



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Official Quarterly Newsletter of the
Greater Houston Council of Chapters
April 2010

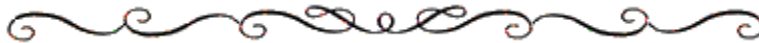
<http://www.narfehouston.org>



President: Dave Bloomer VP: vacant

Secretary: Hazel Hicks Treasurer: Wilbur Doehring

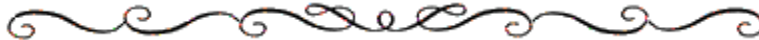
2010 District Conventions



District 7 Convention. The District 7 Convention will be held on April 14, 2010 at Seniors Activity Center, 200 Briarridge Drive, Bellville, Texas. Austin County Chapter #1430 is hosting the convention. Donuts, juice and coffee will be available at 9:30 AM and lunch will be served at 11:30 AM. The total cost will be \$10.00. Please send your check to Elizabeth Remmert, 211 Lisa Lane, Bellville, TX 77418 to arrive by April 10, 2010. The highlights of the meeting will be training on how to run a successful chapter with special guest from the Texas Federation of Chapters. A copy of the draft agenda is available on the Greater Houston Council website at: <http://www.narfehouston.org/D7Rep.html>

District 8 Convention. Information on the District 8 Convention location and details were not received, but the Convention will be hosted by NASA Chapter 1321 and held on April 15th at the same general times as the District 7 Convention.

Spring is NARFE PAC Time



Give to PAC, Wear the Pin. Spring is NARFE-PAC time, and NARFE is asking every member to donate to NARFE-PAC, the Association's Political Action Committee. NARFE-PAC combines small donations from NARFE members and awards money to federal-friendly congressional candidates. NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste is urging strong member participation in NARFE-PAC this election year as congressional campaigns gear up. Please return your NARFE-PAC solicitation letter with a generous donation so NARFE can provide support to candidates favorable to our legislative goals. If you donate \$20 or more, you will receive a NARFE-PAC pin. Wear it proudly.

Chapters Urged to Plan Now for NARFE Advocacy Month



Meet Your Candidates Month. NARFE Headquarters is urging chapters and federations to make a big push this year to hold candidate forums in advance of the November elections. Chapters are urged to plan ahead to hold events early since candidates become unavailable as the election approaches and their time is spent almost entirely in campaigning. Beginning the week of April 5, Headquarters will be holding conference calls among officers in NARFE's 10 regions to provide guidance on holding these events. NARFE also is sending materials out to the field that will help local and state officers set up the meetings. A copy of these materials will be available on the National Legislation page of the Texas Federation of Chapters website at: <http://www.txnarfe.org/NLegis.html>

NARFE Websites:

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

Attention Chapter Presidents and Members District 7 & 8

The next planning meeting for the 2011 Texas Federation Convention in Galveston will be held May 19, 2010, at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, 7211 Hwy 6, in Houston (between Beechnut and Bellaire). The meeting will get underway at 2:00 P.M (following the Chapter 1375 Business meeting at 12:15 PM and program at 1:00 PM). Please plan to attend as NARFE needs all Chapters including your Chapter to help make this event successful. A meeting notice with additional information will also be sent to each chapter. Phil Kraus, Convention Chair, Chapter #1375.

NARFE Position on Health Care

Health Care Vote: Members are reminded that NARFE is non-partisan and while it does not take partisan positions on legislative issues it does evaluate the legislation from the viewpoint of NARFE members best interests. On March 23rd, President Obama signed the health care reform legislation into law (P.L. 111-148). Nothing changes immediately for the 9 million Americans covered by FEHBP. Only Members of Congress and their personal staff will be required to enroll in the state exchanges once they become operational. A second, but shorter bill, the "reconciliation" bill, H.R. 4872, passed both chambers prior to the recess and was also signed by the President. It postpones the excise tax on high value health care plans from 2013 until 2018 and provides a \$250 rebate this year to Medicare Part D beneficiaries who are in the 'donut hole.' NARFE's updated and detailed position paper on health reform is available on the NARFE web site. The May issue of **NARFE** magazine will have additional information on health care reform. A link to the article on the website is: <http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/articles.cfm?ID=2040>

New Legislation on Deferred Annuities

NARFE President Margaret Baptiste recently congratulated Congressman James Moran (D-VA) on introduction of legislation to require indexation of deferred annuities for departing federal employees. The Congressman was joined in a bipartisan effort with cosponsors Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC).

Currently, if federal employee decides to leave the federal service prior to age 62, the annuity earned must either be deferred until age 62, or contributions the employee made during service must be immediately withdrawn from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF). The annuity is not indexed to inflation; so many younger employees take out their contributions knowing that if they defer the benefit, it will decrease in value over time.

