



# SAN ANTONIO

## CHAPTER 1594



### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

More and more NARFE chapters are closing due to low meeting attendance and lack of chapter members. Our chapter gave three free memberships this year. I welcome our new members and thank each recruiter for their continued efforts in helping our Chapter grow. I encourage you to inform your friends and family members about NARFE's accomplishments and hope this will motivate more qualified people to join.

We will be celebrating our Chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 20<sup>th</sup> and I welcome you in joining us to celebrate this milestone in our Chapter's history. I want to thank the members and volunteers who made this event



possible and who were instrumental in making our Chapter's founding officers and members proud of where we stand today.

To all the members we lost this reporting period, I will always hold a special place in my heart for you.

Joyce Zerr  
President

### CHAPTER PREVIOUS MONTHS' ACTIVITIES

**March:** At the group's March 21st meeting, Dr. Philip Cortez, State Representative for District 117, spoke to the group regarding the 85th Legislative Session bills he introduced and that passed. Of most interest to the group's members were HB 1414 and 970. HB 1414 enables servicemen and women deployed in combat zones to vote via e-mail. This bill affords the state's military personnel the opportunity to participate in elections while serving our country. HB 970 acknowledges that seniors are affected by a pneumonia causing bacteria. This bill directs the Department of State Health

### Upcoming Events

**June 20, 2018:**

Chapter 1594's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration from 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave., San Antonio, TX 78223

**July 18, 2018:**

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

**August 15, 2018:**

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

**September 19, 2018:**

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





Dr. Philip Cortez, State Representative for District 117, being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Shirley Swift, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Chapter 1594

Services to develop and implement a program to conduct health education and community outreach activities to promote public awareness. Dr. Cortez encouraged members to contact his office and their elected officials concerning issues of importance to them.

Second speaker was Mr. Sam Pantoja Jr. Mr. Pantoja is the NARFE-PAC Coordinator and Texas Federation National Legislative Officer. He briefed members concerning the threat military and civilian benefits go through every year during congressional budget deliberations. He encouraged members to contact their congressional representatives and senators to ask them to protect these benefits. He also advised members to donate to NARFE-PAC. Funds from this PAC help elect members of congress who support the federal community.

Mr. David Cuellar, NARFE-PAC Coordinator for Chapter 1594, informed members that during the meeting a total of \$225 was collected for NARFE PAC.

Members were provided handouts of various monthly reports (minutes, treasurer's and legislative reports).

**April:** At the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, members were reminded of the national group's elections taking place this month. Ballots will be sent in the May issue of the NARFE magazine.

Chapter 1594 soon will start collecting money for the NARFE Feed Families Food Drive, which launches in June and continues through the end of August. Funds will be collected at chapter meeting.

The chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is planned for June 20<sup>th</sup> at Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave. Grady's Bar-B-Q will cater event. Invitations have been sent to other NARFE chapters and the state and federal officers. Plans are still being finalized. A slideshow of past and current members will be shown and there will be a raffle for gift baskets. Funds collected from the raffle will go to the Alzheimer's Association.

Twenty-three members attended the meeting.

**May:** Meeting called to order by President Joyce Zerr @12:40 P.M. Invocation led by Elevia Gant. Pledge of Allegiance led by David N. Cuellar.

Members Attending: 24. One guest, Jolene Pittman, of member Delores Rutledge and one guest speaker, Rebecca Best, from Beltone Audiology and Hearing Aids.

Guest Speaker Presentation: Rebecca Best from Beltone Audiology and Hearing Aids, discussed procedure for obtaining hearing aids and other hearing aid equipment. A plan of care is made after the client's ears are checked and hearing tests performed. The plan of care includes obtaining hearing aids or a referral is made to a hearing specialist for further evaluation. Hearing aids are matched to meet the needs of the client's life style (quiet or active). It takes approximately two



Joyce Zerr, President Chapter 1594, presenting Mr. Sam Pantoja Jr., NARFE PAC Coordinator, with Certificate of Appreciation



Left to right, Carmen Dreumont presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Rebecca Best with Beltone

weeks to obtain hearing aids or longer if special adjustments are needed. Follow-up care and adjustments are provided as part of the initial cost. Blue Cross Blue Shield currently covers \$2500.00 per 3-year cycle, which covers battery and hearing aid warranties. Other equipment such as amplified telephones are also provided by Beltone. Questions about hearing aids and services answered by Ms. Best. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Ms. Best by member Carmen Dreumont.

