



SAN ANTONIO

CHAPTER 1594

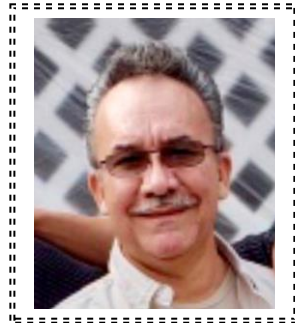


A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

NARFE sponsors and supports legislation protecting the earned retirement benefits and general welfare of its members. With 300,000 active and retired members and experience on Capitol Hill, NARFE advocates for active and retired federal employees and their survivors before Congress.

Our June 19th meeting will be at the Golden Corral at 1025 SE Military Drive, San Antonio, TX 78214. Meeting will be from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Let the cashier know you are with NARFE to receive group discount. We will all meet at the party room before going through the buffet line.

If you haven't attended one of our meetings, I urge you to attend one of our monthly meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, except in June and December, at



Brookhill Baptist Church located at 631 Utopia Ln, San Antonio, TX 78223. Meetings run from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. In June and December, meetings are held at a restaurant chosen by members from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You will hear from Officers and appointed committee members on what's happening in NARFE locally and nationally.

Gerry Rendon
President

CHAPTER PREVIOUS MONTHS' ACTIVITIES

March: At the March meeting, we had two speakers. First speaker was Sam Pantoja, PAC Chair for Texas Federation. He reminded members that March is NARFE-PAC Month. He recently returned from FEDcon19. There were only 8 members in attendance at the conference from Texas. They met

Local Upcoming Events

June 19, 2019:

Luncheon/Meeting at Golden Corral, 1025 SE Military Drive, San Antonio, TX 78214 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

July 17, 2019:

Meeting at Brookhill Baptist Church, 641 Utopia Ln, San Antonio, TX 78223 from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

August 21, 2019:

Meeting at Brookhill Baptist Church, 641 Utopia Ln, San Antonio, TX 78223 from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

September 18, 2019:

Meeting at Brookhill Baptist Church, 641 Utopia Ln, San Antonio, TX 78223 from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.



with 36 Congressional members to discuss topics important to NARFE. Several bills were discussed with HR 860 pertaining to Social Security and having Social Security income becoming tax exempt, as well as increases in Social Security benefits. He also discussed NARFE-PAC raising 1.8 million dollars last cycle (2017 – 2018), when the goal had been 1.5 million dollars. Money donated to candidates was \$28,000.00. Amounts are based on what the candidates request, with a cap of \$10,000 per two years. There is a report in the NARFE magazine that highlights how the Congressional members vote on issues important to NARFE. Members were reminded that NARFE is non-partisan. Our PAC is the second largest in NARFE. Members were asked to consider NARFE-PAC as an insurance policy to maintain and improve retirement benefits. Chapter 1594 has raised \$1,750.00, from 30 members.



Chapter 1st Vice President Al Dreumont presenting a small gift to Sam Pantoja (PAC Chair for Texas Federation) and Allison Tucker (VITAS Representative for VITAS Healthcare) for their informative.

Our second speaker was Allison Tucker, Vitas Representative from Vitas Healthcare. She presented information on Advanced Directives. For hospice patients there are wills, which deal with finances and advanced directives which deal with health care wishes of the patient. Hospice care is a Medicare benefit. She reviewed Health and Safety Code 166.164. It covers Advanced Directives and Medical Power of Attorney, with a focus on DNR orders, in and out of the Hospital. There were many questions from the members. Small gifts of appreciation were presented to our speakers.

Reports:

- Shirley Swift – Legislative Report. There was a message from NARFE President on NARFE's legislative accomplishments.
- Margarita Hernandez – Treasurer Report. February 2019 total was \$3038.53. Motion to accept by Shirley Click, with a second by Fred Eddie. Motion passed pending audit.
- Sandy Vogel – Service Officer. No report.
- Christine Cuellar – Minutes for February 2019. Minutes circulated at start of meeting so members could review. No changes voiced. Motion to accept by Connie Bedock, with a second by Elevia Gant. Motion passed.
- Chapter 1594 NARFE-PAC – David N. Cuellar. \$315.00 received at today's meeting. A request was made to let our Chapter know if donations were made through the NARFE magazine or mail-in.

Items of Interest: Members were reminded to vote for the 2019 NARFE Federation ballot. Members have until March 22nd to vote by mail or on-line. Sandy Vogel will attend the Texas Federation Conference.

