



SAN ANTONIO

CHAPTER 1594



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has been a very busy year for NARFE and Chapter 1594. National and Federation made many changes this year that effects all NARFE members. Our chapter is blessed to have great officers and members. Membership continues to decline due to death of many of our longtime members. They will not be forgotten. We have given free one-year memberships for several years and that has helped our chapter grow. We will continue to give free memberships. We are blessed to have celebrated our Chapter's 40th Anniversary this year. Elected officers thank everyone who has



made Chapter 1594 great. We want to keep NARFE STRONG.

Joyce Zerr
President

CHAPTER PREVIOUS MONTHS' ACTIVITIES



June: On June 20, 2018, San Antonio Chapter 1594 celebrated its 40th Anniversary at Brookhill Baptist Church.

Forty-four members and guests were in attendance. Guests included: Dr. John Creswell,

President of Texas Federation; Dora Benavides, South Area Vice President; Dorothy Creswell, District 12 Representative; and Sam Pantoja, NARFE-PAC Coordinator/TF National Legislative Officer.

Upcoming Events

September 19, 2018:

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

October 13, 2018:

Chapter 0672's Walk to End Alzheimer's at Landa Park in New Braunfels, TX

October 17, 2018:

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

November 14, 2018:

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



Joyce Zerr, Chapter President, called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. She introduced guests followed by introduction of Gerry Rendon, Chapter 1st Vice President, for the welcome.

Gerry Rendon welcomed members and guests and gave a brief history of the Chapter. Chapter 1594 was established on June 16, 1978. Sixty-four retired federal employees began meeting and worked together to do all things pertaining to the good of the organization. Of the 64 founding members, only Joe Glawson is still active in the Chapter. Mr. Glawson recently celebrated his 96th birthday and is an Army veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart. When established, the chapter was known as Fair Avenue Chapter 1594 and meetings were held at the Fair Avenue Apartments meeting room for 32 years. Due to renovations to the Fair Avenue Apartments, the Chapter moved across the street to St. Margaret Mary's Church Activity Center in 2010. In 2012, meetings were moved to Holy Name Church Activity Center but had to move again due to increasing monthly costs. Meetings were then moved to the present facility, Brookhill Baptist Church. Over the years, chapter Presidents were John Pearce, Clyde Fuller, John Nesloney, Huland McAdams, Emory Palmer, Melvin Luddeke, David Cuellar 1997-1999, Robert Koenig 2000-2011 and our current President, Joyce Zerr, who took office in 2012. Mr. Rendon also recognized Mr. Joe Glawson with a Certificate of Appreciation for his support and contributions to the Chapter over the past 40 years.



Gerry Rendon presented Joe Glawson with Certificate of Appreciation for his support and contributions to Chapter 1594



Pictured L-R: Dr John Creswell, Dora Benavides, Joyce Zerr, Gerry Rendon, Margarita Hernandez, Christine Cuellar, Dorothy Creswell and Shirley Swift

Dr. John Creswell, President of Texas Federation, followed by congratulating the Chapter on this milestone. He praised officers and members for their strong support and contributions to the Chapter and presented them with a certificate. He followed by reading a congratulatory letter from NARFE President Richard Thissen. He reminded members who haven't voted for the upcoming NARFE general election that they had until June 30th. If they were voting by mail, he advised them to mail ballots a week in advance to ensure they were received prior to the deadline.

Dora Benavides, South Area Vice President, followed by congratulating officers, appointed officers and members on the great job organizing the event. She was concerned memberships across NARFE were declining and that chapters had to recruit more members to make up for losses due to attrition. She also congratulated the chapter for their use of email, the web and newsletter in maintaining members informed of what's going on within and outside the Chapter.

Dorothy Creswell, District 12 Representative, discussed upcoming Fedcon18 Conference being held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel, Jacksonville, FL, August 26-28, 2018. She stated this was going to be a fast-paced, two and one-half days of thought-provoking speakers, leadership training, intensive benefit education and the opportunity to engage and connect with your federal colleagues. She also discussed declining membership across NARFE and urged members to continue in their recruitment efforts.

Sam Pantoja, NARFE-PAC Coordinator, thanked chapter for the invitation and updated attendees on the monetary contributions NARFE-PAC had collected throughout the year. He mentioned funds would be used to contribute to congressmen running for office who support and work hard to protect the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees.

