



FAIR AVENUE CHAPTER 1594

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am sure you know we have a great chapter, great slate of elected and appointed officers and wonderful members. We have had ten meetings this year and seven guest speakers. We are blessed with plentiful funds in our account. We have honored and recognized many members for their accomplishments. We have gained seven new members and we are very pleased that most of these members are participating in the meetings. All chapters nationwide are losing members



each month. Our goal this year is to work hard to recruit, recruit and recruit. The Texas Federation is offering an incentive with a contest for the top three chapters that recruit new members. Our chapter will be offering three free memberships in 2017. Members who recruit a new member to our chapter will be in a drawing for a \$25.00 gift card at the December 21st luncheon / meeting. Chapter 1594 will be hosting the TFC South Texas District 12 Convention on Monday, February 20, 2017.

Joyce Zerr, Chapter President

Upcoming Events

- December 21, 2016:** Christmas Luncheon / Meeting, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Pecan Grill Mexican Restaurant, 3857 E. Southcross, San Antonio, TX 78222.
- February 20, 2017:** TFC South Texas District 12 Convention, Chapter 1594 will host.
- May 3-6, 2017:** TFC State Convention at Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin, TX.



CHAPTER PREVIOUS MONTHS' ACTIVITIES

September: Twenty-one members and guests attended the Chapter meeting. First Vice President Gerry Rendon explained how to access the OPM Retirement Services

Online website and the data available. Joyce Zerr reminded members that there will be voting for new Chapter officers in October.

October: Thirty members and guests were in attendance. Matthew Haskins, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for

Representative Will Hurd, was guest speaker.



Left to right, Chapter 1594 2nd Vice President Shirley Swift presenting Mr. Matthew Haskins with a Certificate of Appreciation for being Guest Speaker at October 19 meeting.

He informed members of bills Representative Hurd has sent to Congress. Five of ten bills submitted have passed and signed into law. District 12 Representative Dorothy Creswell spoke about Chapter 672's 2016 goal to raise donations for the Alzheimer's Association Walk to end Alzheimer's. Our chapter

collected \$148.00 at the meeting and presented it to Chapter 672.



Left to right, Shirley Rushfeldt and Chapter President Joyce Zerr. Shirley received a distinguished member certificate for being a NARFE member over 20 years at October 19 meeting.

November: Chapter held its annual mini-health fair where representatives from Blue Cross & Blue Shield (Laura Mansour) and Aetna Federal (Ana Vieyra) briefed on changes and new rates for 2017 along with distributing benefit information. Attorney Paul Premack (San Antonio

Certified Elder Law Attorney) briefed on estate taxes, planning for incapacity, and probate (planning, avoiding, handling). He has written a legal column for the Express & News since 1989. It currently appears online at www.MySA.com and online at www.ExpressNews.com.

Chapter veterans and deceased members were honored.



Left to right, Attorney Paul Premack presented with Certificate of Appreciation by Chapter President Joyce Zerr.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

Our condolences go out to the families of deceased Chapter members Chester Boenig, Marina Curie-John and Max Ulrich.

Please remember in your prayers all ill members including: Anna White, Bertha Bento, Ray Gilliland and Amy Thompson.

Please give your family members a point of contact in our Chapter. They can call any of the officers listed on the last page of the newsletter or contact Connie Bedock at 673-2290.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

New Officers: Voting for new officers took place at the October meeting. Officers for 2017 will be Joyce Zerr,

President, Gerry Rendon, 1st Vice President, Shirley Swift, 2nd Vice President, Shirley Click, Secretary and Margarita

Hernandez, Treasurer. Officers will be sworn in at the December luncheon.

Seven new members were recruited during 2016. A drawing for a \$25.00 gift card to award one of the recruiters will take place at the Christmas luncheon on the 21st of December.

Recruitment: The Chapter Executive Board held a meeting on the 12th of October. It was agreed to award 2 gift cards to recruiters in 2017. One card will be drawn at the June lunch meeting and cover the January thru June time frame. The other card will be drawn at the December luncheon and will cover the July thru December time frame. The Board also agreed to award 3 free memberships during 2017. Spouses can also be members. The more members we have the more we can influence our

Congressional representatives in Washington.

The Texas Federation Board initiative began 1 April 2016 until 30 April 2017. The chapter will receive \$10.00 for each new member recruited and \$5.00 for each reinstated member.

FEHB Open Season (November 14 – December 12:
The FEHB Open Season, which begins November 14th and runs through December 12th,



will give Federal employees and retirees the opportunity to review the 2017 rates and benefits and change their

health care coverage if they wish. The upcoming Open Season will also give employees and retirees the chance to select supplemental dental and/or vision coverage. Retirees may change their coverage online at <https://retireefehb.opm.gov/Annuitant/> or call 1-888-767-6738 for assistance.

Texas Federal Register (TFR):
The Texas Federation Register for November – December 2016 is now available. Members can view current and past publications of the TFR by accessing the TFC webpage at <http://www.txnarfe.org>. This is a bi-monthly newsletter that is mailed to every member of the Texas chapter.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE AND LOOK US UP ON FACEBOOK

Interested in learning what is going on in Chapter 1594, check out our webpage or look us up on Facebook. These sites are your best source of information concerning our Chapter. Upcoming meeting agenda, past meeting minutes, quarterly newsletters and photos are accessible on the webpage. Link to the webpage is <http://www.narfe.org/site/chapter1594/> and Facebook at NARFE Chapter 1594. Gerry Rendon and Annette Ivy are responsible for maintaining these sites. If you would like an article or link added to the webpage you believe will be of benefit to members, email information to Gerry Rendon at grendon@satx.r.com or Annette Ivy at adivy@att.net.



ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Aluminum Pull Tabs: Please continue collecting pull tabs. This is an ongoing project of the Texas Federation and the proceeds go to the

Ronald McDonald Home Charities is an ongoing project of the Texas Federation. A 6,000-pound goal has been set for the next convention. Save

those tabs and bring them to the meeting or call one of the officers to have them picked up. It will take a lot of tabs to reach that goal so start saving.

Dues Withholding Program: Every member who signs up for dues withholding until 31 May 2017 receives \$20.00 from TFC. You also save 15% on your year's dues. You will pay \$41.00 for dues instead of \$47.00. This equals to \$3.42 a month. Get your form from Connie Bedock at the meeting

or call her at 673-2290 to have a form mailed to you.

Southside Reporter Article: Don't forget to look for our Chapter's article in the Southside Reporter every month. This article is at no cost to the chapter but good publicity for NARFE and our chapter. Several of our new members read the articles, attended one of our meetings and joined NARFE.

CALL CONGRESS

Voice your concerns or comments to congress by calling the following numbers:

Congress toll free	1-866-220-0044
White House toll free	1-888-225-8418
OPM Retiree/Annuitant	1-888-767-6738 (7:30 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. EST)



MEETING INFORMATION

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)

NEXT MEETINGS: 21 December 18 January 15 February

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, 210-540-9439

SECRETARY: SHIRLEY M. CLICK, 210-680-1294

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LEGISLATIVE CHAIR: SHIRLEY A. SWIFT, 210-540-9439

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: CONSTANCE (CONNIE) BEDOCK, 210-673-2290

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