



# SW HOUSTON 1375

## Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 09-02

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month is coming up in 1 Aug – 7 Sep 09. NARFE members are being urged to contact their own members of congress in their home or district offices while they are on recess. Preserving existing benefits is top of NARFE'S mission.

The main talking points while visiting your members of congress are our priority bills:

**Premium Conversion (H.R.1203/S.491) – payment for health insurance with pre-tax dollars, wages excluded from both income and social security payroll taxes like federal employees and congress members enjoy. That would provide fairness and equity for federal retirees. Second, Repeal of GPO/WEP (H.R.235/S.484) Social Security Offset correction. Other valid points talking points:**

**How comprehensive Health Care Reform could affect the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program?**

**And, How an overhaul of entitlement programs could impact federal civilian retirement? Let's plan our meetings!**

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

*President* – Phil Kraus

281-499-8277

[pkraus8887@aol.com](mailto:pkraus8887@aol.com)

*1st VP* – Pat Schuetz

281-499-6972

[pschuetz1926@msn.com](mailto:pschuetz1926@msn.com)

*2nd VP* – Rudy Carr

713-771-2086

[rudycarr@att.net](mailto:rudycarr@att.net)

*Secretary* – Betty Kraus

281-499-8277

[kittycare@aol.com](mailto:kittycare@aol.com)

*Treasurer* – Michael M. Greenspan

281-646-1116

[tokenmq@aol.com](mailto:tokenmq@aol.com)

*Legislative Chair* – Rudy Carr

713-771-2086

[rudycarr@att.net](mailto:rudycarr@att.net)

*Service Officer* – Bobbie Stevens

281-579-0465

[bobbiestev@aol.com](mailto:bobbiestev@aol.com)

### NARFE AT WORK

House passes FERS Sick Leave (H.R.1256). NARFE supports this legislation to allow FERS employees to credit unused sick leave towards retirement. The inequity in the treatment of accrued sick leave between FERS and CSRS employees has hurt productivity and increased agency costs. This is a victory for federal workers but still must be passed by the senate.

House Defeat attempt to cut Federal benefits. FY2010 preliminary budget recommendations DO NOT include cutting federal civilian retirement benefits. NARFE urged lawmakers to oppose Rep Ryan amendment, which would have affected COLA's, Retiree Annuities and higher Health Benefit Costs.

Comprehensive Health Care Reform and Comprehensive Reform of Social Security are priority with Congress. NARFE is interested in both reforms but is also interested in using both reforms as a legislative vehicle to attach Premium Conversion (HR 1203.S.491) and Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), (H.R. 235/S.484)

## Welcome New Members

2nd Quarter 2009

Grant Perry, Denny Hay, Mark N.Gear  
Norma Jean English  
Raul Valdez  
E velyn Chruchwell

### **RENEWAL AND REINSTATEMENTS:**

*Cynthia Burke, Eloy Garcia,  
Reylon Belle, Candice Moore,  
Amarlis Torres, Vena L. Brondel  
Tom F. Dower  
Richard H. Manning  
Diane M. Marcinek  
Marcus Muenchow  
Samuel Burton  
William Forrester  
Henrietta Lockwood*

### **Monthly meeting for the next Quarter**

**JULY 15**

**AUGUST 19**

**SEPTEMBER 16**

## ◆ PROGRAMS ◆

July Alan Spears  
Emergency Mgt, Ft Bend Co

August AAA, Auto Maintenance, etc

September TBD

If you have any suggestions for a program or if you would like to make a presentation, please contact 1<sup>st</sup> VP & Program Chair, Pat Schuetz

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and you have an email address, send address to rudycarr@att.net. This will help save money on postage plus you get a meeting notice.

## UPDATES OF INTEREST

NARFE's survivors guide titled **Be Prepared for Life's Events**, publication F-100, is a very helpful document because it includes all information in one place pertaining to retiree's assets, bank accounts, insurance coverage, etc.

Retirement benefits under Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) are depicted in detail. See March, April and May NARFE magazine issues.

On 20 May Senate Government Affairs Committee approved S. 629 which removes the salary offset disincentive for retiree rehires. It waives the requirement that federal retirees take a pay cut equal to their annuity if they return to government on a limited part time basis.

## CHAPTER 1375 UPDATES

Chapter 1375 sent four delegates to the Texas Federal Convention in San Antonio, TX 24-27 Apr 09, Phil Kraus (Pres) and wife Bette (Secretary) and Rudy Carr (VP) and wife Lola. The Convention was excellent with National President Margaret Baptiste in attendance providing guidance and news from the National Office. This convention was a first for our attendees. Election of Officers was held during the Convention (See page 4, TFR, May/June issue)

Chapter 1375 President Phil Kraus made a bid to host the 2011 Texas Federation Convention in Galveston, TX, 28 Apr thru 1 May 2011. The bid was accepted. This is a great opportunity for all NARFE members, not only from SW Houston Chapter 1375 but from the Greater Houston Area to join forces and make the next Texas Federation Convention "The Best Ever". Thanks to Michael Greenspan, Treasurer, coordinator for Galveston 2011 Convention site.