Birthday wishes expressed to Exia Duke, Stella Flores, and Sandy Vogel. No Anniversaries this month.

Biography of Al Dreumont. Carmen Dreumont accompanied her husband while Jerry Rendon read the framed biography. Al thanked his wife for her support throughout his active career.

Church donation. Connie Bedock suggested a donation of \$50.00 be made to Brookhill Baptist Church for their support of our Chapter. Joyce Zerr reminded the members we were not charged for last year's District 12 and 15 Convention held at Brookhill and we are not being charged for our June 20th, 40th Anniversary celebration. A motion was made to donate the suggested \$50.00 to Brookhill Baptist Church by Elevia Gant and seconded by Johnnie Davis. Motion passed by show of hands.

#### Committee Reports:

- Membership - Connie Bedock reported she had reviewed our membership records. It showed we had 203 voting members in 2003 but we are now down to 128 voting members. The losses have been attributed to non-renewal of memberships and members passing. She encouraged the current members to recruit new members. She has applications for membership and forms for member biographies.
- Treasurer Report - Margarita Hernandez reported on current assets and debits, with a current balance of \$3332.15 as of April 30, 2018. Motion made to accept the report by Sandy Vogel and seconded by Shirley Click. Passed by show of hands pending audit.
- Service Officer - Sandy Vogel report that the new TFR is available on the website: [www.narfe.org/tx/site](http://www.narfe.org/tx/site). Ballots are in the June NARFE magazine. Members were reminded of one vote per member.
- Legislative Issues - Shirley Swift circulated her report. Highlights included updates from NARFE President Richard Thissen. Efforts to slow the decline of membership has been progressing. Also, efforts to protect federal employee's benefits is on-going, especially with the relentless efforts by the President and Congress to cut benefits. A review of budget aims targeting federal employee pay and benefits was included in her written report. The May NARFE magazine includes details of the on-going issues.
- 1st VP Report - Gerry Rendon did not have any updates.
- April Minutes - Secretary C. Cuellar circulated copy of the minutes. Members reviewed, and motion made by Sandy Vogel to accept the minutes as printed and seconded by Gerry Rendon. Passed by show of hands.

NARFE PAC-Fund Collections -information received from the NARFE-PAC advocacy e-mail, showed that NARFE members (20,939) contributed \$1, 058,024.29 to NARFE-PAC during the 2017 - 2018 cycle. Average contribution was \$50.53. This was an increase from the 2015 - 2016 cycle.

Social Security cards - According to the May NARFE magazine, new Medicare cards will have new numbers to help protect you from identity theft and fraud. Social Security Administration will mail the new cards to the name and address on file. Contact them for changes as soon as possible.



Members at the May 16 meeting having discussion with Rebecca Best with Beltone on hearing aids.





**Chapter XXXX**" and check (✓) the block for \$XX.XX. Since this is a sample renewal form, your preprinted renewal form from NARFE will show the actual rate for 1 year subscription to National AND Chapter 1594 which should be \$47.00. After having done this, proceed to Step 2 to select your payment option (Check or Charge). Once you selected payment option and filled out required information, you are ready to mail your renewal form to NARFE HQ to continue your membership with Chapter 1594.

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 (\$34) and chapter dues (\$7) are deducted from your annuity. This equates to \$3.42 a month. Withholding forms are also available at Chapter meetings or call Connie Bedock at 210-673-2290 to receive one in the mail.

**Feds Feed Families:** The "Feds Feed Families" summer months food drive will be from 1 June to 31 August. Chapter 1594 will be accepting donations from members at the June, July and August meetings. NARFE is partnering with the Alamo Executive Board and proceeds will go to the San Antonio Food Bank.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:gerardorendon@att.net) or Annette Ivy at [adivy@att.net](mailto:adivy@att.net).

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**Southside Reporter Article:** If you want to stay informed on what is happening at our monthly meetings, this publication will keep you in the loop. Our Chapter Secretary, Christine Cuellar, submits an article shortly after each meeting. The article usually appears one or two weeks after each monthly meeting. We are very appreciative of the publicity given to our Chapter by this publication as it maintains our members who are

unable to attend informed on what is going on and has resulted in the recruitment of new members for the chapter.



## CALL CONGRESS

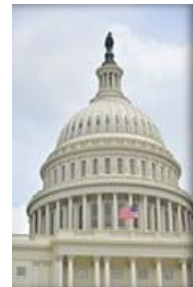
Call Congress toll free at 1-866-220-0044

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](http://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 June July 18 August 15 September 19

**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, 210-300-9046

**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