

Unless otherwise noted
 9:30 am networking
 10:00 Program,
 Business meeting.
 7Ten Center (formerly
 Comal County Senior
 Citizens’ Center)
 710 Landa St.,
 New Braunfels 78130
 Guests welcome!



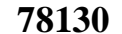
Apr. 19: Fri.
 “Great Springs Project”
 Garry Merritt
 Details right →



May. 17, 11:30 am-1 pm
 “May Luncheon”
 Casa Garcia’s
 1691 State Hwy 46 W Ste
 335 New Braunfels, TX
 78132



June 21: Fri.
 “Genealogy Resources &
 Tech Help at NBPL”
 Miranda Robbins,
 New Braunfels
 Public Library
 700 E Common St, NB
 78130



Next newsletter Deadline:
 June 24
 (Monday after last
 meeting of the quarter)

Upcoming Meetings

April 3-5 Garage Sale →

April 19 Great Springs Pro-
 ject: We’ll learn about the
 planned greenway of protected
 lands linking San Antonio
 through New Braunfels to Aus-
 tin. “This green corridor will be
 connected by a network of
 spring-to-spring trails, linking
 the four iconic springs of Cen-
 tral Texas: Barton Springs, San
 Marcos Springs, Comal
 Springs, and San Antonio
 Springs.”

May 17 Luncheon, 11:30 am-
 1:00pm: We’ll meet at Casa
 Garcia’s, 1691 State Hwy. 46
 W Ste 335 in New Braunfels
 78132.

New Distinguished Members
 will be recognized, and mem-
 bers lost this last year will be
 remembered. Chip is not ready
 to announce the entertainment/
 program yet.

June 21 Genealogy Resources
 & Tech Help at NBPL.

Miranda Robbins is our speaker
 and we’ll meet at the New
 Braunfels Public Library,
 Main Branch meeting room.
 700 E Common, New Braun-
 fels.

We’re planning to do a survey
 for your ideas on future pro-
 grams.

2nd Quarter Apr-Jun 2024



Time for our annual fundraiser
 to keep chapter dues low and
 still take part in activities to pro-
 tect benefits.

It will be at 1771 Oakmont Cir,
 New Braunfels, 78132. For
 more information or to volun-
 teer, contact the Membership
 Chair.

We need everyone's help.

**Clean out your closets. Shop.
 Volunteer** to set up or help with
 the sale. **Lend folding tables**
 and clothes racks. This is recy-
 cling at its best.

**April 3rd (W), 10 am-4 pm is
 setup and drop-off.** We use
 standard pricing for common
 items.

**April 4-5 (Th.-F), 8 am-1 pm is
 the sale.** Clean-up follows on
 Friday at 1 pm.

What isn’t sold is donated to
 local non-profits.

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Membership Report Dorothy Creswell

As of March 26, 2024, we have 147 members.

WELCOME BACK
Norma Estimbo-Graebener
6040 Stoney Creek Cv
Bulverde TX 78163-2877

Do you know an active or retired civilian federal worker or their spouse who might benefit from NARFE membership? Invite them to a meeting.

**TF Dues Withholding
Reward**

\$20 Cash



Dues Withholding—Save!
Are you retired and receiving a civil service annuity (FERS or CSRS), or your spouse is?

If so, you're eligible for dues withholding. Each month one-twelfth of your annual national and chapter dues are withheld from your annuity and NARFE gives you a discount of \$6/year. In addition, the Texas Federation will send you a check for \$20 when you first sign up for the program sending the Texas form to the Federation Treasurer.

The form and details are on our website or contact the Membership Chair.



To thrive in life you need 3 bones:

A wishbone

A backbone, and

A funny bone. — Reba McEntire

Sunshine Report Patricia Mantor



to all of you celebrating in:

APRIL

Linda Browne
Lynn Geyer
Alan Gibbs
Kathy Gibbs
Diane Schaule
Homer F Williams
Shirley Williams

MAY

Don Brooke
Donna Cyr
Lee Ellis
(Alvah) "De" Kuykendall
Keven Lomax
Twyla Vital
Bonnie Walchak
Pam Williamson

JUNE

Barbara A Dalrymple
Jerry Finke
Janet Martin
Maureen McConnell
Arline Moehrig
Juan Tristan

If we missed you, contact our Membership Chair. Please add to your address book: cards@jacquielawson.com



Need to declutter?