Old Business: Our Chapter will continue to pay the first-year membership dues. Gerry Rendon is finalizing the "Thank You Mugs" for our Chapter to present to our speakers, etc.

New Business: June luncheon Venue Committee are still reviewing different restaurants for our June meeting.

\$15 was collected for Alzheimer's fund.

Christine Cuellar, Secretary, Chapter 1594

April: The April NARFE Chapter 1594 meeting was loaded with information for the members. Starting with our guest speaker, Sandra Gallagher, who presented information on Humana health insurance. She



Chapter President Gerry Rendon presenting Sandra Gallagher (Sales Representative with Humana) a small gift in appreciation for her presentation to members at April meeting.

explained that a reported merger between Humana and AETNA has fallen through. Humana is HMO and PPO provider. Some of the benefits she shared with the members for using Humana included: Dental plans that start at \$15.99, and there is no maximum on dental benefits or a waiting period to receive benefits; Humana does not charge for hearing aids, which can be purchased through True Hearing; there is a \$75.00 credit per quarter that Humana members can use towards over the counter purchases; and transportation is paid by Humana to get to appointments, etc. Humana will take any patient except those with end stage renal disease. Ms. Gallagher stayed to respond to questions from the members.

Next the members received a report from Shirley Rushfeldt, who attended the LEGcon19 Training Conference. She spoke with Texas

Congressional members about items important to NARFE members. Items that were discussed with each Representative included: thanking them for supporting Senate Bill 24 which approved back pay for furloughed Federal employees; thanks for supporting House Resolution (HR) 141 to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension offset; and to request the Fair COLAs for Senior Act which would improve the calculation of cost of living adjustments for all Federal annuitants. Ms. Rushfeldt was also invited to and attended an after-hours tour of the Capitol building. This was led by Representative Gohmert, District 1. The tour included the opportunity to sit in the seats of the lawmakers, in the room where the President gives his State of the Union Address.

Our third speaker was Sam Pantoja who spoke about the up-coming Texas Federation Event, April 24th – 26th, in Longview, Texas. Voting for issues to be discussed at the Event, should be completed by April 22, by mail or on-line. An initial review of the ballots showed 5 ballots that were incomplete and could not be counted. Future ballots will be changed per request, to correct the “holes” in filling out the ballot. The next Texas Federation Event will be in San Antonio in 2020. Members were asked what training they would like to see presented. He also reminded the members that August is Legislative Month and to schedule a Representative to speak at our August meeting.



Shirley Rushfeldt reporting on the LEGcon19 training conference she attended in Alexandria, VA.

Shirley Swift, who is our Chapter’s Legislative Chair keeps the members up to date on issues and Bills that are important to our NARFE members. Currently H.R. 1254 is being tracked as important to NARFE members. It is the Equal COLA Act, which would provide Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees with the same annual cost-of-living adjustment COLA as Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) employees. Ms. Swift also informed the members that a Congressional directory is available for purchase from NARFE Advocacy Department for \$20.00. It can be ordered by phone at 1-800-456-8410, option 3.

Our chapter will continue to pay the first-year membership fee for any active and retired Federal employee joining our NARFE Chapter 1594.

Our Chapter will be presenting future speakers a Mug with our Chapter's logo imprinted on it, as a thank you for their contribution to our Chapter.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15th, at Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ave. Our speaker will be Al Dreumont, who will discuss hurricanes. Contact Gerry Rendon at 210-213-4169 for further information.
Christine A. Cuellar, NARFE Chapter 1594 Secretary

May: NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) Chapter 1594 met at Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia, at the regularly scheduled meeting, which is every third Wednesday of the month.

The 24 members in attendance were enthralled by the presentation about hurricanes, from our speaker, Al Dreumont. He is our Chapter's First Vice President. He had 38 years of experience with the National Weather Service, before retiring. He showed dramatic pictures of hurricanes. The first pictures of hurricanes were made possible by use of polar orbiting satellites in 1970. Pictures taken now are sharper with advances in satellite photography technology. Hurricane seasons run from June 1st through November 30th on the Atlantic side and from May 15th to December 15th on the Pacific side. This is due to sea water rising to 80 degrees and above, which interact with circulating air above, causing its circulatory movement, forming hurricanes. Hurricane categories range from level 1 through 5 or 74 mph to greater than 155 mph. Storms at less than 74 mph are called Tropical Storms.



