



SW HOUSTON 1375

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 10-02

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March is NARFE-PAC month. NARFE –PAC complements members voting power, grass – roots activism and professional advocacy. Our Political Action Committee amalgamates small, voluntary member donations and contributes substantial sums to congressional candidates whose records show them to be supporters of federal employees and retirees. It is the only NARFE solicitation that directly supports our core mission – protecting the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees. Federal workers and retirees may soon see their benefits in the crosshairs of a targeted effort to get the government's "fiscal house in order". Senator Tom Coburn said in July 09, "if you think it (your federal pension) is guaranteed, you have another thought coming because the world economic system is going to determine whether we can honor that pension. That is what is coming. We are very close". NARFE-PAC has enabled our friends in Congress to defend and enhance our earned benefits. The fight to hold on to what is rightfully ours will be increasingly difficult. Given the threats we face, please consider a contribution to NARFE PAC.

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NARFE AT WORK

NARFE Legislative Accomplishments – 111th Congress (2009)

- Equity for Federal Retirees in Stimulus Bill. Government employees not eligible for Social Security receive \$250 per person refundable tax credit for 2009.
- Protection of Federal Benefits – A proposal in the House of Representatives to cut federal retirement and health benefits by \$10 billion was defeated.
- Enactment of Several Civil Service Improvements in the Defense Authorization Bill: Federal Employee Retirement System workers can credit their unused sick leave toward retirement; and agencies can directly hire retirees who want to return to work without losing either their annuity or salary.

Welcome New Members

*Robert Budlong, Evelyn Clarence Harris,
Carl J. Galbraith, Kimberly Holland,
Sharon Friedman, Quinn Allen,
Thomas Benedict, Steven & Sonia Buckelew,
John & Diane Hauschild, Larry Moore,
Robert & Cynthia Samborski*

RENEWALS

Nera Q. Banks, Linda F. Hall, Irene E. Corbit

IN MEMORIAM

Ray E. Walker, Harold Friedman

Monthly meeting for the next Quarter

April 21

May 19

June 16

We meet at RYAN'S FAMILY STEAKHOUSE,
7211 Hwy 6 - between Beechnut and Bellaire

◆ PROGRAMS ◆

April Dr Holliday, Pharmacology

May TBD

June TBD

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

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

UPDATES OF INTEREST

- Senate REJECTS one-time \$250 payment to older American in 2010.
- Congress passed 1.5% Federal Employee base pay increase for 2010 and a 0.5% hike in locality pay. No pay parity with military but promised to return in 2011.
- Civil Service Retirement and Health Benefits remain unscathed in 2011 budget.
- Feds exempt from the Excise Tax on "Cadillac" Health Plan until 2018.
- Federal Employment Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries will receive a 3.4% COLA in 2010 for work related injuries or illnesses. FECA received NONE 2009.

CHAPTER 1375 UPDATES

Membership contest. CHAPTER 1375 ADVANCES TO 8TH place in nation, medium chapter category. Let's all recruit one new member and take the lead.

Bobbie Stevens, Chapter 1375 NARFE Service Officer is our MARCH speaker. Email your questions to bobbiestev@aol.com prior to the meeting. This should be very informative.

The next planning meeting for the 2011 Texas Federation Convention to be held in Galveston, hosted by Chapter 1375, will be held after the regular meeting on 17Mar 09. Participation from other chapters in district 7 and 8 is encouraged for a successful convention in 2011.

Chapter 1375 donated \$400 for the Candle Lighters Cancer Children's Day at the Rodeo.

Would NARFE members be interested in viewing NARFE Newsletter and updates on FACEBOOK? Comments to rudycarr@att.net.