



SAN ANTONIO

CHAPTER 1594



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm honored to serve as new President of San Antonio Chapter 1594. Since becoming member of this Chapter, I've noticed its "team spirit". Everyone is always stepping up to get us through the challenges of the day. Last year, we celebrated our 40th anniversary and it was this team spirit and positive attitude that made me proud of how well everyone worked together in organizing the festivities.

Our major challenge this year is membership. We have suffered a steady decline the last few months and we need to reverse this trend. Presently, we are offering a 1-year free membership to active or retired federal employees joining our Chapter. It will be their responsibility to pay the \$40 National fee plus the \$7 Chapter fee the 2nd year and beyond. This promotion will continue until further notice. We are also teaming up with New Braunfels Chapter 0672 at retirement seminars to brief potential members on NARFE. It's at these seminars federal employees first learn about NARFE and we are hoping being



there will pay off by some registering for membership. It's also up to each one of us to serve as NARFE ambassadors. No one better than NARFE members know the constant attack federal benefits are under each year. I ask for your assistance and support in being a voice in helping protect the benefits we've worked to earn through our hard work and faithful service. With your help and that of NARFE's Political Action Committee (PAC), member calls, emails and votes, NARFE will continue working to retain benefits.

Gerry Rendon
President

Local Upcoming Events

March 20, 2019:

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

April 17, 2019:

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

May 15, 2019:

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

June 19, 2019:

Luncheon at place to be
determined from 11:00
a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



CHAPTER PREVIOUS MONTHS' ACTIVITIES



Members at December's Christmas Luncheon at Golden Corral

December: The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) of San Antonio, Chapter 1594 have had a fun and eventful month.

Starting with our Chapter's Christmas party held at the Golden Corral Buffet, at 1025 SE Military Drive, we celebrated a year of activities led by President Joyce Zerr. We also had a moment of silence in remembrance of our associates who have passed away over the year. Our members were then invited to make their selections from the great buffet served at the Golden Corral. After a great meal, we continued with the meeting and party.

Dr. John Creswell, President of the NARFE Texas Federation, made some opening remarks to our group. He welcomed our members and thanked them for making Chapter 1594 one of the more active Chapters in Texas.

President Joyce Zerr reported on the money donated in December to the Wounded Warrior Project and NARFE's Walk to End Alzheimer's. \$187.00 was raised for Wounded Warriors and \$190.00 was raised for Alzheimer's Research.



Dr. John Creswell making opening remarks at Christmas Luncheon



Dorothy Creswell briefed membership on fund raisers and upcoming events

Dorothy Creswell, District 12 Representative, spoke next. She reported on the funds that had been raised nationally for Alzheimer's Research. \$66,000 has been donated, with 14% coming from South Texas area. Mrs. Creswell also reminded the members of the up-coming District 12 conference on February 15, 2019. It is being hosted by Chapter 672, NARFE New Braunfels Chapter. NARFE activities and breakout sessions are planned for the daylong conference. Registration fee is only \$25.00, and lunch is provided.

Texas Federation Dr. John Creswell also reported on the planned up-coming FEDcon19 Conference scheduled for March 10-13, 2019, to be held in Virginia. He also reminded the members of the Texas Federation Event, scheduled for April 24-26, 2019, in Longview Texas. Information is in the Texas Federation Register to register for these events.

Connie Bedock, Membership Chair, announced the three members who had recruited the newest members were eligible for a prize. Mr. Richard Salmon was chosen and awarded a \$25.00 gift card for his efforts. Next, the names for the members who will receive a Christmas gift basket were chosen. Also, the members who will deliver the baskets were selected to deliver the baskets to our members who are unable to attend our meetings and events.

Next the elected Officers for 2019 were presented. Installation of Officers pledge led by Mrs. Dorothy Creswell. Installed as the Officers were Gerry Rendon, President, Al Dreumont, First Vice President, Shirley Swift, Second Vice President, Margarita Hernandez, Treasurer, and Christine Cuellar, Secretary. The Appointed officers/chairs were also introduced. Mrs. Creswell thanked out-going President Joyce Zerr for all her work and efforts in making Chapter 1594 so successful. Joyce Zerr was presented with a photographic collage of the Officers and Members she led during her tenure as President. She also was presented with a new name tag. Joyce thanked all members and officers.

