



San Antonio CHAPTER 1594

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

First, I would like to thank all the members who recruited a new member this year. Second, I would like to thank all the members who attend the meetings and those who volunteer their time to make our meetings comfortable and informative. There were several changes made in NARFE this year and I believe there will be more to come. I have received many compliments on our chapter



and our members. We started the year with a very successful District 12 Convention. We are planning to host a "Mini Health Fair" and will be honoring our American Veterans at the November Meeting. We'll close the year with a December Luncheon/Meeting and installation of 2018 officers.

Joyce Zerr
Chapter President

CHAPTER PREVIOUS MONTHS' ACTIVITIES

June: Thirty-eight members and guest were present at the luncheon held at Pecan Grill Restaurant. President Zerr welcomed everyone and introduced District 12 Representative Dorothy Creswell and the new Texas Federation President Dr. John Creswell. Dr. Creswell gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Dorothy Creswell and Dr. John Creswell spoke about the upcoming changes in NARFE and the importance of recruiting new members. President Zerr presented a Certificate of Appreciate



Pictured left to right, District Representative Dorothy Creswell and NARFE Texas Federation President Dr. John Creswell

Upcoming Events

September 20, 2017:

Monthly meeting from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223.

October 14, 2017:

Walk to End Alzheimer's at Landa Park in New Braunfels, TX at 9:00 a.m. For additional information, contact Dorothy Creswell, President, New Braunfels TX NARFE Chapter 672 at (830) 620-0344 or by email at cresweld@sbcglobal.net.

October 18, 2017:

Monthly meeting from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223.

November 15, 2017:

Monthly meeting from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223.





Pictured left to right, Dr. Angela Alvarez (Endocrinologist) with the San Antonio American Diabetes Association is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Chapter 1594 2nd Vice President Shirley Swift

to Service Officer Sandy Vogel for her dedication to our chapter and to NARFE and presented Connie Bedock with a box of chocolates as a token of appreciation for setting up of the luncheon.

July: NARFE Chapter 1594 opened their July 19th meeting with a welcome to the twenty-eight members and guests in attendance. The guest speaker was American Diabetes Association Representative Dr. Angela Alvarez. Dr. Alvarez briefed members about the three types of Diabetes, knowing your risk of getting it and how to control it.



Pictured left to right, Connie Bedock being presented a box of chocolates by Chapter President Joyce Zerr in appreciation for setting up the June Meeting/Luncheon

NARFE Chapter 1594 has collected \$388.25 at the last three meetings for Feds Feeds Families for the San Antonio Food Bank. Theresa Sanchez won the 50/50 and donated the \$39.00 to the chapter. Seven door prizes were given. The members voted to hold the 2018 meetings at Brookhill Baptist Church.



Pictured left to right, George Ramos being presented Certificate of Appreciation by Shirley Click

San Antonio Chapter 1594 is will be celebrating its 40th anniversary June 2018. Members approved the proposed new Chapter By-laws. The Executive Meeting report was read and approved. August is the NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month and we plan to have a legislative speaker at our August 16th meeting. The Executive Committee met on July 10 to plan the meetings for the next five months.

August: Thirty-one members and guests attended the meeting. Guest speaker was George Ramos, Legislative Assistant to District 117, Texas State Representative Phillip Cortez. He updated members on bills passed and pending in the 85th Texas Legislation Session.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY



Pictured left to right, Ida Arrambide and Lupe Flores

Chapter welcomes new members Leonor Perez and Mary Barcenez. Also welcome to Bonnie Herndon, Steven Miller and Raymond Rodriguez. Bonnie and Steven transferred from Chapter 1750 in Roswell, Georgia while Raymond transferred from Chapter 672 in New Braunfels, Texas. While in Chapter 1750, Bonnie served as Chapter Secretary and the Georgia Federation Secretary. We welcome you to our Chapter.

Our condolences go out to the family of deceased Chapter member Harry Rider and to Chapter member Jovita Durand on the loss of her daughter Judy Garcia. Please remember in your prayers all ill members including: Anna White, Carl Rabe, Joseph Uhlig, Amy Thompson, Bertha Bento, Ray Gilliland, Georgia Lindinger, and Jesse Garcia.

Please give your family members a point of contact in our Chapter. They can call any of the officers listed in the newsletter.



Pictured left to right, Dr. John Creswell, Sandy Vogel and Dorothy Creswell

WHAT ARE OUR MEMBERS UP TO?

