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Word from Chapter President

I'd like to start by saying how proud I am of our members for their generosity. They donated \$305 for the "Feds Feed Families" food drive. These funds were mailed to the San Antonio Food Bank to enable them to continue fighting hunger in Southwest Texas through food distribution, programs, education, and advocacy. Santa Maria Jones, myself and several family members participated in the New Braunfels Walk to End Alzheimer's (W2EA). We teamed up with New Braunfels Chapter 672 to raise a total of \$7,692 for research to combat this disease. Our Chapter contributed \$1,367 of the \$7,692 donated. This quarter we also had excellent speakers who provided information on Medicare, Combined Federal Campaign and Health Insurance. These are subjects' members cannot get enough of and the speakers didn't disappoint us. They were very thorough in presenting their subject matter and answered all questions posed by members. The Chapter also experienced growth like I haven't seen since becoming a member. More information on this can be read in the "Chapter Membership" section of this newsletter. Lastly, I cannot thank our members enough for their teamwork. This quarter saw several members stepping up to perform duties performed by members unable to attend meetings due to illness or matters beyond their control. The selflessness displayed by these members is remarkable and makes me proud to serve as your President.



Gerry Rendon

NARFE's 2019 Membership Drive Continues through December 31st

San Antonio Chapter 1594 members are urged to continue recruiting friends you may know who are active or retired Federal employees to join NARFE. The more members we have, the louder our voice. Prizes for recruiters are:

- Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member, current OR retired, who joins from today through December 31, 2019. (Applications must be postmarked, and calls or website joins must be received no later than December 31, 2019. Your membership # found on the label of NARFE Magazine must be provided when the new member joins.)



- All recruiters will be entered in a drawing, one time for each new member recruited.
- GRAND PRIZE: A Kindle Fire will be awarded to a recruiter randomly selected from this pool. The Grand Prize will be selected by mid-January.

MONTHLY PRIZES: Each month a name will be selected from the pool of recruiters for a \$25 Amazon.com gift card. The pool includes an entry for every new member recruited and accumulates throughout the contest. Gift card winners will be selected through December 2.

- Winners of a monthly prize remain eligible for the Grand Prize.

Ask the Membership Chair for membership applications.

Membership Chair:	Al Dreumont	Connie Bedock
Email:	adreumont@satx.rr.com	conniebee@satx.rr.com
Phone:	(210) 637-0032	(210) 673-2290



September Meeting

Chapter President Gerry Rendon called meeting to order. Invocation was led by Chaplain Elevia Gant followed by pledge of allegiance by PAC Chair David Cuellar. Members and guests were welcomed. Newly recruited member Amelia Sanchez was welcomed by the 25 members in attendance.

September birthdays acknowledged were Fred Eddie, Isabel Cuellar, Guadalupe Flores, Harry Kilgore and Helen Rodriguez. September anniversaries were Theresa and Eduardo Sanchez 57 years and Renee and Dan Harris 12 years.

Program speaker was Michael Collins, Independent Advisor with Simple Senior Benefits who explained how Medicare originated and how it operates. He talked about eligibility, supplements, cost to members and all the information required by eligible recipients. Information is also available on their website: www.simpleseniorbenefits.org.



1st VP Al Dreumont presenting Michael Collins a gift in appreciation for speaking at our Chapter meeting

After the break, President Rendon reminded members to vote on the proposed bylaws and standing rules amendments which are available for review in the September 2019 NARFE Magazine. Ballots must be received at Election Services Co. by 11:59 p.m. ET on September 30, 2019. You may also vote electronically from an email account.

Membership report for August by Connie Bedock included the Chapter has 121 members. New members as of this month are Terry Curtin, Guillermo Olvera and Santa Maria Jones. A card was sent to Lanita Perry whose husband passed away. Birthday cards were sent to Adeline McAdams 95 years old and Lawrence Spencer 85 years old. An anniversary card was sent to Joyce and Jesse Gorden for their 67th anniversary. Also, Joe Glawson who was a founding Chapter member passed away in June. He was 97 years old and the last of the original founders. The Chapter honored him at the 40th Anniversary in June 2018.

Margarita Hernandez presented the Treasurer's report. As of August 31, 2019, the saving account balance is \$2,481.37 and \$486.85 in checking. Carmen Dreumont made motion to accept report and Shirley Click 2nd it, motion passed.

Chapter Secretary Christine Cuellar was absent so the August minutes will be presented at the October meeting.

Service Officer Sandy Vogel who is also the Texas Federation Newsletter Editor stated she will no longer be the Editor and she thanked all members for their support over the years.