Christine Cuellar, Secretary for Chapter 1594.

January: At the January 2019 Chapter 1594 meeting, our members were presented information on Hospice care from our speakers, Ms. Allison Tucker, Vitas Representative with Vitas Healthcare, and Arnita Staten, Volunteer Manager with Vitas Healthcare. Ms. Tucker spoke first on Hospice care, which started in Florida in 1978, as a volunteer organization. Vitas Healthcare was at the forefront of this service. In 1982, Vitas Healthcare helped write the Medicare Hospice regulations. She presented information on palliative care and hospice care. She discussed how the misconceptions about Hospice care have delayed getting this service for their family members who are very ill. One of the biggest misconceptions is that it means, "do-nothing" for the ill person or it is only for cancer patients. Under this care the patient is in charge. Their care is provided in their homes. The patient and family members are provided education, emotional and spiritual support, medical supplies and equipment, etc. Medicare benefits offer four levels of hospice care, 100% coverage of costs, and unlimited benefit periods.

Next, Ms. Arnita Staten spoke of the need for volunteers. Hospice care must be composed of 5% volunteer members. Some of the tasks that the volunteers provide are listening to the patients share their memories, provide time off for family caregivers, running simple household errands, visiting those patients who are in nursing homes, and other activities as needed by the patient and their families. Contact Vitas Healthcare to volunteer.

Letters of Appreciation were presented to our speakers.

The members were reminded of the various conferences coming-up. In February 15, 2019, is the District 12 conference in New Braunfels, Texas, the FEDcon19 conference scheduled for March 10-13, 2019, in Alexandria, Virginia, and the Texas Federation Event, scheduled for April 24-26, 2019, in Longview, Texas. Information is available in the TFR, Texas Federation Register.

Our Chapter 1594 will continue to pay the \$40.00 membership fee for new active and retired federal employees joining our Chapter.

Chapter business per the agenda was completed as scheduled.

Christine Cuellar, Secretary for Chapter 1594.

February: Executive Committee Meeting held February 12, 2019 at Denny's on Hwy 90 W by Lackland. Called to order at 11:13 a.m. and opening prayer by President Gerry Rendon. Attending: Gerry Rendon, Al



Pictured L-R: Chapter 1st Vice President Al Dreumont presenting Certificates of Appreciation to Allison Tucker and Arnita Staten with Vitas Healthcare

Dreumont, Carmen Dreumont, Margarita Hernandez, Joyce Zerr, Connie Bedock, Sandy Vogel and Christine Cuellar.

Membership Chair Report by Connie Bedock: Has sent out membership letters to prospective members. Letters sent out last year did not yield any responses. Connie made business cards for Gerry Rendon and Al Dreumont. Gerry reported he will make more for other Chapter Officers. Connie reported that names have been dropped from the Chapter roster. Connie will clarify if local Chapter dues have been paid. Main NARFE website has list of recent federal retirees, and Connie will check the list so we can recruit them for our Chapter. We have 121 members on our Chapter list.

Gerry Rendon and Joyce Zerr will meet to add his name to the bank signature list.

Treasure Report by Margarita Hernandez: She has filed IRS form 990-N for our Chapter. Audits for the treasurer reports are done by two members but who are not Officers of the Chapter. This will be discussed at the February Chapter meeting to get two Chapter members to do the audits. There is a new format for the Treasurer report using Excel.

Service Officer Sandy Vogel reported there are changes in the tax laws. She suggested using form W4 to determine possible tax return.

Items of Interest:

- District 12 Conference, scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2019 at Wayland Baptist University, New Braunfels, TX. Chapter 1594 has a donation for the Alzheimer's Research fund to take to the meeting. A check for \$335 will be taken to the meeting by Margarita Hernandez.
- Next Chapter 1594 meeting is February 20, 2019 at Brookhill Baptist Church.
- LEGcon19 (NARFE's Legislative Conference), is March 10-13, 2019, in Alexandria, VA.
- Texas Federation Event is scheduled for August 24-26, 2019, in Longview, TX.



