



SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER 1594



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

NARFE Chapter 1594 is growing and staying strong. I would like to thank our great Officers and members that are so willing to help make our chapter be the best. We welcome our new Secretary Christine Cuellar to our slate of elected Officers. We continue to recruit new members. That is the only way to "KEEP NARFE STRONG".

Chapter 1594 will be celebrating it's "40 Anniversary" at the June 20th meeting. I hope you will join our celebration. We



plan to invite District 12 members and Federation Officers. We will honor the officers and members who founded our chapter 40 years ago.

Joyce Zerr
President

CHAPTER PREVIOUS MONTHS' ACTIVITIES

December: San Antonio Chapter 1594's President Joyce Zerr welcomed members and guests to the December 13th Christmas Luncheon at Pecan Grill Restaurant. NARFE Federation President Dr. John Creswell opened the meeting with prayer. David Cuellar led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty-seven members and guests were in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful meals prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Chapa,



Pecan Grill owners Mr. & Mrs. Ted Chapa were presented Certificate of Appreciation for their support and being wonderful hosts.

Upcoming Events

March 21, 2018:
Monthly meeting from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223.

April 18, 2018:
Monthly meeting from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223.

May 16, 2018:
Monthly meeting from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223

June 20, 2018:
Chapter 1594's 40th Anniversary Celebration from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223





Outgoing Chapter Secretary Shirley Click was presented Certificate of Appreciation by Joyce Zerr

owners of the Pecan Grill Restaurant. They were presented a Christmas Gift Basket and Certificate of Appreciation for their great food and hospitality when hosting our luncheons. Stella and Lupe Flores were recognized for their many years of dedication and support to the Chapter. Outgoing Secretary Shirley Click was also honored for her many years of support to the Chapter. Jovita Durand won a \$25.00

gift card for member recruitment. NARFE District 12 Representative Dorothy Creswell and Dr. John Creswell updated members on changes that will take place in 2018.

Members donated \$201 to NARFE Alzheimer's Fund. District 12 Representative Dorothy Creswell installed newly Elected Officers for 2018: President Joyce Zerr, 1st Vice President Gerry Rendon, 2nd Vice President Shirley Swift, Treasurer Margarita Hernandez and Secretary Christine Cuellar. Connie Bedock, Shirley Swift, Stella Flores, Lupe Flores, Gerry Rendon, Sandy Vogel, Bonnie Herndon, and Margarita Hernandez delivered Christmas Gift Baskets to ill members.

January: Meeting cancelled due to bad weather.

February: Executive Meeting was held February 6th at Denny's on Hwy 90 W & Military Drive. Eight members were in attendance. Chapter President Joyce Zerr welcomed members followed by a short prayer.

Connie Bedock reported on membership. Chapter is down to 136 members from a high of 198 over the past two years. She added the Newsletter costs for 2017 was \$414.25, with stamps being the major cost.

Treasurer Margarita Hernandez reported she filed IRS Form 990-N (ePostcard). Chapter audit will be completed by February 28th. After reporting on the Chapter's assets and expenditures, she reported a balance of \$3,565.36 as of January 31, 2018.

Joyce Zerr informed members the new calendar of events has been finalized and would be presented to members at the next regular scheduled meeting for approval. She also added the Chapter's 40th Anniversary celebration will be held June 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Brookhill Baptist Church. More information on the event will be made available as details are finalized.

Connie Bedock mentioned she will be taking orders for NARFE name badges at next meeting for anyone interested in ordering one. Next meeting is scheduled for February 21st. Ms. Laura Mansour (BC/BS FEP representative) will be the speaker. Joyce Zerr closed meeting with a prayer.

Regular Meeting was held February 21st at Brookhill Baptist Church. Twenty-six members were in attendance. Chapter President Joyce Zerr welcomed members and guests followed by a short prayer.

Connie Bedock advised members she had a list available for anyone wanting to place an order for a new NARFE name badge. If you weren't at the meeting and would like to order a new badge, you may contact Connie at 210-673-2290.



Pictured left to right, Lupe and Stella Flores were presented with Certificate of Appreciation by Joyce Zerr for their support to the Chapter



Left to right, 2018 Officers Gerry Rendon (1st Vice President), Shirley Swift (2nd Vice President), Christine Cuellar (Secretary), Margarita Hernandez (Treasurer) and Joyce Zerr (President) being sworn in by NARFE District 12 Representative Dorothy Creswell



Pictured left to right, Laura Mansour with BC/BS being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Joyce Zerr

Guest speaker was Laura Mansour, Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) Federal Employee Program (FEP) representative. Ms. Mansour advised members of two new services BC/BS came out with this year. The first is the **Medicare Reimbursement Account**. If you have Basic Option, you can get a \$600 Medicare reimbursement account if you have Medicare Part A and B. You must use this account to pay for Medicare Part B premium. Each member on your contract with Medicare A and B is eligible to earn \$600. To earn the money, you will need to provide proof that you pay 2018 Medicare Part B premiums. BC/BS will accept the following as proof of payment: Copies of social security checks, bank statements, COLA statement, and cancelled checks or copies of canceled checks.