Legislative Chair Shirley Swift reminded members that the NARFE magazine has a lot of important information and they should take time to read it. She talked about the pay raise for Federal employees in 2020 and the plan to merge OPM with the General Service Administration.

Old business: Chapter will continue to pay membership fee of \$40 for the 1st year only until further notice for any active or retired Federal employee joining Chapter; Chapter bylaws have been updated, approved and signed by Secretary Christine Cuellar and will be mailed to HQ for approval. Once approved, item will be closed; during June thru August “Feds Feed Families” Food Drive, Chapter received \$305 in donations and Margarita Hernandez mailed donation to the Food Bank; Chapter 1594 will once again participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s (W2EA) in New Braunfels scheduled October 12th at Landa Park; and NARFE membership drive will run from September 1 – December 31.

Election of officers for 2020 will be at the October regular meeting.

Connie Bedock, Membership Chair, San Antonio Chapter 1594

October Meeting

Chapter President Gerry Rendon called meeting to order. Invocation was led by Public Relations Officer Joyce Zerr followed by pledge of allegiance by PAC Chair David Cuellar. Members and guests were welcomed. Shirley Swift introduced her friend Harriet Shockley who is a member of NARFE National. Ms. Shockley gave a report on her work experience as a Federal employee. There were 17 members in attendance.



Beth Dietert briefing
Chapter members on
CFC

President Gerry Rendon introduced guest speaker, Beth Dietert, who is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Area Coordinator. She works for the Penn Good Corporation, which has been contracted by the Office of Personnel Management, to handle CFC donations. Retired Federal employees are now able to make donations to CFC. CFC is the largest combined charity originated by President John F. Kennedy. All charities in the CFC have been vetted before becoming a CFC member. Retirees can now make a one-time donation or can have donations deducted from their annuities. The CFC charities support families, educational needs, etc. The Chapter members shared what they care about. There are charities that support what members care about. Ms. Dietert was available throughout the meeting to help members with their selections and donation process. Contact information provided: Website – cfcgiving.opm.gov, and by mail at CFC Processing Center, PO Box 7820, Madison, Wisconsin, 53707-7820.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries: Birthdays – Elsa Castillo, David Cuellar (90 years old), Johnnie Davies, Carmen Dreumont, Jesse Gorden, Joyce Gorden, Annette Ivy, Gerry Rendon, and Adolph Trevino. No anniversaries in October.

Officer and Committee Reports:

- Membership Report for September: Connie Bedock reported our Chapter has 120 members.
- Treasurer’s Report for September: Gerry Rendon reported for Margarita Hernandez a checking account balance of \$486.85 and \$2,481.37 in savings for a combined balance of \$2,968.22
- Secretary’s Meeting Minutes: Minutes for August, September and the mid-year Executive Committee were available. No corrections to any of the reports.
- Service Officer: Sandy Vogel reported she would verify CFC website as one-time or monthly deductions. Ms. Dietert confirmed this is available through the website.
- NARFE PAC: David Cuellar reported there were no updates.
- Legislative Report: Shirley Swift reported COLA of 1.6% for 2020 for retirees.

Old Business:

- Executive Committee voted to continue pay of 1st year membership through December 31st. Motion by Santa Jones to accept and seconded by Shirley Click. Passed by show of hands.
- Gerry Rendon and Santa Jones participated in New Braunfels W2EA. A total of \$1,367 was raised by both teams. Donations will be accepted through December 31st.
- Chapter bylaws need to be signed by Secretary Christine Cuellar before they can be sent to headquarters for approval. Signed by Christine Cuellar at end of meeting.
- NARFE membership drive runs through December 31st.

New Business:

- 2020 Chapter calendar is being developed. Suggestions requested by members for speakers were SAPD to talk on senior scams, Atty Marquart, nutrition, Amtrak and fire department.
- Honor Veterans at November meeting. Connie Bedock to prepare board listing deceased members.
- Mini Health Fair in November with Aetna, BC/BS and Humana committed to be in attendance.
- December Meeting/Luncheon will be at Golden Corral at 1025 SE Military Drive, SATX.
- Election of Officers:
 - o President – Connie Bedock nominated Gerry Rendon and 2nd by Santa Jones. Motion to accept by S. Jones and seconded by Shirley Swift. Passed by show of hands.
 - o 1st Vice President – Connie Bedock nominated Al Dreumont. Motion to accept by Shirley Click and seconded by Santa Jones. Passed by show of hands.
 - o 2nd Vice President – Joyce Zerr nominated Shirley Swift. Motion to accept by Connie Bedock and seconded by Bonnie Herndon. Passed by show of hands.
 - o Secretary – Sandy Vogel nominated Christine Cuellar. Motion to accept by Carmen Dreumont and seconded by Jovita Durand. Passed by show of hands.
 - o Treasurer – Santa Jones voiced interest in the position. Motion by Shirley Click and seconded by Sandy Vogel. Passed by show of hands.
 - o Appointed Officers:
 - Service Officer – Sandy Vogel
 - Chaplain – Joyce Zerr
 - Newsletter – Gerry Rendon & Connie Bedock
 - Chapter Network Coordinator – Gerry Rendon
 - Chapter NARFE PAC – David N. Cuellar
 - Public Relations Officer – Christine Cuellar
 - Bereavement – Connie Bedock
 - Social (Beverages & Snacks) – S. Swift, R. Harris, J. Durand & C. Bedock
 - Telephone – Connie Bedock will update call list and share with past callers
 - Greeter – Johnnie Davis

