



SW HOUSTON 1375 Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 10-01

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

ADVOCACY 2010. Since it's founding in 1921, NARFE has focused on advocacy. It is made possible by information and powerful by timely, targeted information. NARFE focuses on the unique interest of federal workers and annuitants and enlists the time and energy of every member to defend the retirement and health benefits earned through a lifetime of service to our nation. NARFE has proved to be successful with 310,000 grass-roots members consisting of 54 federations and 1437 chapters and thousands of member-activists and staff registered lobbyists. Tools available for advocacy include the NARFE magazine, the NARFE Legislative Hotline toll free 877-217-8234, NARFE'S website, www.narfe.org and the Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS). To join GEMS, send your full name, postal address and email address to memsrvs@narfe.org. As a result of advocacy, NARFE scored victories in Stimulus Bill, Re-Employed Retirees and FERS Sick Leave, and a Bill to Protect Federal Retirees from 2010 Medicare Premium Increase.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President - Phil Kraus

281-499-8277

pkraus8887@aol.com

1st VP - Pat Schuetz

281-499-6972

pschuetz1926@msn.com

2nd VP - Rudy Carr

713-771-2086

rudycarr@att.net

Secretary - Betty Kraus

281-499-8277

kittycare@aol.com

Treasurer - Michael M. Greenspan

281-646-1116

tokenmg@aol.com

Legislative Chair - Rudy Carr

713-771-2086

rudycarr@att.net

Service Officer - Bobbie Stevens

281-579-0465

bobbiestev@aol.com

NARFE AT WORK

Senate passed Health Care Reform with NARFE suggested language that will safeguard the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP). The compromise will be added to the bill through the approval of the "manager's amendment".

Premium Conversion. Both Texas senators are co-sponsors of Premium Conversion which would allow federal civilians and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis. Premium Conversion is one of NARFE priority bills.

Welcome New Members

1st Quarter 2010

*Cheryl Angus, Rhea E. Bennett,
Judith Crowder, Samuel Cuevas, Richard Giddings,
Leah D. Haynes, Ruthann Jacklin, Carla Jackson,
Yvonne Lima, Cheryl McBeth, Joyce Phillips,
Vernell Simmons, Jeffery Spurlock, Lawonda Varnell,
Bhim S. Chawla, Christopher E. Cheaney, Theresa Kelly*

RENEWALS

*Harry Brondel, Milton Austin,
Cynthia Pavlock, Leslie Shepard,
Peggy Sternitzke*

Monthly meeting for the next Quarter

January 20

February 17

March 17

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

◆ PROGRAMS ◆

January	Nutritionist
February	Rodeo Topics Mike Jackson
March	Service Officer (NARFE) Bobbie Stevens

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 address to rudycarr@att.net. This will help save \$ on postage + you get meeting notice.

UPDATES OF INTEREST

2010 FEHBP premiums will increase on average of 8.8%. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Standard insurance will increase by 12.4% (family), and 15.1% (self only). Effective date of change is 1 January 2010.

OPM extends deadline for Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program from 14 Dec 09 to 15 Feb 2010.

House passed H.R. 3288. 2 % hike for federal civilian employees in 2010. No civilian-military pay parity.

REFERENDUM on National Dues WAS NOT approved.

CHAPTER 1375 UPDATES

Membership contest. CHAPTER 1375 tied for 9th place in nation, medium chapter category.

CHRISTMAS PARTY. Well attended. Everybody had a good time.

District 7 Representative, David Doss, installed 2010 Chapter 1375 Officers on 16 Dec 09.

Speaker program. Phil Kraus presented and excellent and very informative program, "The Military in Houston" during the November meeting.

The initial planning meeting for the 2011 Texas Federation Convention to be held in Galveston was held November 18 2009. A plan similar to the one used in San Antonio for the last convention was used as a model. Additional participation from other chapters in district 7 and 8 is encouraged for a successful convention in 2011.