After an hour for lunch at 12:00 p.m., regular business meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m. Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's reports were read by Christine Cuellar and Margarita Hernandez respectively and approved by members. \$25 gift cards were presented to Shirley Swift and Christine Cuellar for recruiting new members. The June collection for "Feds Feed Families" Food Drive brought in \$119. Cash contributions and raffling of three baskets brought in \$197 for Alzheimer's. After door prizes and closing prayer by Chapter Chaplain Elevia Gant, meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.



Pictured L-R: Shirley Swift and Christine Cuellar were presented \$25 gift cards for recruiting new members during January-June timeframe.

July: Executive Meeting Minutes held July 10th, 2018 at Denny's Restaurant on Hwy. 90 W and Military Dr. Members present were Joyce Zerr, Connie Bedock, Gerry Rendon, Abel Hernandez, Margarita Hernandez, Shirley Click, Shirley Swift, Dolores Rutledge and Christine Cuellar. Opening prayer by Joyce Zerr.

Shirley Swift confirmed William Hurd has been confirmed as the July 18th Chapter meeting speaker. Joyce Zerr called Dawn Frieda at Brookhill Baptist Church to confirm their facilities are still available for our Chapter monthly meetings for the upcoming year.

Connie Bedock reported on recruiting and membership. Our Chapter paid for three memberships last year. Discussion centered on continuing this practice for the next year. One membership has been designated for Mrs. Mary Salmon, wife of Chapter member Ricardo Salmon, leaving two memberships available for the next year.

Treasurer Margarita Hernandez and President Joyce Zerr reported our Chapter 1594 bank account balance as of July 6, 2018 at \$843.84 in checking and \$2782.32 in savings for a total of \$3626.16. The three free memberships for 2019 will be \$120.00. Connie Bedock reported there is \$13.00 remaining in the Coffee Fund, since the two gift cards, rewarded for recruitment at the 40th Anniversary celebration, cost a total of \$50.00.

Upcoming Chapter Events:

- July 18th meeting - there will be a recap of the June 40th Anniversary Celebration. William Hurd or his Projects Manager, Jon Arnold, is scheduled to speak at the meeting.
- August 15th meeting - August is NARFE Advocacy Month. Shirley Swift is seeking speakers to present at the meeting.
- September 18th meeting - a vote to determine the Chapter 1594, 2018 Christmas luncheon/party location will be made. So far Montanita #2 (formerly known as Pecan Grill), Bill Millers, Golden Corral, and Buffet City are under consideration. Christmas baskets will also be discussed. A list of the duties of required and appointed Chapter Officers for the October meeting will be circulated. A speaker for the meeting has not been determined, though suggestions were made.
- October 17th meeting - Elections of 2019 Officers. President Joyce Zerr reported she will not seek office for 2019. A reminder to the members of meeting date changes for November and December are to be discussed.
- November 14th meeting - meeting date moved up one week. Honor American Veterans and a mini health fair are planned. Joyce Zerr has sent out speaker invitations. We have received

confirmation from Director Susan Allgood of AETNA insurance. Also, BC/BS insurance is sending a representative.

- December 12th meeting - meeting date also moved up a week. The location for the Luncheon has not been determined. Installation of Officers is scheduled. Dr. John Creswell and Dorothy Creswell, District 12 Representative will be invited.

Open Discussion:

- E-mails from Dr. Creswell regarding recruiting - District 12 recruited 35 new members. Congratulations to our recruiters.
- National Elections - none of the candidates for President received a vote majority. A second ballot will be circulated in the September NARFE magazine. Only 6.77% of eligible Texas NARFE members voted.
- Our Chapter by-laws do not address the percentage of votes for National and Chapter votes.
- Connie Bedock reported from the Texas Federation website, that the per capita dues decreased from \$4.00 down to \$2.00. Our Chapter will be receiving a refund soon.
- Yearly Audits - We need to use Texas Federation guidelines for our Chapter audits. Margarita Hernandez, Chapter 1594 Treasurer, will review past audits.

NARFE San Antonio, Chapter 1594's monthly meeting held July 18, 2018. President Joyce Zerr welcomed 22 members and one guests. The invocation was led by Joyce Zerr and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Cuellar.