Christine Cuellar, Secretary, San Antonio Chapter 1594

November Meeting

Chapter President Gerry Rendon welcomed all members and introduced guests Sandra Gallagher with Humana Healthcare, Sandy Esquivel with Aetna and Kim Fletcher and Melissa Santoya with Blue Cross/ Blue Shield. After a prayer and pledge of allegiance, he congratulated members celebrating birthdays. Four members celebrated birthdays: Bonnie Herndon, Nora Perez, Lanita Perry and Theresa Sanchez.

Chapter veterans were honored with a gift and thanked for their service. Chapter veterans are Keith Click, David A. Cuellar, David N. Cuellar, Al



Chapter 1594 Veterans from L-R: Al Dreumont, Martin Solis, Melvin Thiel, David Cuellar, Margarita Hernandez & Connie Jo Popham

Dreumont, Fred Eddie, Guadalupe Flores, Jesse Gorden, Steve Guzman, Earl Harris, Margarita Hernandez, Henrietta Horton, Billie McLaughlin, Maria Montes, Connie Jo Popham, Martin Solis, Lawrence Spencer, Melvin Thiel and Richard Weber.

Healthcare representatives mentioned benefits didn't change much from last year. Blue Cross/Blue Shield representatives stated increases in the reimbursement amount for the Basic Option members who pay Medicare Part B premiums increased from \$600 to \$800. You must provide proof you paid 2020 Medicare Part B premiums to receive this benefit.

Officer/Committee Reports:

- Membership Report for October – 120 members
- Treasurer's Report for October – Account balance is \$2,901.01. Checking account balance of \$419.23 and saving account \$2,481.78.
- Secretary's Minutes for October – No corrections noted.

Item of Interest:

- Reminder the 2019 Combined Federal Campaign official solicitation period runs through January 12, 2020. To pledge online, go to <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome> to setup an account and donate.
- New health insurance premiums rates listed in the November NARFE magazine were listed incorrectly for some carriers. Correct rates will be posted on the eNARFE magazine soon.



Chapter President Gerry Rendon presented (from L-R) Sandra Gallagher, Sandy Esquivel, Kim Fletcher and Melissa Santoya a small gift in appreciation for the information provided to Chapter members during the November Healthfair

Old Business:

- Chapter will continue paying NARFE annual dues of \$40 for first year only for new active and retired Federal employees joining Chapter through December 31st, 2019. This action was approved by members at the October meeting.
- Chapter bylaws were signed by Secretary Christine Cuellar and mailed to HQ for approval.
- NARFE Membership Drive ongoing through December 31st, 2019.
- Chapter calendar for 2020 being worked on.
- The meal for the December meeting at Golden Corral (1025 SE Military Drive SATX 78214) will cost \$10 plus taxes. Since a gratuity will not be included on your bill, please drop a tip in the tip jar that will be placed at the entrance of the Party Room.
- 90+ year old members will be honored at the December meeting. Margarita Hernandez will cover their meals at the luncheon out of her pocket.
- Christmas Baskets for 4 members who are ill will be made by Connie Bedock. If you know of any other member who is ill, please let Connie know so additional baskets can be prepared. If you are interested in delivering a basket to an ill member, get with Connie to coordinate delivery.
- \$25 gift cards will be given to members recruiting new members during this period.

New Business:

FEHB Open Season will runs from November 11 – December 9. 2020 premium rates are available at <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/premiums/>.