Additional information on this service may be obtained at fepblue.org/mra. The second service she mentioned is a new program called **TeleHealth**. Under this program, a member has 24/7 access to a doctor via phone or video. The average wait time is just 10 minutes. BC/BS has board certified doctors available 24/7 to treat cold and flu symptoms, allergies, bronchitis and more. Therapists are also available and will allow you to get ongoing support for stress, anxiety, depression, substance use disorder and more. Learn more at fepblue.org/telehealth. Once a diagnosis has been made, the Doctor may prescribe necessary medication and forward your prescription to your pharmacy of record for pickup at later time. Cost of this service is half the co-pay you would pay to see your primary care physician.

Joyce Zerr showed members the new Chapter 1594 logo and events calendar for their review before voting on them for approval. Both were approved.

Several members and officers were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their support to the Chapter.

Joyce went over the 2017 Chapter Survey Results. Overall results pretty much showed members would like things to continue as is.

Officers went over their respective reports and minutes and where needed, the minutes and reports were approved by members.

Joyce briefed on the status of upcoming 40th anniversary celebration June 20th, 2018. Place of the event will be Brookhill Baptist Church from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Cost of the meal for members will be \$10. If meals prices come in over \$10, Chapter will cover difference (this was approved by members). Decorations will be in red, white and blue. Theme for the event will be “Keep NARFE Strong”. Joyce will MC event. Gerry Rendon will be responsible for publicity, refreshment and cake. Connie Bedock will be responsible for drafting invitation letter, preparing history slideshow, name tags, and contacting caterer. Treasurer and a volunteer will collect lunch money. We believe setup of tables and chairs will be done by the church but if not, we will need volunteers. Two volunteers will be needed to sell raffle tickets (Alzheimer’s) for the 3 gift baskets to be prepared by Shirley Swift, Joyce Zerr and Connie Bedock. A greeter will be needed at the main door, plus two volunteers to register members and guests. Two volunteers responsible for caterer delivery and setup are



Left to right, 1st Vice President Gerry Rendon presenting Certificate of Appreciation to President Joyce Zerr for her exceptional support to Chapter 1594

also needed. If you would like to volunteer, please let Connie Bedock know how you would like to assist. Christine Cuellar will be secretary for the event.

Joyce mentioned the Texas Federation Biennial Conference (formerly Convention) will be April 25 & 26, 2019 in Longview, TX.

After the 50/50 and door prizes concluded, Joyce closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next meeting will be March 21, 2018.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

Chapter welcomes new members Carolyn Polk, Pam Dotson, Mary Barcenez and Leonor Perez. They were recruited during the July to December timeframe. We also welcome Ernestine Guerrero, Dorothy Uhlig, David A. Cuellar and John

Costantino who became members during the January to June timeframe. John Costantino joined out of the Dallas area and selected membership in our Chapter. We hope to see him soon at one of our meetings.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Dues Renewal: Like Your Chapter? How to Stay!

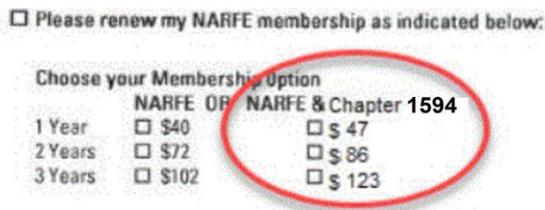
To continue in chapter 1594, please be alert when completing the renewal form.

On the renewal form is a block "Choose your Membership Option," with pricing for 1-, 2-, and 3-year rates in two columns. One column is headed "NARFE" and lists \$40, \$72, and \$102 respectively. The other column, headed "NARFE and Chapter 1594," is the one to select to continue in your chapter. The combined NARFE and Chapter dues have added the chapter amount multiplied by the number of years. In the example shown, the annual chapter dues are \$7, so \$7, \$14, and \$21 are added to yield \$47, \$86 and \$123 respectively.

Simply select from the "NARFE and Chapter 1594" column the dues for the number of years you want, and you'll remain in the chapter.

If you accidentally opt out of chapter membership, just contact your chapter officers, and they'll help you get transferred back. Want to save money on your NARFE Association dues? If you or your spouse are receiving a civilian federal annuity, consider dues withholding. With dues

withholding, you get a 15% discount annually



when renewing your membership, or \$34. Monthly, 1/12th of your combined NARFE and chapter dues are deducted from your annuity (for the example chapter with \$7 dues, the monthly amount is only \$3.42). If you complete the Texas Federation dues withholding form and mail to our Texas Federation Treasurer, you'll also receive a \$20 sign-up reward. The form is available on the Federation webpage in the Library and includes a chart showing the monthly amount for various chapter dues amounts. Withholding forms are also available at Chapter meetings or call Connie Bedock at 210-673-2290 to receive one in the mail.

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.rr.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

Membership Recruitment Drive: Our membership drive continues. During this period, we welcomed new members Ernestine Guerrero, Dorothy Uhlig, John Costantino and David A. Cuellar. The drawing for December's \$25 gift card was held at the December Christmas Luncheon at Pecan Grill Restaurant and was presented to Jovita Durand.



Pictured left to right, Joyce Zerr presented Jovita Durand a \$25 gift card for her recruitment of Leonor Perez

Another \$25 gift card drawing will be held at the June 40th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon and presented to the member recruiting the most

members during January – June 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 our Chapter President 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: 21 March 18 April 16 May 20 June

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: CHRISTINE CUELLAR, 210-647-1424

TREASURER: MARGARITA HERNANDEZ, 210-679-5381

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR: SHIRLEY SWIFT, 210-540-8890

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

SERVICE OFFICER: SANDRA VOGEL, 210-218-5743

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

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

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