



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Quarterly Newsletter of the

Greater Houston Council of Chapters

July 2009

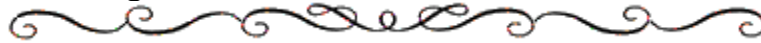
<http://www.narfehouston.org>



President: Dave Bloomer VP: vacant

Secretary: Hazel Hicks Treasurer: Wilbur Doehring

Local Congressmen Voted To Cut Your Benefits



Congressmen Pete Olson, Michael McCaul, John Culberson, and Ted Poe recently voted yes on a bill to cut your benefits. They were among 137 in Congress who voted YES on the bill reported below. See who else voted to cut your benefits on the list at link shown below. Thankfully, the bill was defeated as it could have seriously impacted federal retirement benefits:

On Thursday, April 2nd, before passing their fiscal 2010 budget resolution the House of Representatives defeated a substitute amendment offered by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) which would have cut entitlements – like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid – by \$1.3 trillion over ten years and **would have included a reduction of \$10.263 billion in federal civil service retirement and health benefits.**

In a letter sent to all 435 members of the House prior to the vote, **NARFE President Margaret Baptiste urged lawmakers to oppose the amendment because it would have compelled the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to consider proposals such as cutting or canceling federal annuity cost of living adjustments (COLAs), basing future retiree annuities on the highest five years of salary, shifting a growing share of Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium costs to workers and retirees and/or requiring workers to double their Thrift Savings Plan contribution to receive the full government share.**

The Ryan substitute was defeated 137 to 293. As has been done in the past, the NARFE Legislative Action Center shows how each Representative voted on the Ryan substitute amendment. (The gateway to the Legislative Action Center is <http://capwiz.com/narfe/dbq/officials/> A display of the vote on the Clerk of the House web site is found at: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2009/roll191.xml>) **To easily contact your Congressman to let them know your concern with their vote use the Legislative Action Center link above or call your representative toll free (NARFE hotline 1-866-220-0044) and ask the operator for the office of your representative. Remember to be polite even if expressing dissatisfaction.**

Representatives Approve Name Change: Greater Houston Council

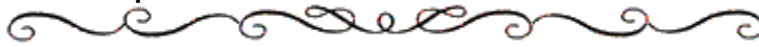


At the April Quarterly meeting representatives voted to change the name of the Houston Association of Chapters to NARFE Greater Houston Council of Chapters. The new name will bring the group into line with the other organizations in the Texas Federation which are called Councils. The name also helps by being more inclusive for those chapters that are not actually in Houston. Did you notice the heading of the newsletter has been changed?

NARFE Websites:

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

SW Houston Chapter #1375 Wins Bid for 2011 TFC Convention



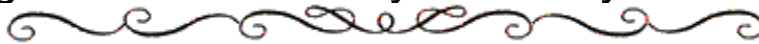
At the 2009 NARFE State Convention in San Antonio, TX. delegates selected the bid submitted by Southwest Houston Chapter 1375, to host the 2011 State Convention in Galveston. The convention dates are April 28, 2011, to May 1, 2011. The convention will be held at the Galveston Island Hilton, located at 5400 Seawall Boulevard, in Galveston, TX. The theme is "NARFE Helping Galveston Recover". Room rates will be \$85.00 per night, single or double. Galveston County Chapter 298 and other Houston Chapters have already agreed to help make this a memorable convention. The help of all Chapters and NARFE members in the Houston-Galveston area consisting of District 7 and 8 will be needed to make the convention outstanding. Phil Kraus, President, SW Houston Chapter 1375, and 2011 Texas Federation Convention Chairman said notice will be sent to Chapter Presidents and a planning committee meeting will be held by this fall, he encourages all District 7 & 8 Chapters to participate.

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. The information is also 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 is said to offer advantages for stabilizing and simplifying the NARFE dues structure.