Find resources at www.MyLegacyList.com

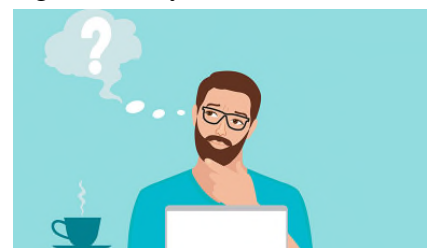
NARFE Webinars

All these NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinars are on a **Thursday, at 1 PM CT**. The webinar is one hour followed by a one-hour question and answer period. Free to members.



April 4: Postal Service Health Benefits Program: What You Need to Know

Starting in 2025, Postal Service employees and retirees will receive health insurance coverage via the new Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) program. To help you understand your options, NARFE Federal Benefits Experts Tammy Flanagan and Mercedes Johnson will walk you through how Medicare will interact with PSHB—register today!



April 25: Key Questions You Need to Answer as You Approach Retirement: Part 1.

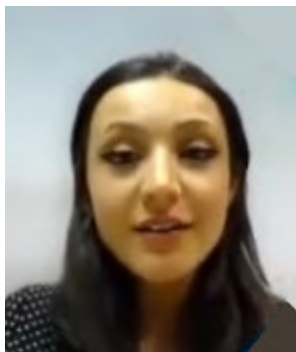
May 2: Key Questions You Need to Answer as You Approach Retirement: Part 2.

May 23: Retirement Planning for Mid-Career and Late-Career Feds.

Take Action! - But How?

So often NARFE asks us to take action on really important legislative issues in Congress, but in many cases the average member gets stopped by the “How?” - “How do I do that? Where do I go? I don’t have the time or knowledge to understand complex legislation.”

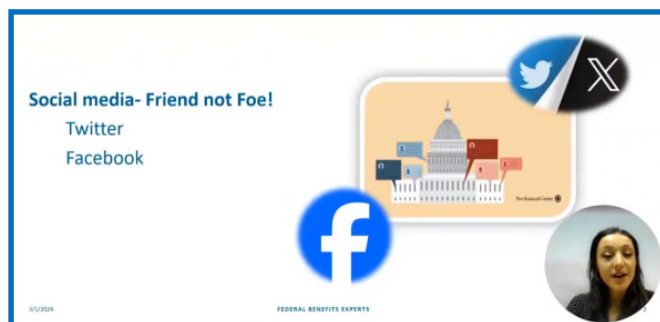
A relatively new answer to this quandary may be found in the new series of Grassroots Advocacy Briefs—short videos on different steps to become an Advocacy voice in protecting your pay and benefits. These have been developed by Ivana Sara, Grassroots Program Manager at NARFE.



They’re short but include practical hints and some step-by-step directions that build confidence in taking action. We can do this!

Listed below are the briefs, with most recent at the top and the video times in parentheses:

Advocacy in a Digital World (5:38) March



Explaining Benchmarks (5:43)

Grasstops-Mobilizing Your Base (7:04)

Meeting with Lawmakers (7:09)

Storytelling and Data (6:40)

Navigating the Legislative Process (5:45)

NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month 2023: Power of Messaging (8:11)

NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month 2023: Social Media How To (8:01)

Se-ren-dip-i-ty

By Marth Sanchez, Service Officer

Se-ren-dip-i-ty - luckily or unexpectedly finding something pleasant or useful.

You don't have to wait for NARFE's magazine, webinars, or chapter meetings to get answers about federal benefits. NARFE's own online network allows you to ask for or exchange useful information anytime.

A recent example involved a glitch and workaround in the online application for Medicare. Within a short time, enough information was widely shared to both anticipate and resolve the problem thanks to FEDHub users' responsiveness.

Along the way, users also discovered a totally different glitch and again shared the solution in FEDHub. By the way, to send an individual reply to a FEDHub post in an emailed digest, instead of reply-all, be sure to be logged in on NARFE first.