Caring for Loved One with Alzheimer's: I'm Gerry Rendon, 1st Vice President of Chapter 1594, and I'm writing this short article to share with you what it's like caring for someone afflicted with this dreadful disease. My mother, Lupe, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's about 4 years ago. I noticed things weren't right when she would call me at work to say she was at the store and couldn't remember where she had parked her car. I would tell her not to worry, tell me where you are and I will be right over to find it with you. This was the start and she has steadily gotten worse. After these episodes became more frequent, I decided to go with her to see her doctor who believed she was coming down with Alzheimer's. The doctor referred her to a neurologist who after taking several tests came back confirming it was Alzheimer's.

Upon learning of her illness, I decided it was time for me to retire to spend more time with her. I got with my siblings and advised them Mom could no longer be left alone. Seven of us agreed to take a day out of the week (day and night) so she wouldn't be alone and we would care for her at her home. This agreement has worked well for us. The least changes for anyone with Alzheimer's we learned is the best option plus we decided a

nursing home would never be an option for us. The medications available for folks with Alzheimer's don't always work for everyone. In my mother's case, the side effects of the medication weren't worth the negative impact they were having on her quality of life. In consultation with her doctors, we determined to just give her medications she could handle and deal with the various stages of the disease as it advanced. The loss of memory, appetite, depression and anxiety have been very roller coaster like but we are dealing with them as best we can. Being I've always been the son closest to her, my other siblings are always calling me since I reside a couple blocks from her. I go over, listen to her a while and calm her down once I determine what's causing her anguish. This is becoming more frequent.

My siblings and I love our mother dearly. As children, she never left us alone or complained when we misbehaved. If she was capable of single handedly raising 12 children alone, I don't see why my siblings and I can't return the favor. I want to add that my dad was always there but like many marriages (in my opinion), they tend to let the wife handle disciplining children and they key in on providing food and shelter.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Feds Feed Families: Once again, our Chapter participated in the summer food drive “Feds Feed Families” during June 1 – Aug 21, 2017. NARFE joined forces with other federal groups in the San Antonio area. Donations collected at the May through August meetings amounted to \$500.00. This is the total amount that the San Antonio Food Bank will receive from our chapter. That will feed many hungry San Antonio people. Thank you, chapter members, for your generosity and support.

Dues Renewal: There has been some confusion for members renewing NARFE dues. Members renewing dues who check and send only \$40.00 are dropped from the chapter and are maintained as National only members. To remain in Chapter 1594, the member must send in \$47.00. The \$7.00 is chapter dues and members continue to receive the Texas Federation and Chapter newsletters as well as the NARFE magazine.

Dues Withholding Program: This program saves you 15% on your annual dues. The amount of \$3.42 is withheld from your monthly annuity to pay the dues and you avoid having to send in that lump sum every year. With the program, your

dues total out to \$41.00 instead of \$47.00. The Texas Federation is also giving a \$20.00 rebate to members who sign up for the Dues Withholding Program. Application forms are available at Chapter meetings or call Connie Bedock at 210-673-2290 to receive one in the mail. **The form must be the Federation form and must be sent to the Federation Treasurer.**

NARFE Dues Withholding Application (New or Current Members)
For Federal Retirees, Spouses of Retirees or Annuitant Survivors

Yes, I want to enroll in NARFE's Dues Withholding Program. Current members: annual dues of \$34 (a 15% discount off national dues for dues withholding members), plus chapter dues of record to be withheld annually. New members: first year, \$40, current member rate thereafter.

(Please Print) _____ C S _____
Social Security Number (9-digits)* _____ Civil Service Annuity Number* _____
 Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. _____ (Include prefix/CSA or CSA) _____ (Include any applicable suffix)

Full Name _____
Address (please include suite, apt#, etc.) _____ Telephone with area code _____
City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)* _____ NARFE Member#* (or "New") _____ NARFE Chapter Number (Optional) _____

Recruiter Information for New Member:
Recruiter Name _____ Recruiter Member# _____ Recruiter Chapter _____

Authorization
I authorize the United States Office of Personnel Management to make appropriate deductions from my annuity payments, not to exceed the amount certified by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association as the amount of dues for which I am annually obligated, in accordance with elections I make below and to pay the deducted sum to the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE). This authorization shall also apply to any and all dues changed certified by NARFE membership in accordance with elections I make below. Please allow 60-90 days for processing.