Gerry Rendon, President, San Antonio Chapter 1594

Chapter Newsletter

To cut down on cost associated with operation of Chapter 1594, members at the October 16th meeting acted on two items. First item, members with access to e-mail will no longer be receiving copy of the newsletter by mail. Copy of the newsletter will be sent electronically to the approximately 68 members with e-mail accounts. The remaining 51 members without e-mail will continue receiving copy of the newsletter by mail; however, on the last page of this newsletter there is a questionnaire to be completed by members without access to e-mail on whether member wants to continue receiving the newsletter. Please complete this questionnaire and mail to Gerry Rendon at 2727 Misty Spray Dr., San Antonio, TX 78224-1216. Second item, effective December 31st, 2019, the Chapter will cease payment of the annual \$40 membership fee for first year only new and retired Federal employees joining Chapter 1594.

Chapter Membership

At the end of this quarter, the Chapter has 124 members. New members joining or transferring into the chapter during this quarter were: Melvin Thiel, Martin Solis, Carlos Cantu, Maria LaPenta and Victoria Abercrombie.



Primary loss of members is 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



Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): It's time to Show Some Love! This year's CFC began September 9 and will run through January 12, 2020. You are invited to join the hundreds of thousands in the federal, military, and retiree community who pledge through the CFC year after year.

CFC is one of the largest and most successful employee fundraising campaigns in the world. Since the CFC began in 1961, Federal employees have donated over **\$8 Billion** dollars to charitable organizations.

Why CFC? As a member of a larger community of Federal workers, you can make a vital difference to the causes and charities that CFC supports.

Beginning with the 2018 Campaign, retirees became eligible to make donations through payroll deductions. With the 2019 Campaign, in addition to online donations, a new retiree paper pledge form has been added for the individual's convenience.

You can contribute financially to one or more charities of your choice through payroll deduction, credit card, and e-check. You can even pledge volunteer hours to participating charities! Donate TODAY! To pledge, go to the South Central Texas CFC website at: <https://www.southcentraltexascfc.org/>



FEHB Open Season: This year’s FEHB Open Season will come to an end Monday December 9, 2019. If you like the plan you have, you don’t have to do anything. Anyone making a change to their flexible spending account, health, vision or dental insurance must do so before midnight December 9th, 2019. Changes become effective January 1st, 2020 for retirees and the first day of the first full pay period that begins in January 2020 for active Federal civilian employees.

COLA

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA): Social Security recipients and Federal annuitants will receive a 1.6% COLA for 2020 as announced by the Social Security Administration.

President Trump has recommended a 2.6% pay raise for the federal government’s General Schedule employees to become effective in January 2020.

Under his proposal, locality pay rates would remain the same. If his proposal ultimately comes to pass, the lack of a locality pay raise would be a change and a disappointment to federal employees in locality pay areas.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Chapter Meeting | December 11 |
| Chapter Meeting | January 15 |
| Executive Committee Meeting | February 12 |
| Chapter Meeting | February 19 |
| Chapter Meeting | March 18 |

December 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Santa Maria Jones | December |
| Shirley Click | December |
| Marva Gary | December |
| Steve Guzman | December |
| Richard Weber | December |
| Rosie Yznaga | December |
| Lynda & Steve Guzman | December |
| Juan Ballin | January |
| Kathryn Click | January |
| Beryl Parker | January |
| Ricardo Salmon | January |
| Amelia Sanchez | January |
| Joyce Zerr | January |
| Ida Arrambide | February |
| Connie Bedock | February |
| Jovita Durand | February |
| Elevia Gant | February |
| Renee Eschmann-Harris | February |
| Shirley Swift | February |

January 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Keep Up with Us



Chapter Officers

Name	Title	Phone
Gerry Rendon	President	(210) 213-4169
Al Dreumont	1 st Vice President	(210) 637-0032
Shirley Swift	2 nd Vice President	(210) 300-9046
Christine Cuellar	Secretary	(210) 647-1424
Margarita Hernandez	Treasurer	(210) 679-5381

Meeting Information

Upcoming

Meetings: December 11th January 15th February 19th

Place: Brookhill Baptist Church, 631 Utopia Ln., 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.

QUESTIONNAIRE (For Members without access to internet/e-mail)

Your Name: _____

Do you want to continue receiving copy of Quarterly Newsletter by mail? YES NO

Please cut along the dotted line and mail to Gerry Rendon, 2727 Misty Spray Drive, San Antonio, TX 78224-1216. Thank you for completing this questionnaire.



San Antonio, Chapter 1594

NARFE CHAPTER 1594

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday, 11 December 2019

GOLDEN CORRAL

1025 S.E. Military Drive

(between Roosevelt and S. Flores)

11 a. m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pay \$10.00 plus tax at Register

You may bring a guest.

Make your reservation by 7 December

Call: Connie at 210-673-2290

or

Joyce at 210-523-0770