Chapter 1594 members at District 12 Conference at Wayland Baptist University in New Braunfels, TX

Old Business:

- Chapter 1594 will continue to pay the first-year dues for all new members. Connie Bedock will send out letters to people who have been dropped by National.
- Chapter Calendar Reviewed. Focus on June and December luncheons with the need to focus on tax and tips added to the tab. Margarita to check on tax exempt status of our Chapter. Al Dreumont will also follow up on this. A committee will be formed to determine and settle tax exempt status.
- Mugs. Gerry Rendon is still working on the Chapter's "Thank You" mugs for our speakers. He is also checking on placing our Chapter logo on the mug (not the National NARFE logo). The mugs are to replace the Letters of Appreciation we present to our speakers.
- Voting. Reminder to vote on the Texas Federation 2019 Ballot. There are 10 proposed bylaws and proposed budget on the ballot. Voting is from February 23 through March 22. Voting can be done online or by mail-in ballot. The ballot will be in the February TFR and on the website.

New Business:

- Suspense dates for Chapter reports. Reports from Officers are to be submitted as discussed.
- LEGcon19 Conference registration dues for Al Dreumont had been approved but he will not be able to attend. The fees will be available to any other member who wishes to attend. If no one attends, then the minutes will reflect the return of the funds back to the treasury.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Christine Cuellar, Secretary for Chapter 1594.

Regular Meeting held February 20, 2019. Meeting called to order at 12:32 P.M. by President Gerry Rendon. Opening prayer led by Gerry Rendon, and Pledge of Allegiance led by David N. Cuellar.

Membership Update by Connie Bedock: We currently have 117 members, as of January 31st. 46 members have dues withholding. 66 members have e-mail contact information. 10 members are actively employed. Ms. Bedock reviewed the NARFE renewal form. She asked the members to make sure and check National/Chapter and pay \$47.00 so the Chapter dues are paid (not just the \$40.00, which is just a NARFE Associate member, but not the Chapter).

Program presentation on the OPM (Office of Personnel Management's) Service Online System by Gerry Rendon – After accessing the website (OPM.gov), enter your password. If you do not remember the password, click on forgot password to request a new one that will be mailed to you. Then follow the instructions to access your account. Topics reviewed: A). Start with Dashboard. B). Next is profile. Review your information. If you make changes, remember to save the changes. C). Direct deposit is next. Make changes by pressing “edit” screen. When done, enter update transactions. D). Next is Checking/Savings Allotments. Follow menu to update your information. E). Form 1099R for IRS purposes is next on the menu. This can be saved or printed. F). Organizational Allotments is next. G). Federal tax is next. The information is based on form W4P for retirees. H). Life insurance or FEGLI is next to be verified. I). Next is Annuity statement. J. State tax is next on the menu, though Texas does not collect state taxes. K). View/Print ID is next. L). A Summary of payment is next on the list. M). Transaction history follows next. N). Final item on the menu list is On-Demand documents. You can order a booklet of the items that are in the menu for further information and instructions. Just follow the menu instructions to review or make changes to your information.

Gerry discussed our Chapter website. Gerry updates it as often as possible. Site is at www.narfe.org/site/chapter1594. He reviewed the website features, such as the Chapter 2019 calendar. Previously recorded webinars can also be accessed in our Chapter website. You can even access the OPM website.

Items of Interest:

- District 12 Conference – Al Dreumont read information from report (prepared by C. Cuellar, Chapter 1594 Secretary). He reported the concern many chapters have regarding the loss of their members, to National. Also, he voiced his concern over Millennials not joining organizations such as NARFE. He passed out Service Awards from the Texas Federation to our members who were not able to attend the District 12 conference. Awards presented to Gerry Rendon, Sandy Vogel and Shirley Swift. Dorothy Creswell recognized our Chapter for money collected and donated at the conference meeting, for Alzheimer's research. The amount was over \$350.00 (out of a total Of \$581.00 total for District 12).
- FEDcon19 (NARFE's Legislative Training Conference) – Al Dreumont reported he will not be able to attend as planned.
- Texas Federation Event, scheduled for April 24-26, in Longview, Texas. Registration information will be in the next TFR issue.
- Retirement Seminar, scheduled for March 7th, will be attended by Al Dreumont, for our Chapter.



