

# NARFE NOTES

Chapter 1049 Bemidji, MN

Volume 19, Issue 4

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Summer 2021

## Bemidji Chapter 1049

### Officers

- President: Tim Johnson
- Membership Vice-President: Vern Holzhueter
- Legislative Vice-President: Mel Spies
- Service Officer: Donna Kimmes 218-751-5900
- Secretary: Dick Robinson
- Treasurer: Vacant
- Immediate Past President: Mel Spies
- Executive Board Members-at-large: Peggy Schluter and Eileen Gothman
- **NARFE NOTES** is published quarterly: January, April, July and October. Postage is paid by members through chapter dues. For information on how to join NARFE call the editor at 218-751-8981.
- NARFE Web Site: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)
- MN Federation Web Site: [www.narfe.org/mn](http://www.narfe.org/mn)
- 24/7 Toll-free "HOTLINE": 1-877-217-8234
- U.S. Congresspersons toll-free phone: 1-866-220-0044

OPM's MN ID: # 1450834

### DIST. 6 FIELD OFFICER

**Carolyn Billing**  
218-736-5843  
[carolynbilling@charter.net](mailto:carolynbilling@charter.net)

### Departments

Chaplain & Sunshine Chair:  
Eileen Gothman

Alzheimer's Chair:  
Peggy Schluter

Program Facilitator:  
Tim Johnson

Newsletter Editor & Publisher:  
John Hurlbert 218-751-8981  
[jhurlbrt@paulbunyan.net](mailto:jhurlbrt@paulbunyan.net)

## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

I want to start by thanking all of you for continued support as the President of the Bemidji NARFE Chapter 1049. My first goal is to continue getting the Chapter back to society's "new normal", where despite the vaccines, the routines of social distancing, surface sanitizing, and proper hand washing are now daily habits.

As a start, Chapter meetings have moved to the larger basement room in the Bemidji Senior Center to help with social distancing. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) have started serving meals for take-out services only. LSS has not restarted their sit-down dining at the Bemidji Senior Center, a service that is still being planned sometime in the near future. We, NARFE Chapter 1049, will notify our members when LSS sit-down dining resumes and keep you informed on the dining option before our Chapter meetings, including cost and serving times. So, until then our July Chapter meeting will be held at the Bemidji Senior Center on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 12:30 PM. Carolyn Billing will

be our guest speaker at this Chapter meeting and will install Officers for the next two-year terms.

I have lined up Julie Brandt, owner of "Lucky Dogs", to be our guest speaker at our August 25, 2021 meeting. We need to start thinking about next year's program schedule and need a Program Committee to help set up next year's programs. I have a few ideas, but I need to hear from you as members as to your ideas.

I want to remind everyone of the vast array of resources and benefits available to members. The NARFE website is a great resource that can keep everyone up to date with NARFE activity. The website can link you to webinars, news worthy articles, advocacy updates, membership perks, changes in policy, and many other informative links. Your paid membership with NARFE provides membership access to the National NARFE website which provides the above listed services including free access to the National webinars. This is your membership working for you.

Thank you.

*Tim Johnson, President*



SUMMER OAT THRESHING

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### OCTOBER 2021 MINNESOTA FEDERATION CONFERENCE

By the time our next newsletter comes out, the state conference will be over, so this is my last plug to get you interested enough to attend a very enjoyable meeting. At only 65 miles from Bemidji, this is the closest the state meeting is likely to be for years. I have attended every state convention or conference since 2001 and can say I have never been disappointed. The conference this year will be Oct. 19 to 20 at Breezy Point Resort, just east of Pequot Lakes, MN. From either north or south, come in on MN Hwy 371 and take Hwy 11 east 3 miles. Be sure to fill out the registration form that is in our March Federation newsletter and send it in before Sept. 1st.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Wed. Jul. 28, 2021

Carolyn Billing-Dist. 6 Field Off.  
Bemidji Senior Center 12:30 PM  
No Meal at Senior Center

### Wed. Aug. 25, 2021

Julie Brandt  
Proprietor, "Lucky Dogs"

### Wed. Sept. 22, 2021

Jorge Prince  
Mayor, City of Bemidji

### Wed. Oct. 27, 2021

Tony Nicholson  
FBI Special Agent, (Ret.)

*Meetings are currently held at 12:30 PM every 4th Wed at the Bemidji Senior Center.*

## OBITUARIES

### Dennis G. Engebretson, 73

Feb. 20, 1948—Apr. 27, 2021

Mr. Engebretson was born in Bagley to Belvia Engebretson and Henry Blohm. He grew up in Clearwater County and graduated from Bagley H.S. in 1966. He served in the Merchant Marine on the Great Lakes and in 1968 entered the US Army, serving in Viet Nam where he received several medals, and was honorably discharged in 1970. He married Renee Thorson at Leonard in 1972 where he operated Engebretson Logging for over 30 years. He worked at the Bemidji Post Office for 10 years, retiring in 2011. He is survived by his wife, Renee, of Leonard; sons, Chad, Shane and Cole; 2 granddaughters; brother David Johnson of Grand Forks and sister Diane (Ed) Kuhn of Lake Oswego, OR. He was preceded in death by 2 sisters and a brother.