You might wonder “What was the glitch in the online application for Medicare and what was the solution?” I realized our newsletter might not be the right space to give specifics of perhaps an “unofficial” workaround since it is member contributed, AND by logic, anyone who reads what we explained in this instance will now know if they encounter the same or any problem to get the solution by using FEDHub.

Having more than one email address is a “plus”

Some people hardly use email anymore and instead use only texting on a cell phone. It might be a good idea to have more than one email address especially since there are so many available for free (i.e. G-Mail, Outlook, iCloud, etc.)

While your primary email address is used for important personal and financial related messages, consider the following reasons for obtaining and using secondary email addresses for yourself and family.

- a. Divert potential scam spams.
- b. “2FA” - some log in systems allow email for two factor authentication.
- c. Assemble your own customized selection of notifications according to your personal interests.

Some examples might be: newsletters and alerts from various sites such as your local news channels, restaurant reviewers, neighborhood watchers, hobby knobbers, tech news and helpers, senior interests, etc.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees

Dorothy Creswell, Editor & Membership
NARFE Chapter 672
1771 Oakmont Circle
New Braunfels TX 78132-3846

Address Service Requested

Chapter www.narfe.org/chapter0672

Texas: www.narfe.net/site/TX

Facebook: [@NARFENBTX](https://www.facebook.com/NARFENBTX)

How to update address, phone or e-mail?

- Login at www.narfe.org then select “My Account”, “My Profile”.
- Or, call Member Records at 1-800-456-8410, M-F, 8 am-4:45 pm ET.
- Or email memberrecords@narfe.org Be sure to include NARFE ID and full name.
- Or notify our Secretary, President, Vice President, or Membership Chair (info to the right).

Chapter eXtra: Pictures and more are in the *eXtra* on our webpage (shown above). It is included with the e-mail version of the newsletter. To be added to the email distribution, contact the Editor.

Please add to your email address book (contacts or approved senders): cards@jacquielawson.com
noreply@narfe.org and noreply@narfe.net

Computer “How to”: Most public libraries have computers for use, free or low cost classes and how-to books and videos. Some also help with smartphones and tablets. Another great resource is <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/topics/> — check it out!

Contacts

If you are reading this newsletter online, please use the contact forms on the

[About Us, Officers and Team Leaders](#)

page. If there is not a form for a specific officer, use the Secretary form and indicate who you want to reach. More information on the last page of the Chapter eXtra.

President	Twyla Vital
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Secretary & Webmaster	Alice Pullin
Treasurer & Alz. Chair	George Rotblut
Membership & Editor	Dorothy Creswell
Legislative	Lynn Geyer
Service Officer	Marth Sanchez
NARFE-PAC	David Manchester
Hospitality	Micheline Rotblut
Sunshine	Pat Mantor
Greeters & Sign-in	Loretta Carter



August 18-20 St. Louis at the Arch

NARFE's biennial national conference, FEDcon24, will be August 18-20 and held at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference rate is \$130/night+tax.

During the March NARFE National Executive Board Meeting, the NEB voted to reduce the registration fee for FEDcon24.

Early registration by May 17th is reduced to \$175 for NARFE members, \$235 for non-members. From May 18-August 7 it is \$200 for members, \$260 for non-members, and after August 7 it is \$250 for members, \$310 for non-members.

For those who already registered, NARFE will refund the difference between the original and new rate back to the same payment method.

The new prices may be found at <https://fedcon.narfe.org> along with hotel information and more. On the same webpage you may find a "Schedule at a Glance" and a more detailed list of sessions under "FEDcon Program."

New this year will be a session featuring the candidates for national office and information and discussion of proposed bylaws amendments. This is discussion only, no changes will be made. Voting will be available to all members, not just attendees, and begins after FEDcon24 through September 30, 2024. The ballot will be included in the September NARFE Magazine.

We encourage all those interested to attend. One chapter member has already registered. Our

(Continued on page 2)

Members

Janet Martin is an Environmental Program Manager with the Air Force Civil Engineering Center (AFCEC) for the past 6.5 years. Prior to joining AFCEC, she worked for the Army Environmental Com-



mand for 18 years as a Program Manager supporting environmental requirements associated with Army Weapon Systems. In addition, she was the Training Coordinator for Army Environmental Training for Army Bases worldwide. Her passions are gardening and animal rescue. She is looking forward to retiring, two years to go to retire with 20

years of Federal Service. She lives at Canyon Lake with her 2 dogs and 7 cats.