Pictured L-R: Shirley Swift, Sandy Vogel and Gerry Rendon being presentative certificates by 1st VP Al Dreumont

Reports:

- Treasurer Report from Margarita Hernandez. As of January 31, 2019, our Chapter has \$3136.48 total from checking and savings accounts. Motion to accept made by Carmen Dreumont and seconded by Sandy Vogel. Passed by show of hands. Rita Horton and Connie Bedock volunteered to audit the past years treasurer reports.
- Secretary report from Christine Cuellar. Copy of January 2019 minutes circulated at start of meeting for the members to review. No changes voiced. Motion to accept by Shirley Click and seconded by Al Dreumont. Passed by show of hands.
- Service Officer Report from Sandy Vogel. She added that members who have previously accessed the OPM website can change their passwords on-line. First time users must request a password which will be mailed to them.
- NARFE PAC report from David N. Cuellar. He reminded the members that March is NARFE-PAC month. He circulated two handouts that explained what the PAC does and the history of NARFE-PAC. Al Dreumont remarked on information presented at the District 12 conference regarding NARFE-PACs. Al Dreumont donated a NARFE T-shirt he won at the District 12 conference. Accepted by Gerry Rendon.
- Legislative Report from Shirley Swift. She encouraged members to read the article in the current AARP magazine about US Heroes. She also reported that Federal employees received a 1.9% pay raise. Update about the 2015 cyberattacks on Federal employees – there is a new company securing the data now.

Old Business:

- Chapter 1594 will continue to pay the first-year membership dues for anyone joining our Chapter.
- Gerry Rendon continues to work on procuring "Chapter 1594 Thank You" mugs for our Chapter to present to our speakers, instead of Letters of Appreciation.
- Texas Federation ballot – there are 10 proposed by-law changes and a budget up for vote. Ballots and addressed envelopes made available to the members for their use. Can also vote on-line. Ballots are also available in the TFR and on the website, www.narfe.org/site/tx. Voting is from February 23rd through March 22nd. Members encouraged to vote.

New Business:

- Suspense dates have been established for the various reports read at the meetings. Meeting minutes within 10 working days after last meeting; Southside Reporter article by 1st Wednesday of the month following the meeting; webpage updates within 10 days after last meeting; Treasurer report by 7th day of each month; and meeting agenda by 2nd Wednesday of the month and available for Chapter webpage no later than 3 days prior to the next meeting.
- At the January meeting, the registration fee for Al Dreumont to attend the FEDcon19 conference was approved. He has informed President Gerry Rendon that he will no longer be able to attend. The funds were opened to the members to use to attend the conference. Shirley Rushfeldt requested to use the funds to attend in Al Dreumont' place. Motion to approve the change in attendee by Al Dreumont and seconded by Shirley Click. Passed by show of hands.
- Volunteers requested for members to locate a venue for our Chapter June Luncheon meeting. They will need to include tip and tax information in pricing the meals. Discussion related to the need to possibly have a written contract made so there are no surprise fees. Having tickets available for members, so the establishment will know who a Chapter member is, was suggested. Venue "shoppers" are Gerry Rendon, Shirley Swift, Connie Bedock, Marie Montez, and Joyce Zerr.

Next meeting is March 20, 2019 at 12:30 P.M. at Brookhill Baptist church.

50/50 prize of \$21.00 (from \$42.00) was won by Johnnie Davis. She donated her winnings to the Chapter refreshment funds. Door prizes awarded.

Closing prayer by Gerry Rendon. Meeting adjourned a 2:25 P.M.

Christine Cuellar, NARFE Chapter 1594, Secretary

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

As of the 7th of January 2019, the Chapter has 117 members. We continue to lose members. Some of the losses are due to nonpayment of dues. Members have the dues withholding option available which allows \$3.42 to be taken out of their monthly allotment. This is also a 15% discount because the annual dues are \$41.00 by using dues withholding versus paying the annual payment of \$47.00. If you are interested in dues withholding, call Connie Bedock at 210-673-2290 and she will mail you a form. We also have 10 active federal employees in the chapter. If you are still working, you can join NARFE. This is the only organization dedicated to protecting the earned retirement benefits of federal employees, retirees, and their survivors.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

COLA

2019 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES:

When President Trump signed a bill to keep the government open through Sept. 30, he also authorized a 1.9 percent pay increase for federal civilian employees, effectively overriding his own pay freeze that he enacted last December.

