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## Word from Chapter Member

I hope by the time you are reading our newsletter; you are doing well, and the recent bad weather and continued threat of COVID-19 has not put a damper in your livelihood. Since we last met on February 19, 2020, we were unable to nominate and vote for new ones in October and November meetings as customary. As a result, Connie Bedock and I are preparing this newsletter as members.

Earlier this month, I sent email to last year's officers to inquire if they would like to continue serving as officers. Four out of this five replied yes. Al Dreumont replied no for personal reasons but will continue as chapter member and will be attending retirement seminars to promote membership in NARFE. Al did an excellent job while serving as our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and I cannot thank him enough for stepping in for me during conflicts in my schedule. I will be contacting some of you to find out if you would like to be considered to fill the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position. Our chapter has many qualified members who can take on the job and I ask you to please be open minded when I call upon you with this opportunity.

By now, many of you have read or seen in the news FDA approved a third COVID-19 vaccine by Johnson & Johnson the last week of February. This brings to three the number of manufacturers who will be producing approximately 350M vaccines by the end of summer. As of February 27, the CDC reported 72.8M doses given with 23.7M of population fully vaccinated. The percentage of fully vaccinated now stands at 7.22%. Doses given in Texas is 5.57M with 1.88M fully vaccinated. The percentage of Texans fully vaccinated stands at 6.60%. With the downward trend in number of cases being reported and the increase in number of people being vaccinated, it is likely the number of people coming down with the virus will continue to decrease. We can only pray the number of



**Gerry Rendon**

people becoming infected continues to decline to a level where things can return to normal.

## Chapter Membership



Chapter membership as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 is 111.

## NARFE Legislative Action Center

The March 2021 issue of NARFE magazine highlights NARFE's advocacy efforts during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress in helping defeat threats in cuts to billions of dollars from hard earned federal benefits, improvement of federal pay and enhanced federal benefits. This could not have been done without the combined efforts of NARFE members, its leaders and staff working together in solidarity to maximize impact. If you have not done so yet please take a few minutes and read NARFE's legislative accomplishments during the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress in pages 6, 7 and 9 of the most recent NARFE magazine.

## Items of Interest

**Texas Federation Conference in San Antonio:** This conference originally scheduled in April will now be held in October 2021. Additional information to be provided in later issue.



**“Tax Planning for Federal Retirees”** will be NARFE's March webinar. It will be Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. CDT. Mark Keen, CFP, will discuss stealth taxes and Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) which can wreak havoc and confusion when you are working on your taxes. If you want to learn more on this matter, click on the following link to register for the webinar: <https://members.narfe.org/Events/Calendar-Of-Events/Meeting-Home-Page?Meetingid=%7b0667A785-9D70-EB11-8111-000D3A044486%7d>.

**Dues Withholding Reward:** The Executive Board voted to extend the dues withholding rebate program through June 30, 2021. A member that enrolls in the dues withholding program will receive \$20.00 once verified, and the member's chapter will receive \$5.00. Contact Connie Bedock at 210-673-2290 or email [conniebee@satx.rr.com](mailto:conniebee@satx.rr.com) and she will send you a dues withholding form. Only retirees receiving a federal civilian annuity can apply for dues withholding. Active federal employees, Life Members, and Honorary Members are not eligible for dues withholding. This offer applies to members who are or will be members of a Chapter in the Texas Federation or a national only member with a Texas address and whose completed application is sent to the TF Treasurer at: NARFE TF Treasurer, 361 Tobin Dr., Buda, TX 78610-3745. (Connie Bedock, Membership Chair)

**NARFE National Membership Dues Increase:** During the 2020 elections, NARFE members were sent a ballot on which they were given the opportunity to vote on the national dues increase. Increase was approved by greater than the required two-thirds margin. New dues rates went into effect on January 1, 2021. Members with membership expiration dates after December 31, 2020 will be billed at the new dues levels. National membership increases from \$40 to \$48 per year. Our chapter dues remain at \$7 per year. Annual dues for members who pay dues via the Dues Withholding program pay a discounted fee of \$42. This amount is divided into 12 equal payments and deducted from your annuities each month. The \$7 chapter dues are added to the national dues. (Connie Bedock, Membership Chair)

**COVID19 vaccine is now available at Wilford Hall for beneficiaries age 75 and older.** They will begin vaccinating civilian TRICARE beneficiaries age 75 and older starting Feb 3. For more information on the vaccine program, go to <https://bamc.tricare.mil> or call the Consult Appointment Management Office (CAMO) at 210-916-9900. (Rosie Yznaga, Chapter Member)

## Upcoming Events

Chapter Meeting                      March 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Chapter Meeting                      April 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Chapter Meeting                      May 19<sup>th</sup>

MARCH 2021						
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

Christine Cuellar                      March  
 David A. Cuellar                      March  
 Al Dreumont                              March  
 Margarita Hernandez                March  
 Billie McLaughlin                      March  
 Dora Santillano                        March  
 William Brennan                      April  
 Henry Huizar                              April  
 Exia Duke                                May  
 Stella Flores                              May  
 Sandy Vogel                              May

APRIL 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	8	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2021						
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					

## Anniversaries

None

## Keep Up with Us



## Chapter Officers

Name	Title	Phone
Vacant	President	
Vacant	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	
Vacant	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	
Vacant	Secretary	
Vacant	Treasurer	

## Meeting Information

**Upcoming Meetings:**    March 17<sup>th</sup>                      April 21<sup>st</sup>                      May 19<sup>th</sup>

**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.**