Norma Estimbo-Graebener has transferred into our chapter. She lives in Bulverde. Welcome, Norma!

**Next
 deadline
 is: 6/24**

Inside this eXtra:

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- Military Retiree
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FEDcon24 (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

chapter budgeted to reimburse the early registration for up to five members of Chapter 0672. Please let President Twyla Vital know if you plan to attend. To be reimbursed, the member must attend the FEDcon24 sessions each day.

The NARFE Annual Business Meeting will be held Sunday, August 18, from 2:15-4:45 pm immediately preceding the FEDcon24 Welcome Reception at 5:00 pm. It is open to all members.

The Monday keynote speaker is Alex Sheen, founder of **because I said I would**, a global social movement and nonprofit dedicated to bettering humanity through promises made and kept, created in memory of his father, whose word was his bond.



There will be six breakout tracks:

- Advocacy,
- Current Employee,
- Current Employee / Federal Benefits,
- Federal Benefits,

- Lifestyle,
- Leadership.

A sampling of some of the speakers includes:

Advocacy Track: John Hatton, NARFE Staff Vice President, Policy & Programs coordinates.

Federal Benefits Institute Track Speakers

Tammy Flanagan has been providing retirement planning assistance to federal employees since 1985, and frequent webinar presenter.

Mark Keen, CFP, Federal Benefits Expert, currently writes the monthly financial column “Managing Money” for the NARFE Magazine.

Leadership Track Speakers

Mika Cross is a transformational workplace expert who has dedicated over 25 years of her career to making the world of work, work better.

Treva Smith Darice is a human resources, diversity and inclusion, and business operations professional, with over 34-years helping individuals navigate their career paths through challenges and failures to success.

The NARFE National Executive Board (NEB) meets starting Thursday, August 15, and Federation Presidents meet starting Friday, August 16. Some meetings are joint NEB and Federation Presidents sessions.

NARFE Member Badge \$9 each

NARFE member badges are blue and available in two attachment styles. Please make checks payable to **“NARFE Chapter 0672”** and bring to the next chapter meeting or get/mail check to:

George Rotblut, Treasurer Chapter 0672
8645 Fredricksburg Rd Apt 108
San Antonio, TX 78240-1203

Pick up your badge at a future meeting. Please **print** your name **exactly** as you want it to appear:

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. _____ | <input type="radio"/> | Magnet (default) | <input type="radio"/> | Pin |
| 2. _____ | <input type="radio"/> | Magnet (default) | <input type="radio"/> | Pin |

Date: _____ Payment type: Check _____ # Cash

We do not ship. For shipment, order directly from ShopNARFE, not the chapter: www.narfe.org/shopnarfe or (888) 798-3865, **\$ 15.96 each**. Shipping, handling and tax may be added by ShopNarfe on mail orders.

NARFE

DOROTHY CRESWELL
Chapter 0672
New Braunfels, Texas

Recruiting at ASMC-PDS By Rosalyn “Roz” Wise

April 27-29, 2024, Roz Wise of New Braunfels Chapter 0672 and Cynthia Nikkhah of San Antonio Chapter 1594 represented NARFE at the annual American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC), Alamo City Chapter, Professional Development Symposium (PDS-2024) at the Education Service Center, Region 20 in San Antonio.

Various career professional development classes were offered during the two and a half days of training to government accounting and comptrollers for increased their knowledge and skills along with certification career opportunities and opportunities to speak to high level senior and executive speakers. The Assistant Secretary to the Army was in attendance and meeting attendees. An estimated 424 military and civilians attended the symposium, about 50% each. Some attended virtually. Attendees represented San Antonio, Cibolo, Schertz, Universal City, Garden Ridge, New Braunfels, Castroville, Kileen, AK, AZ, CO, VA, WA, and Germany just a few of the various areas represented.

Recruiters talked to 87 active Federal civilian employees who were mostly within a few years of retiring and why it was important to be a member before retiring.