VOTE

2019 TEXAS FEDERATION BALLOT:

Current issue of the Texas Federation Register (TFR) contains detailed information on the proposed bylaw amendment changes, 2019-2021 budget and ballot. All Texas Federation members are eligible to vote on these important issues. Links to the balloting information and ballot: [Click here](#) for 2019-21 Proposed Budget TX Federation. [Click here](#) for 2019 TF Proposed Bylaws Amendments and Report. [Click here](#) for 2019 TX Federation Ballot. If you intend to mail in your ballot, it must be mailed by no later than March 15, 2019 to ensure it arrives by the March 22, 2019 deadline.



Chapter Donates \$380 to Alzheimer's Research:

Chapter 1594 members donated \$380 in February for Alzheimer's Research. At the District 12 Conference held February 15th at Wayland Baptist University in New Braunfels, 1st Vice President Al Dreumont presented Dorothy Creswell with the funds.

SAVE THESE DATES

- March 10-13, 2019, **LEGcon19**, NARFE's Legislative Training Conference, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA 22311, Register Now. This is your chance to join NARFE members from across the country to:
 - Learn more about NARFE's legislative agenda,
 - Improve your advocacy skills, and
 - Attend meetings with members of Congress and advocate on your own behalf in the nation's capital.

The LEGcon19 Opening Plenary kicks off at 2 pm on March 10, and culminates Wednesday, March 13, with a day of advocating on Capitol Hill followed by a closing reception.

- March 15, 2019. Last day to mail in your 2019 Texas Federation Ballot to Secretary Frances Hiner, 9211 Standing Creek Ln, San Antonio, TX 78230-4040, fran.hiner@att.net. Information on the 2019 ballot items is in the February 2019 Texas Federation Register (TFR) mailed to all members. Information is also on the Texas Federation website www.narfe.org/site/tx/.
- March 22, 2019. Last day for online voting for the 2019 Texas Federation Ballot. [Click here](#) and fill in/complete the ballot. Once finished, save ballot to your hard drive. Prepare email to Fran Hiner at fran.hiner@att.net with subject "Ballot 2019". Attach your completed ballot to your email and send.
- April 24-26, 2019, **TXFed2019**, Holiday Inn Longview-North, 300 Tuttle Circle, Longview, TX 75605.
- New Braunfels Chapter 0672 Monthly Meeting Schedule – Day: 3rd Friday, 9:30 – 11 a.m., Comal Co. Senior Center, 655 Landa St., New Braunfels, TX 78130. Evening: 4th Tuesday quarterly in Jan., Apr., Jul., and Oct; 6:15 – 7:30 p.m., at a local restaurant. Webpage: <https://www.narfe.org/site/chapter672/>.
- Boerne Chapter 0778 Monthly Meeting Schedule – 1st Thursday of each month starting at 12:45 p.m. except for June and December. Meeting location is at Kronkosky Place, 17 Old San Antonio Rd, Boerne, TX.
- Northwest San Antonio Chapter 1320 – 1st Tuesday of each month starting at 10:00 a.m. except for June, July and December. There will be a 30-minute social followed by business meeting at 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. A 30-minute program will commence at 11:00 a.m. Meeting location is Oak Hills Presbyterian Church, 6739 Callaghan Rd., SATX 78229. Webpage: <https://www.narfe.org/site/chapter1320/>.

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: March 20 April 17 May 15 June 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: GERRY RENDON, 210-213-4169

1st VICE PRESIDENT: AL DREUMONT, 210-637-0032

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: SHIRLEY SWIFT, 210-300-9046

SECRETARY: CHRISTINE CUELLAR, 210-647-1424

TREASURER: MARGARITA HERNANDEZ, 210-679-5381

APPOINTED/VOLUNTEER OFFICERS

BEREAVEMENT: CONNIE BEDOCK

CHAPLAIN: ELEVIA GANT

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR: SHIRLEY SWIFT

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: CONNIE BEDOCK

NEWSLETTER EDITORS: GERRY RENDON & CONNIE BEDOCK

NARFE-PAC CHAIR: DAVID CUELLAR

NET COORDINATOR: GERRY RENDON

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: JOYCE ZERR

SERVICE OFFICER: SANDRA VOGEL

SOCIAL OFFICER: JOHNNIE DAVIS

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: RICARDO SALMON, MARIA SALMON, DOLORES RUTLEDGE & RENE ESCHMANN-HARRIS

TELEPHONE: SHIRLEY CLICK, SHIRLEY SWIFT, THERESA SANCHEZ & MAGARITA HERNANDEZ