Shirley Swift presenting Jon Arnold with Certificate of Appreciation

President Zerr welcomed and introduced a speaker from Will Hurd's office, Jon Arnold. He is the District Director for Mr. Hurd's District 23. Mr. Arnold discussed the work that Mr. Hurd and he have done to ensure all Federal retirees, including veterans and civilian retirees, receive their benefits and have their benefits protected. Mr. Hurd's district has over 175,000 Federal retirees. Legislative policies that negatively impact retirees were discussed, including the Windfall Elimination Act. Mr. Al Dreumont brought up the problem on legislative voting is based on "Tribal" VS "American" voting. Votes center on "Tribal" party lines and not what is good for the American voters. Mr. Arnold said he would take this concern back to Mr. Hurd.

Our 40th Anniversary, held June 20th, was a great success. All the guests and members were very complimentary about the decorations, provided by Teresa Sanchez and the meal, catered by Grady's BBQ. All our guests praised our Chapter for its activities, especially in recruiting new members. Funds raised for Alzheimer's Research fund totaled \$197.00 and \$119.00 was raised for the start of Feds Feed Families that runs through the end of August. Thank you cards were distributed to the membership, with a special gift of a box of candy to Connie Bedock, for all she did in making our celebration such a success.

The members were informed of the NARFE National elections. No candidate for the position of the President of NARFE won, so a second election will be held in September to determine the new President. Only 6.77% of eligible Texas NARFE voters submitted their ballot. This is comparable to other national elections.

The membership voted to continue meeting at Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia.

Legislative issues continue to impact retirees. Since July 2016, retirees paying for Federal long term care insurance saw an increase of up to 83% for their premiums. This was reportedly due



Pictured L-R: Dawn Frieda and Joyce Zerr

to less insurance companies available to purchase long term care and an increase in the charges from long-term care facilities. Medicare has limitations for this care.

There is a Free Senior Expo, sponsored by AETNA insurance, scheduled for July 28th at Shearer Hills Baptist Church on San Pedro Ave. Over 20 vendors are expected.

A review of Chapter 1594 meetings for the rest of 2018 was discussed. August 15th will center on NARFE's Advocacy Month. September 19th will have the members voting on a site for the December 12th Christmas party. Sites are being vetted now. October is scheduled for election of Chapter 1594 Officers. President Joyce Zerr informed the members she will not seek reelection for the 2019 Presidency of Chapter 1594. Her leadership, since 2012 will be missed. Our November meeting will be held a week earlier, on the 14th, due to the closeness to the Thanksgiving holiday. American Veterans will be honored this month and Chapter 1594 will host a "Mini Health Fair". Guest vendors have been scheduled to speak. Our December meeting has also been rescheduled a week earlier, on December 12th. At our Christmas party we will have our installation of Officers and present Christmas gift baskets to our special members with special needs.

We are continuing to collect funds for Feds Feed Families. \$28.00 was collected for July. We will continue to collect through the end of August. \$54.00 dollars was collected for our Alzheimer's fund.

August: The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) of San Antonio, Chapter 1594's President Joyce Zerr, welcomed 25 members, of which three are new members to our Chapter and two guests to the August 15, 2018 meeting, held at Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia, San Antonio, Texas. The invocation was led by Chaplain Elevia Gant and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by David N. Cuellar.

President Zerr welcomed and introduced a Democratic candidate for the 23rd Congressional District, Ms. Gina Ortiz-Jones and a member of her Finance team, Mr. Aaron Cartwright. Ms. Ortiz-Jones gave a brief personal history of her life through service, starting with service in the Air Force. When she retired from the Air Force, due to family concerns, she began with a review of her work history as a Civil Servant for the Defense Intelligence Agency through her work in the Oval Office for President Obama. Ms. Ortiz-Jones was firm in her stance that public officials should serve the public and not the other way around. Members of Congress are frequently "camera ready" with promises to serve the voting public but then they vote in the opposite way to what they said for the camera.



Gina Ortiz Jones, candidate for the 23rd Congressional District, speaking at Chapter's 15 August 2018



L-R: Shirley Swift, 2nd VP Chapter 1594, presented Gina Ortiz Jones with Certificate of Appreciation for her briefing to members

Questions ranged from concerns about job losses, where CEO's are choosing moving as cheaper and more beneficial to corporations, than paying a living wage to their employees. Also, concerns about Partisan allegiance was raised. Ms. Ortiz-Jones said she is open to working with both political parties to accomplish positive change in the lives of her constituents. She added that the voters need to check and follow what their Representatives say versus what they do. She reviewed her concerns for the environment and how it can impact health issues and educational opportunities. Health care was discussed as being a priority for the members.

