

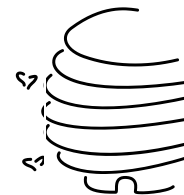
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



BEEHIVE CHIMES

Newsletter of UTAH FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

DECEMBER 2013



Isabel Sullivan, Editor

www.narfeUtah.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Approaching the Holiday season means planning, budgeting, and sincere hopes for a peaceful and happy, rewarding time for family members and their friends, and for many Federation chapters, a time for electing new officers for the coming year. Unfortunately, the last mentioned is becoming a real source of angst and frustration, not only for our federation but in many others as well. There have been many reasons put forth for the lack of interest and commitment to maintain a viable and productive chapter, but the "let somebody else do it" seems to be the prevalent one, followed by "I don't have the time". Most of us, in our past history of daily work

days, whether as active federal employees or spouses of those employees, have had to plan and budget our time, multitask, and often "wing it" or think fast to solve a problem. Naturally some have been more successful than others in achieving a positive outcome. So, why is working as a team to maintain a viable chapter any different? Guidelines have been in place for many years; new technology has made communication faster and more efficient, and for most chapters, the yearly dues are less than a couple of tanks of gas.

The National dues are just a few dollars more than the annual subscription for some of the better magazines, and a portion of those dues are returned to the chapters and the federation, plus providing a great magazine, a committed staff of national officers, and a political action committee who tirelessly work to ensure the earned benefits of federal workers, retirees, and annuitants are kept safe from the constant efforts to decrease or even eliminate some of them. So, for those of you who have been approached with the idea of stepping up and assuming a position of leadership in your chapter, please think in positive terms – "I can do this, what's so hard about it"? "We meet once a month - summer vacation? Why not"? "Group discussion about local & national issues, offer solutions to problems"? "Chance to get together with like-minded folks"? Even if you're a new member or haven't been approached, again, think positive - "I have the skill to do this, and maybe I can work to solve a problem."

Those of you who have been actively involved in watching the congressional attempts to balance the budget by presenting ideas like the Chained CPI, please be aware of and be prepared to respond to a bill being presented by Representative Daniel Issa (R-Calif.), called the Equal Health Care Access Act (HR3319) which would allow non-federal employees, retirees, and annuitants to enroll in the FEHB Plans. NARFE has opposed past attempts at similar legislation because there were no guarantees that they would be placed in separate risk pools. Rep. Issa is still working on the bill; until a final draft is offered we won't know if he's included the desired guarantees.

The **December 6th Federation board meeting** will be held at Denny's Restaurant, 250 West 500 South (just West of the Crystal Inn) PH: (801)355-1210. We will start with **lunch at noon** followed by the **meeting at 1:00 PM**. Plans for the 2014 State convention will be discussed, along with related business topics. Chapter members & guests are welcome. **Federation/chapter officers who cannot attend – please submit your reports, concerns etc. to myself or Secretary Carol Elkins before the 6th.** Please note my new e-mail address: marlaramey54@gmail.com

Marla Ramey, Federation President, 435-882-3876

LEGISLATION

First, I recommend that you "LIKE" NARFE's Facebook page: **NARFE National Headquarters**. One of the recent postings was: Which Metro Area Has the Highest Share of Federal Employees? Hint: Not Washington. The article goes on to state: "Of course there is an understandably large concentration of federal employment around greater Washington, D.C. However, the D.C. metro actually ranks fourth in terms of the share of its workforce made up by the federal government. Topping the list are Colorado Springs (with a 16.4 percent federal share), Virginia Beach (16.1 percent, and Honolulu (15.4 percent). Washington, D.C. at 14.1 percent. In addition, federal government works made up ten percent or more of all employment in three additional metros: **Ogden-Clearfield, Utah (11.1 percent)**; El Paso (11 percent); and San Diego (10 percent)..

Second, as I mention each month, **please call your Congressmen**; they need to hear from us. Message from NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin. "As the budget conference committee attempts to develop a more sustainable federal budget, we must ensure every member of Congress hears from us about the sacrifices the federal workforce has already made for deficit reduction. Feds will continue to be perceived as an easy target by Congress unless we make our voices heard loud and clear across the country. Please join me in sending NARFE's '**Enough is Enough**' message to show your opposition to the continuing attacks on the federal workforce."

The following is a statement from the Enough is Enough link: "After a 16-day government shutdown and reaching the tipping point on the debt limit, Congress has decided to once again kick the can down the road. While federal employees and annuitants were not included in the most recent agreement, your earned retirement and health benefits will be on the negotiating table for the next round. Tell your members of Congress that enough is enough and that the federal community will not stand for more cuts while sacrifices remain unshared."

Nancy Carlson-Gotts, Legislative Chair

NEWS FROM CHAPTERS

SALT LAKE #0155: November's meeting was in honor of our Veterans. Tom Schafer, a Vietnam veteran (combat medic) was unable to attend, but has been rescheduled for our January meeting; please come to hear what he does for veterans, at the local Veterans Administration hospital as well as the annual stand down in San Diego. Tom recently retired from Salt Lake County, Public Works Department. There was discussion on NARFE legislation issues, attendance at local Health Fairs, and NARFE's FEEA (Disaster Fund).