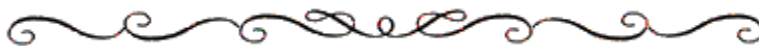
Agenda for GHC July Quarterly Meeting



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

Report on Successful Bid for 2011 TFC Convention by Chapter 1375
Nominations for Election of 2010-12 Officers

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 prop0sed may fail to get brought to the floor. The results of the next Congressional election may be critical to NARFE's legislative success on issues such as WEP/GPO, Premium Conversion and other issues on 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

The July 21st Chapter 828 meeting will celebrate the Chapter's Birthday and Past Chapter Presidents. MaryAnn Kelley, RSVP, Texas Gulf Coast. will also speak about the Importance of Volunteering.

On August 18th at 10:30 a.m Chapter 828 will hold a covered dish Summer Games and Social, at the Spring Branch Community Center, 1721 Pech Road. There will be no business meeting in August.

Chapter 828 will hold a Christmas Party and Alzheimer Monetary Collection in December (the specific date, time, and location are yet to be determined).

Northeast Houston Chapter 1349

The Chapter 1349 meeting on July 9th will not include a speaker.

Chapter 1349 will not have a meeting in August.

The September Chapter 1349 meeting will select nominations to be Officers for 2010.

Montgomery County Chapter 1350

Chapter 1350 will not meet in July or August and will be meeting at a new location starting in September. The Golden Corral where they previously met has closed. The new location will be the Incredible Pizza Restaurant on Loop 336 and I-45 in Conroe, TX. The luncheon begins at 11:30AM.

At the September 10th meeting at the new location noted above, the Chapter will vote on the dues referendum regarding a single dues structure for NARFE.

Southwest Houston Chapter 1375

At the July 15th Chapter 1375 meeting Alan Spears from Ft Bend County Emergency Mgt, will speak on Emergency Management.

At the August 19th Chapter 1375 meeting a speaker will discuss AAA, Auto Maintenance, etc

Fort Bend Chapter 2030 Rosenberg

The July 8th Chapter #2030 meeting will feature a speaker on the American Flag.

The August 12th Chapter 2030 meeting will be about Grass Roots Advocacy. all members are urged to contact their Senators and Representative about NARFE legislative goals: Premium conversion, WEP/GPO Repeal

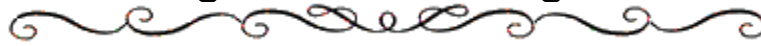
The September 9th Chapter 2030 meeting will feature Jon & Evelyn Eiche speaking on the Rotary International effort to help eliminate Polio. If it has arrived the NARFE Dues Referendum will be the main business on the agenda.

For Chapter event month in October Chapter 2030 is planning a celebration of its 25th Anniversary as a NARFE Chapter. Watch for further information on this event.

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2009 Region VI Training Seminar



The Tyler Rose City Chapter and the Longview Chapter are hosting the 2009 NARFE Region VI Seminar. The Region VI Seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn on South Broadway in Tyler. To make hotel room reservations, call 903 579 8202. The dates are September 15, 16 and 17, 2009. The states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and the Republic of Panama are included in Region VI. About 200 NARFE leaders from throughout the Region are expected to attend this important biennial conference.

The registration for the Seminar is only \$60.00 which includes an evening meal on Wednesday and the Banquet on Thursday evening. To register, send your check payable to NARFE Region VI Seminar 2009 to: Dr James Novy, NARFE Chapter 344, 16701 Terrebonne Drive, Tyler, TX 75703-7785

It is not too late to get your personal or Chapter advertisement in the Program Book. The cost for an ad has been set as follows: 7 1/2 x 4 1/2 inch full page in black ink is \$100., 1/2 page is \$50., 1/3 page is \$30. The cost for a two color ad on the back cover (inside or outside) or the inside front cover is \$300. Send camera-ready advertisement along with a check made payable to "**2009 Region VI Seminar**" to Jerome Smith, 5900 Raleigh Dr., Tyler, Texas 75703. For additional information call Jerome Smith @ (903) 534 5849 or e-mail retiredjer@aol.com. Ads must be received by **August 20, 2009** to be printed in the Program Book.

Additional information concerning registration can also be found on the Texas Federation's web page at www.txnarfe.org under **Region VI Seminar, Registration**.

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

To:

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