There were many other questions and concerns raised by the members. Ms. Ortiz-Jones listed her priorities as health care, the environment, educational opportunities and job development. That being a Representative is not just a job but a service. She encouraged the members to vote to make changes happen.

We are continuing to collect funds for Feds Feed Families. \$72.00 was collected for August. \$63.00 dollars was collected for the Alzheimer's research fund.

President Zerr reminded members that Federal Employee Health Benefits Open Season starts November 12th and runs through December 10th. She also mentioned that the run-off elections for the national NARFE President position is in the September NARFE magazine. Ballots will be mailed to the membership through the NARFE magazine.

For the up-coming Chapter 1594 elections, forms listing the positions were circulated to members.

Our next meeting is September 19, 2018 at Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

In August, Ms. Eloise Turner from San Antonio transferred to our Chapter. She has been sent a welcome package and we hope to welcome her soon at one of our monthly meetings.

During this quarter, our chapter loss four members: Anna White in June, Abel Hernandez and Ray Gilliland in July, and Carl Rabe in August. Our prayers and thoughts to the families of former members. They will be dearly missed.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Feds Feed Families: The "Feds Feed Families" food drive that ran from 1 June to 31 August resulted in \$219 in donations from members of Chapter 1594. The funds will be forwarded to the San Antonio Food Bank to enable them to continue fighting hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education, and advocacy.

NARFE ELECTION: Exercise one of the most important responsibilities of your NARFE membership and vote in the 2018 NARFE elections. Because the presidential election in June did not yield a majority for any candidate, a runoff election is being conducted. NARFE is offering members the opportunity to cast a vote online or in print (using a print ballot included with the September issue of NARFE Magazine). Please choose the voting format that is most convenient for you.

VOTE

Voting is now open for the NARFE 2018 election until 11:59 p.m. ET on September 30, 2018.

Your ballot contains a list of the three presidential candidates who have chosen to continue in the runoff election. Please mark them in order of your preference — 1st choice, 2nd choice, and 3rd choice. Mark one and only one choice per candidate.

To vote, you will need your member ID number and unique voting PIN. Both numbers will be available in your September issue of NARFE Magazine.

Go to <https://www.esc-vote.com/narfe2018> to access the login page of the secure voting website for the NARFE 2018 election.

Once you have logged in, follow the online voting instructions.

The voting website has background information for the candidates. Or, refer to the September 2018 issue of NARFE Magazine for details.

Complete election information and FAQs can be found at www.narfe.org/2018Balloting.



Chapter 0672's 2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's: New Braunfels Chapter 0672 will have its annual Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 13th, 2018 at Landa Park in New Braunfels, Texas. For members interested in participating, more details on this event will be provided on Chapter 1594's webpage as we get closer to the date of the event.



FEHB Open Season: This year's Open Season will be from 12 November – 10 December 2018. Each year, Open Season runs from the Monday of the second full workweek in November through the Monday of the second full workweek in December. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has not posted FEHB rates as of publication of this newsletter. Rates should be available around mid-October. Go to OPM's website at <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/> after mid-October to view health insurance rates and guides.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE



When you miss a Chapter 1594 monthly meeting, your best way of learning what happened is by accessing the webpage at <https://www.narfe.org/site/chapter1594/>. You will find a detailed write up of what transpired to include pictures if available. Also available on the webpage is the annual calendar highlighting what you can expect at each monthly meeting and links to most current newsletter and previous issues. With copies of the newsletter now available on the webpage, you may want to opt out of receiving the paper copy. If you no longer want to receive a paper copy, please let us know by sending an email to Connie Bedock at conniebee@satx.rr.com.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Southside Reporter Article: Christine Cuellar, Chapter Secretary, submits an article after each monthly meeting with details on what was discussed and any additional information of benefit to our members. We are very appreciative of the publicity given to our Chapter by this

publication. This is just another way of keeping our members informed and publicizing our 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: September 19 October 17 November 14 December 12

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, 210-300-9046

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