Yes, I Also Authorize My Spouse's Dues to Be Withheld from My Annuity. Additional annual dues to be withheld annually. If YES, enter your spouse's name and membership number below:
Spouse's Name _____ Spouse's Member # (or "New") _____ Spouse's E-mail _____

I understand that this authorization shall be valid until NARFE receives & processes my written notice of cancellation in accordance with its agreement with the Office of Personnel Management & that any disputes regarding this authorization shall be a matter between NARFE & myself. I hold the Office of Personnel Management harmless for any erroneous allotment deduction made pursuant to this authorization. I also authorize the Office of Personnel Management to disclose any information necessary to execute this request.

Signature of Annuitant or Survivor-Annuitant* _____ Date* _____
Do Not Send Money with This Form
*Required fields: Social Security #, Annuity #, Date of Birth, NARFE ID# (or "New"), Signature and date.
Please complete all required fields.
Dues payments or gifts or contributions to NARFE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

Mail this form to: TX Federation; 361 Tobin Dr, Buda, TX 78610-3745

TF Use Only

Item # 28 Check # _____ Amount _____ Date _____
TX Federation Treasurer _____ To Nat'l _____
TF LW-2/3 revised 05/12/2017

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE AND LOOK US UP ON FACEBOOK



Now that the webpage is available for reading the newsletters, members may opt out of receiving the paper copy. If you no longer want to receive a paper copy of the chapter newsletter, please let us know by sending an email to Connie Bedock at conniebee@satx.r.com and she will take you off the mailing list.



Link to the webpage is <http://www.narfe.org/site/chapter1594/> and Facebook at NARFE Chapter 1594. If you would like an article or link added to the webpage you believe will be of benefit to members, email information to Gerry Rendon at gerardorendon@att.net or Annette Ivy at adivy@att.net.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Telephone Meeting Reminders: We are completely updating our list of members that have requested phone calls reminding them of the current meeting. If you want to be called every month, call Connie Bedock at 210-673-2290 so your name can remain on the list or added to it. We have five members making these monthly calls.

Membership Recruitment Drive: Our membership drive is in full swing. During the period January to June, members recruited 3 new members. Recruiters were Al Dreumont, Keith Click and Margarita Hernandez. A drawing was held at the June lunch meeting and a \$25.00 gift card was awarded to Keith Click. Another drawing will be held at the December Lunch meeting and awarded to a recruiter for the July through December timeframe. NARFE memberships are dropping and we can't let that happen.

Remember there is "Strength in Numbers" and we need the strength to help get our views to Congress to preserve our benefits. NARFE is our voice in Washington. Spouses can also be members. The more members we have the more we can influence our Congressional representatives in Washington.

Southside Reporter Article: The newspaper continues to print a picture and article every month that Joyce Zerr submits about NARFE and our Chapter activities. This is good free publicity and has resulted in the recruitment of several new members for the chapter.



CALL CONGRESS

Call Congress toll free at 1-866-220-0044

The White House toll free at 1-888-225-8418

Additional phone numbers listed on last page of this newsletter

Internet users can go to NARFE website at www.narfe.org and voice your comments via email or letter format

OPM Retiree/Annuitant toll free at 1-888-767-6738 from 7:40 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST



MEETING INFORMATION

Next Meeting: 20 September 18 October 15 November

Place: Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78223 (CURRENT LOCATION)

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (unless rescheduled)

Time: 12:30 p.m. regular meetings, 11:00 a.m. lunch meetings in June and December (restaurant selected month prior to meeting)

If you need a ride to the meeting or are interested in giving a member a ride,
please let one of the officers know.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: JOYCE ZERR, 210-523-0770

1st VICE PRESIDENT: GERARDO (GERRY) RENDON, 210-213-4169

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: SHIRLEY SWIFT, 210-540-8890

SECRETARY: SHIRLEY M. CLICK, 210-680-1294

TREASURER: MARGARITA HERNANDEZ, 210-679-5381

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR: SHIRLEY A. SWIFT, 210-540-8890

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: CONSTANCE (CONNIE) BEDOCK, 210-673-2290

SERVICE OFFICER: SANDRA L. VOGEL, 210-218-5743

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: GERARDO (GERRY) RENDON, 210-213-4169

NARFE-PAC CHAIR: DAVID N. CUELLAR, 210-333-0002

NARFE NET COORDINATOR: ANNETTE IVY, 210-464-4497



Pictured left to right, Ida Arrambide, Dolores Rutledge, Frances Marthijohni



Pictured left to right, Annette Ivy, Frances Burd and Georgia Pilgrim



Pictured left to right, Jovita Durand and Ida Arrambide

PICTURES FROM JUNE 21 LUNCHEON



Sandy Vogel



Pictured left to right, Larry Henson, Joyce and Jesse Gorden



Lanita Perry