are: NARFE Greater Houston Council of Chapters, and NARFE Houston Council of Chapters

## Premium Conversion Bills Introduced

NARFE President Margaret Baptiste praised Reps. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Frank Wolf (R-VA), Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) February 27th for respectively introducing, H.R. 1203 and S. 491, the "Federal and Military Retiree Health Care Equity Act," bipartisan legislation to allow federal civilian annuitants as well as active duty military personnel and retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax compensation (also known as "premium conversion").

## NEW NARFE PAC PINS AVAILABLE - DONATE NOW

Help support NARFE legislative issues, and the legislators who support NARFE. Make a donation to our NARFE Political Action Committee (PAC). Any donation of \$20 or more will entitle you to a NARFE PAC Pin. The Pins are available now. See your Chapter Legislative Chair or see the form in NARFE April 2009 magazine page 18. Funds will be needed to help support those legislators who are friends of NARFE in the next Congressional election. With less than 60 votes in the Senate many changes that are proposed may fail to get brought to the floor. The next Congressional election may be critical to NARFE's legislative success on issues such as WEP/GPO, Premium Conversion and issues effecting employee benefits.

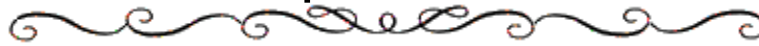
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## Chapter News



Each Chapter President has been asked to have their Publicity Chair or Newsletter Editor contribute information on their Chapter two weeks before the beginning of each quarter. Each Chapter has also been advised to update their meeting and event information quarterly for the website. Was information submitted for your chapter?

### **Greater North Houston Chapter 828**

April 21 - Chapter meeting which will focus heavily on preparations for the Texas Federation Convention.

May 19 - Chapter meeting and memorial service. Jerome Smith, the NARFE Texas Federation President will be attending the meeting as a guest speaker.

June 16 - Chapter meeting with Frances Luna as guest speaker to discuss Alzheimer's.

### **Northeast Houston Chapter 1349**

The April Chapter 1349 meeting has been cancelled due to construction at their meeting place.

### **Montgomery County Chapter 1350**

Chapter 1350 met at the Golden Corral in Conroe in January, February, and March of 2009. No programs were scheduled, but there was a get to know fellow members held at the January meeting. Jeanne Peterson gave a moving report on Alzheimer's at the February meeting, and President Allen Machart gave a short presentation on Falls, followed by an open discussion of why and how older people fall at the March meeting.

The April 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter 1350 meeting will be mostly about discussing the new dues structure suggested by our National President, and the need for a Chapter 1350 dues increase including whether to notify members in their Chapter newsletter of a dues increase election at the May meeting.

The May 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter 1350 meeting may involve holding an election on increase in Chapter dues. No speaker has been scheduled at this time but an effort to do so is continuing.

The June 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter 1350 meeting will be a social to help get to know fellow members.

### **Southwest Houston Chapter 1375**

At the April 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting Chapter 1375 will have a program on the American Flag.

The May 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting has no program planned at this time, but likely the meeting will include a report on the TFC Convention to be held at the end of April.

At the June 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting Chapter 1375 will have a program on the Heart.

### **Rosenberg Chapter 2030**

The April 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter 2030 meeting will feature Speaker Violet Pitts – My Career in Government. The TFC Convention and Resolutions to be considered will also be discussed.

The May 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter #2030 meeting will report on the TFC Convention and have speaker Ron Norsworthy speak about tips to avoid Elder Financial Abuse.

The June 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter 2030 meeting will feature musical entertainment by Brendon & Venessa Mak.

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## 2009 Texas Federation Convention



The 55<sup>th</sup> Texas Federation Convention is being planned and hosted by the San Antonio area chapters. Although the convention will be held April 24-27, 2009 --information on registration and hotel reservations has already been made available. A package has been sent to Chapter Presidents, and information has been posted on the Texas Federation Website at <http://www.txnarfe.org/TFCconv.html> Note: A link is available on the website to make a reservation with the hotel. Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation forms are also available on the website. A form to sign up for the Riverboat ride is also on the website.

The 55th TFC Convention will be held in the Hilton San Antonio Airport Hotel. Located on Loop 410, two miles from the airport. The hotel is North of Loop 410 across from North Star Mall. Hotel parking is \$4 a night in a covered parking garage. For people not staying at the hotel, the parking day rate is \$2.50. Convention Hotel Rates are: Single Rate: \$85.00, Double Rate: \$85.00, Triple Rate: \$100.00 & Quad Rate: \$115.00, plus tax. This rate is available for 3 days before and after the convention when booking for the convention.

The tentative agenda is:

Friday 24th: Committee meetings and Executive Board meeting -- general membership attendees should report for registration. River Boat ride along Riverwalk available Friday evening.

Saturday 25th: full day of meetings -- Mexican Buffet in evening

Sunday 26th: full day of meetings -- Banquet in evening. The banquet theme is "American Heritage Night".

Members are encouraged to come in ethnic attire.

Monday 27th: half-day session

**NARFE Houston Association of Chapters  
C/O Dave Bloomer, President  
1934 Mustang Springs Drive  
Missouri City, Texas 77459**

**To:**

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