1st Vice President Al Dreumont briefing members on upcoming Hurricane Season. Before retiring, Al worked 38 years with the National Weather Service.

Hurricanes were initially named after the Saint of the Day where it hit landfall. Now names are chosen by a committee of representatives from the Atlantic countries. Once a name has been used, it cannot be used again. Whether a storm is called a hurricane, a cyclone or a typhon, they are all the same. The location is the difference. Damage is from storm surges, inland flooding, wind damage and tornadoes. Major storms greater than 155 mph are rare. Hurricanes can be monitored by use of aircraft used in high altitude research, which have been specifically made to withstand the severe winds encountered.



Exia Duke presenting Al Dreumont with Chapter Coffee Mug in appreciation for his Hurricane presentation.

Mr. Dreumont circulated brochures, published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, in association with FEMA, and the American Red Cross plus other agencies, which provide information on safety related to the weather. The information covered precautions to take in flooding conditions, driving in wet conditions, what to have packed if evacuation of the area has been announced, and what to do after the storm.

Mr. Dreumont was presented with a special Chapter 1594 commemorative mug for speakers. As the first speaker to receive a mug in appreciation for their programs, Mr. Dreumont was very grateful.

Next, our members were encouraged to access the NARFE website, and enter the heading "Advocacy". There is a link to "take action", which shows how to write to your Congressional members. There are prepared letters that can be used, and you just add your e-mail address. There is space to add personal comments. The website also has voting records of the Congressional representatives on a national and state level.

The members were reminded that our Chapter will continue to pay the first-year membership fee. Everyone is encouraged to recruit new members.

A sign-up list for our June Luncheon, to be held at Golden Corral on S.E. Military Drive, June 19th, was circulated. Our meeting time will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., for the luncheon. Our usual time is 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Brookhill Baptist Church. Our members have enjoyed great meals at Golden Corral.

For information about our NARFE Chapter 1594, contact President Gerry Rendon at 210-213-4169. Christine Cuellar, Secretary, NARFE Chapter 1594

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

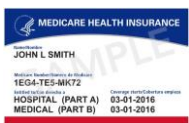
At the end of this quarter, the Chapter has 116 members. One member, John Costantino, transferred out while five dropped for nonpayment of dues. Members dropping out were Lowell Borton, Ethel Carroll, Geraldine Talbott, Pam Dotson and Adolph Trevino. On May 25th, we lost Steven Miller, one of our newer members after a courageous and long hard fought battle with ALS. Our condolences to the Miller family on their loss.

As mentioned above, losses this quarter are primary 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



FEDS FEED FAMILIES: It's that time of the year again! The "Feds Feed Families" food drive begins 1 June and runs through 31 August. Donations will be accepted during next 3 monthly meetings. Last year, Chapter 1594 collected \$210 in donations during this period. The funds were mailed to the San Antonio Food Bank. This donation will enable Food Bank to continue fighting hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education, and advocacy.



NEW MEDICARE CARD MAILING COMPLETE: If you are a Medicare recipient, you should have received your new Medicare card by now. If you haven't, you may continue using your old one; however, you must call 1-800-MEDICARE and talk to customer support representative to get the status of your card and order a new one if necessary. If you have a computer, you may order one online at www.MyMedicare.gov. You will need to create an account if you don't already have one.



WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S: Gerry Rendon will once again participate in New Braunfels Walk to End Alzheimer's later this year. If you are interested in joining our Chapter 1594 team, let him know by emailing him your name at grendon.sa@gmail.com.

SAVE THESE DATES

- **Webinar: Special Category Feds – Retirement Rules and Exceptions:** 13th June 2019 at 2:00 p.m. ET. This will be a one-hour presentation by federal benefits expert James Marshall. You Will Learn: 1) How to make sure your special category service is documented properly, 2) Minimum and mandatory age and exceptions for retirement eligibility, 3) How and when transfers to non-special category jobs affect eligibility, 4) CSRS or FERS: the cost and calculations for special category annuities, 5) How COLAs, taxes, FEHB and TSP are affected, and 6) much more.... This is a one-hour presentation by federal benefits expert James Marshall.
- **New Braunfels Chapter 0672 Monthly Meeting Schedule:** Day: 3rd Friday, 9:30 – 11 a.m., Comal County 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 Monthly Meeting Schedule:** 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. ET

MEETING INFORMATION

Next Meeting: June 19th July 17th August 21st September 18th

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