### Jerry C. Fagerstrom, 88

Sept. 29, 1932—May 23, 2021

Mr. Fagerstrom was born in Golovin, Alaska to Minnie and John Fagerstrom. He grew up in that area some 75 miles east of Nome, the 9th of 12 children. As a teenager he contracted TB and lost one lung. He later graduated from Bates Technical College at Tacoma, WA. He worked for the IHS at Kotzebue, AK where he met Rose Montoya, RN, and they were married in Spokane, WA in 1963. He continued working for the IHS in Minnesota at Red Lake, Cass Lake and Bemidji, retiring after 30 years with the IHS. He is survived by his wife, Rose, of Bemidji; sons, Kevin (Ginny), Brian (Missy) and Alan (Kelly); daughter Melissa and 5 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his 11 siblings and 2 grandsons.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES

*By Mel Spies, Legislative Vice President*

Consider how slow Congress moves: for instance, a bill "Congratulations for the 100th Anniversary of NARFE". The Senate approved it by unanimous consent in Feb. 2021. The House, on the other hand, well.... They needed more time to think about it! So they referred it to the House Committee on Oversight & Reform. I'll say it for them, "CONGRATULATION NARFE ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES!!" On a more serious note—H.R. 392/S. 561, a bill providing federal employees with a 3.2% average pay raise in 2022—gained a whopping 12 additional Democrat cosponsors over the previous month. That's progress. Perhaps a letter or e-mail might help stimulate Congress to real action.

## ALZHEIMER'S NOTES

### RECORD FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising for the past year of June 2020 through May of 2021 has been very successful. The donations for the fall fundraiser came to \$620.00 and for the spring fundraiser were \$860.00. In addition, \$40.00 was collected at the Executive Board Meeting in July 2020 and \$32.00 at the May 2021 Chapter meeting for a grand total of \$1,552.00. This is the largest annual amount we have ever raised and I am so impressed by our members generosity. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your response to this very worthy cause. All of this money goes directly to research.

*Peggy Schluter, Alzheimer's Chairman*

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## SERVICE NOTES

### 2022 COLA WILL BE HIGHER

Unfortunately, inflation has been spiraling higher month by month recently and eating into the value of our dollars. Those of us who have some protection will see a higher COLA at the beginning of 2022 to help. The statisticians with the BLS reported the CPI-W at **266.412** after the figure for June 2021 increased by 1.06 percent. This brings the accumulated gain to **5.13%** higher over the third quarter average of 2020, which was **253.412** (1982-84 = 100). There is still the third quarter (July, August and September) of 2021 to go before we will know the amount of our COLA for 2022, but this will be the largest COLA in years. The 2021 COLA was only 1.3%. The COLA is applied to federal annuities, military pensions and Social Security payments.

## SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF PAST MEETINGS

**May 26, 2021** 12 members attending. President Tim Johnson called the meeting to order and we had a moment of silence for the victims of Covid-19. Chaplain Eileen Gothman gave the invocation and we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Dick Robinson read the Secretary's minutes of our last meeting of Feb. 26, 2020. Elly Underwood gave the Treasurer's report. We received \$51.00 as our prorated share to cover the six members who transferred in from the closed Thief River Falls Chapter 2328. The balance now is \$780.00. The President reported that the Chapter Executive Board met twice since the last chapter meeting: July 15, 2020 and September 16, 2020. Items discussed were the chapter budget, places to hold chapter meetings and combining

the chapter by-laws with the chapter constitution. President Tim spent many hours working on that. We took a vote on the final version of the by-laws and they were accepted by the members present. Membership VP Vern Holzhueter reported we gained 6 new members from the closing of the Thief River Falls chapter. They were Ray and Janet Berg, Katherine Fillmore, Joanne Musich, Robert Quinlan and Ralph Rundell. Service Officer Donna Kimmes said she had extra copies of the F-100, "Be Prepared For Life's Events" and that she was always ready to help with member's problems. Alzheimer's Chair Peggy Schluter said we collected \$32.00 today and \$480.00 so far in the Spring Fundraiser. Sunshine Chair Eileen Gothman sent out one card to the Dennis Engbretson family.

**Jun. 23, 2021** 14 members attending. The President called the meeting to order and introduced guest speaker Abby Randall, Executive Director of the Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce. She explained how the Chamber was structured, who the membership was and what their activities were. She then took questions from the audience. Secretary read the minutes, Treasurer reported a balance of \$865.62, Membership VP reported we currently have 91 members, Service Officer said she is available to help anyone in need of it and Alzheimer's Chair said we collected \$45.00 today, \$620.00 in the Fall Fundraiser and \$810.00 in the Spring Fundraiser. Biennial election of chapter officers was held. Elected were Tim Johnson, President; Vern Holzhueter, Membership VP; Mel Spies, Legislative VP; Dick Robinson, Secretary; and Donna Kimmes, Service Officer. Due to no volunteer, the position of Treasurer will remain vacant. These officers will be installed at our next meeting, July 28, 2021 by Dist. 6 Field Officer, Carolyn Billing.

**NARFE NOTES 19-4**  
**BEMIDJI CHAPTER 1049**  
**9555 23RD ST SE**  
**BEMIDJI, MN 56601-9323**