Next month's meeting is our **annual HOLIDAY LUNCHEON at Anna's Restaurant, Ivy Place, 4700 S. 9th E at NOON on December 17th**. We will offer a **choice of Roast Turkey or Roast Beef**, with all the 'fixings' for **\$12 per person (a portion subsidized by this Chapter)**. **For reservations, please send cash or check payable to: NARFE #155 to our Treasurer, JaNean Ellis, 11723 Anthem Ct., South Jordan, UT 84095-8003**, postmarked **by December 11** and indicate your choice of Turkey or Beef on your check. Come join the festivities, there will be door prizes. Please bring non-perishable food items and/or toiletries for donations to the Crossroads Urban Center.

There will be discussion at the January meeting and a vote at February's meeting on an amendment to the Chapter's Bylaws. The Bylaws, Article VI. Chapter Meetings, Section 3., "A quorum for conducting chapter business shall consist of fifteen of the chapter voting members, but less than a quorum may adjourn to meet on a future date, of which due notice shall be given to each voting member." We do not always have 15 voting members at our meetings to conduct business so the suggested change is "A quorum shall consist of the active, attending chapter members of a regularly scheduled chapter meeting."

Nancy Carlson-Gotts, President, 801-582-9373

OGDEN #0320: Our Christmas luncheon will be **1:00 PM, Friday, December 13**, at the Golden Corral. The chapter will pay for chapter members' lunches, guests must pay for their own lunches. We will not be meeting in January or February.

LuDean Burton, President, 801-732-8888

LOGAN #0735: Members of NARFE Logan Chapter 0735 will be holding their annual **Holiday Party on Monday, December 2, 2013, at 1:00 pm at the Coppermill Restaurant, 55 North Main Street, Logan, UT.** We will each order our meal off the menu. However, the Chapter will pick up the payment for your meal. Our program will be Mike Hatch who will play Christmas music on the piano.

There will also be a business meeting where we will have elections and discuss the future of the chapter. Unless someone is willing to become the Chapter President for next year, this may be the end of our NARFE Chapter. We wish you and yours a happy holiday season.

Douglas Morton, Secretary

LAYTON #0829: Fifteen members were disappointed that Rep. Rob Bishop canceled at our November meeting, but we had a round table discussion of NARFE issues which was received well. Our Christmas luncheon will be **1:00 PM, December 11, at Granny Annie's Restaurant.** The chapter will pay for the meal.

Joan L. Turner, Secretary

BOUNTIFUL #0830: At our November meeting we were given information from several health insurance companies to consider. Anyone wishing to change their health insurance policy may do so during this Open Season from November 11 to December 9.

Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the **Chuck A Rama restaurant in Bountiful on December 11, at 12:00 noon.** The chapter will pay for our luncheon, but **reservations must be made.** Call Blaine Busenbark, at 801-295-8613.

Joan Bohn, Secretary

CEDAR CITY #1205: Dale Brinkerhoff, Iron County Commissioner, spoke on local Iron County issues. Commissioner Brinkerhoff has served southern Utah for the past 25 years in several different positions. He served four terms on the Cedar City Counsel, plus he has served as an Iron County Commissioner for the past three years. He discussed several relevant issues currently under consideration in Iron County. The prairie dog issue continues to be a main topic. The BLM and public road litigations as well as local mining operations were discussed.

The local water table, vote to discontinue negotiations on the water pipeline, and the current situation on the aquifer were of interest to all attendees.

Health insurance information posted in the Fed Week newsletter was passed around for member review.

Mitch Gitz place a free newspaper notification of this month's meeting in the local paper. It was agreed that Mitch would acquire a current listing of all chapter 1205 paid members. Chapter members would like to call those that have not been attending monthly meetings.

Our **Christmas Dinner meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, December 3rd**

Mitchell Gitz, President

Editor Contact: Chimes Editor may be contacted by phone at 801-685-8822, e-mail: isull@comcast.net, or US Postal Service at return address on this newsletter.

ALZHEIMER'S DONATIONS from Utah Federation Chapters should be sent by check payable to “NARFE Alzheimer's Research.” Be sure your chapter number is on the check where it says “For” or “Remarks.” Mail to: John Light, Utah Federation Alzheimer’s Chair, 3769 South 3325 West, West Valley City, UT 84119-3509

PHONE NUMBERS FOR UTAH’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Sen. Orrin Hatch

Washington, D.C. Office: (202) 224-5251

Salt Lake City Office: (801) 524-4380

Sen. Mike Lee

Washington, D.C. Office: (202) 224-5444

Salt Lake City Office: (801) 524-5933

Rep. Rob Bishop (District 1)

Washington D.C. Office: (202) 225-0453

Ogden Office: (801) 625-0107

Brigham City Office: (435)734-2270

Rep. Chris Stewart (District 2)-

Washington, D.C. Office: 202-225-9730

Salt Lake City Office: 801-364-5550

St. George Office: 435-627-1500

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (District 3)

Washington, D.C. Office: (202) 225-7751

Provo Office: (801) 851-2500

Rep. Jim Matheson (District 4)

Washington, D.C. Office: (202) 225-3011

West Jordan Office: (801) 486-1236

UTAH FEDERATION OF NARFE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

President: Marla Ramey - mramey54@tribolyte.net

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**2nd Vice President/Legislative Chair: Nancy Carlson-Gotts –
nancycgotts@yahoo.com**

Secretary/Service Officer: Carol Elkins – brentelk@comcast.net

Treasurer: Karen Wright – karenwright999@comcast.net

Editor & Chaplain: Isabel Sullivan – isull@comcast.net

Sergeant-at-Arms: Colleen Busenbark – bbusen1031@aol.com

Alzheimer’s Chair: E. John Light – johnlight22@gmail.com

Chapter Presidents are also members of the Executive Board