Congressman Moran's legislation seeks to rectify this situation. "At a time when the federal government needs to recruit the best and brightest into service, H.R.4979 is an important recruitment tool," said President Baptiste. "With indexation of deferred annuities, young workers joining the federal workforce know they can begin a long and fulfilling career in public service and still retain the full worth of their retirement benefits, regardless of other career choices they make in the future. We support this very important initiative for all current and future civil servants."

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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

Mary Nell Herring was honored at the March 16, 2010 Chapter 828 meeting for serving 19 years as Chapter Treasurer and serving the Chapter in many other ways. She was presented with an inscribed mantle clock and a gift certificate. A cake in her honor was served after the presentation.

The Chapter 828 business meeting for April will be held April 20th at 12:30PM, at Golden Corral, 13145 Northwest Freeway in Houston. The speaker will be a Deputy Sheriff from the Harris County Sheriff's office, who will discuss safety issues and answer questions. Members will also discuss Chapter 828's specific involvement in the 2011 Texas Federation Convention.

Jan Cobb from Cameo Care Givers will speak at the May 18th Chapter 828 meeting, (location as above) providing an overview of care giver services and answer questions.

The Chapter 828 meeting for June will be held June 15th at 12:30PM, (location as above). At this time no program has been scheduled.

Golden Triangle Chapter 864 -- No information submitted Northeast Houston Chapter 1349 -- No information submitted

Montgomery County Chapter 1350

The Chapter 1350 business meeting on April 8th at 11:30 AM will feature a candidate for the local college district. The meeting is held at Incredible Pizza Restaurant located on Loop 336 and I-45 in Conroe.

The Chapter 1350 business meeting for May will be on May 13th. No speaker is scheduled. The meeting is held at Incredible Pizza Restaurant located on Loop 336 and I-45 in Conroe.

The Chapter 1350 business meeting for June will be on June 10th and the speaker will probably be Mr. Kevin Martin, a financial planner from Edward Jones. The meeting is held at Incredible Pizza Restaurant located on Loop 336 and I-45 in Conroe.

Southwest Houston Chapter 1375

The Chapter 1375 business meeting for April is on April 21st at 12:15 PM at Ryan's Steakhouse, 7211 S. Highway 6. The program at 1:00PM features Dr. Holliday speaking on Pharmacology.

The Chapter 1375 business meeting for May 19th

The Chapter 1375 business meeting for June 18th

Fort Bend Chapter 2030

Chapter #2030 Members will be attending the District 7 Convention in Bellville on April 14th which is our regular meeting day, therefore there will be no regular business meeting in April.

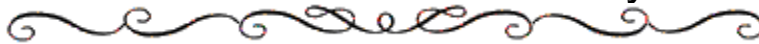
The Chapter #2030 business meeting for May will be held May 12th at 11:30 AM at the Fort Bend Country Club in Richmond, Texas. Having tried several possible meeting locations in the past 3 months members will decide where future meetings of the Chapter will take place.

The Chapter #2030 business meeting for June will be held June 9th at 11:30 AM at the Fort Bend Country Club unless members select another site at the May meeting.

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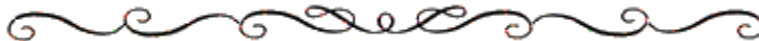
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Greater Houston Council Quarterly Meetings



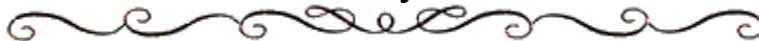
Greater Houston Council of Chapters meetings have been scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of the first month of each quarter in 2010. Meetings will only be held however at the call of the President if needed to conduct business. Otherwise representatives, and all NARFE members are encouraged to attend and participate fully in the planning meetings for the 2011 TFC Convention in Galveston which will be announced by Phil Kraus 2011 TFC Convention Chair and notice will be published in this newsletter when possible.

WEP/GPO Summit



NARFE is participating in a GPO/WEP summit hosted by the Texas Retired Teachers Association in Washington March 9-10. Legislative Director Dan Adcock will speak at the summit. Organizations of retired public sector retirees from other states also will participate. NARFE supports repeal of the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset. These provisions adversely effect many NARFE members at retirement.

Social Security Newsletter



The Social Security Administration has posted the latest edition of the "**Social Security Update**" online. You can read the four page newsletter in its entirety or subscribe to the electronic version by going to:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/newsletter/>

**NARFE Greater Houston Council of Chapters
C/O Dave Bloomer, President
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Missouri City, Texas 77459**

To:

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