Roz and Cynthia provided brochures, applications, magazines, chapters and webinars information and the benefits of being with NARFE. During the three days, 48 M-2 prospect cards were collected. From these cards an attendee drew a name from the M-2 cards to win the \$50 Walmart gift card. Kyong Park from Fort Walker, VA, was our winner. Congratulations Kyong.

Shown at bottom right, from left, Vaughn Caudill, General Counsel for Alamo City Chapter of the ASMC talks with Roz Wise, and Cynthia Nikkhah.



Begin doing what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity, we have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand and melting like a snowflake. – Sir Francis Bacon

Military Retiree Appreciation By Dave Manchester

On March 2nd, David Manchester of New Braunfels Chapter 0672, Cynthia Nikkhah, and Gerardo Rendon of San Antonio Chapter 1594 represented NARFE at a Military Retiree Appreciation Day held that Saturday morning, at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland Air Force Base.

There were 600 attendees and 50 Community Partners & Vendors at the event. NARFE’s recruiters talked with 50 attendees who were either active or retired civil service. M-2 prospect cards were collected and used towards a drawing for a \$50 Walmart gift card provided by the San Antonio Chapter 1594. Shown below, from left: Dave Manchester and Cynthia Nikkhah.



NARFE 1-800—456-8410

[Www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org)

Chapter 672 OFFICERS

Use the contact form on our website
www.narfe.org/chapter0672/About-Us/Officers-and-Team-Leaders/

President, Twyla Vital
Vice President & Programs Chip Franck
Secretary, Historian & Web Alice Pullin
Treasurer & Alzheimer's George Rotblut

Chapter 672 TEAMS

Greeter/Sign-In Loretta Carter
Hospitality Micheline Rotblut
Legislative Lynn Geyer
Service Officer Marth Sanchez
Membership & Editor Dorothy Creswell
NARFE-PAC David Manchester
Sunshine Pat Mantor

Texas Federation State Officers

Dist 5 Rep Dorothy Creswell (see above)
S. TX Area VP Dora Benavides
TFR Coord. Alice Pullin (see above)
President: Charles Graffam
See **www.narfe.net/site/TX/** for info.

NARFE Toll-free to Washington

To connect to the Capitol switchboard in Washington, D.C, dial **1-866-220-0044**, ask first for your Representative by name or give your zip code, then your two Senators. The White House Comment line is **1-888-225-8418**. Hear the weekly hotline at **1-877-217-8234**.

This is a free service from NARFE to its members.

Legislative Contacts

White House: President Joe Biden (D), 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20500; Phone 202-456-1414; Comments, 202-456-1711 (see below for NARFE toll-free options); FAX 202-456-2461; **www.whitehouse.gov**

Senator John Cornyn: (R) 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510-4302; Phone 202-224-2934; District: 600 Navarro, #210, San Antonio, TX 78205; Phone 210-224-7485.

<https://cornyn.senate.gov/>

Senator Ted Cruz: (R) 127A Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; Phone 202-224-5922; District: 9901 IH-10W, Ste. 950. San Antonio, TX 78230 Phone 210-340-2885 **<https://cruz.senate.gov/>**



*For NARFE Congressional District Leaders see "About Us, Appointed Positions" at **www.narfe.org/site/TX***



District 15, Rep. Monica De La Cruz: (R)

1415 Longworth House Office Bldg (HOB), Washington, DC 20515. Phone 202-225-9901. District Office, 221 W. Court Street, Seguin, TX 78155.

<https://delacruz.house.gov/>

District 20, Joaquin Castro: (D)

2372 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515. Phone 202-225-1640. District: 615 E. Houston Street, Suite 563, San Antonio, TX 78205, Phone: (210) 271-2851. **<https://castro.house.gov/>**

District 21, Rep. Chip Roy: (R)

1005 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. Phone 202-225-4236. District: 1100 NE Loop 410, Ste. 640; San Antonio, TX 78209. Phone 210-821-5024. Email via webpage

<https://roy.house.gov/>

District 28, Rep. Henry Cuellar: (D)

2372 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515. Phone 202-225-1640. District: 615 E. Houston Street, Suite 563, San Antonio, TX 78205, Phone: (210) 271-2851. **<https://cuellar.house.gov/>**

District 35, Rep. Gregorio Casar: (D)

1339 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515. Phone 202-225-5645. **<https://casar.house.gov/>**