



CHAPTER 241 NEWS

Volume 22, Issue 1

January ~March 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Wright



This past Saturday (January 21st) I attended the Executive Board Meeting in Denver and I found it to be interesting in a variety of ways. For instance, I learned that although there are approximately two million Federal workers, there are only 288,081 NARFE members. I also learned that there were 110 members that contributed \$4276.00 to NARFE PAC which would average out to about \$38.87 per person. I learned that of our 288,081 members 42% are 80 years old or older and 11,000

members are 59 years old or younger. I learned that of the NARFE National members only 14% have given e-mail addresses. I learned that NARFE Coloradoans sent their Congressmen 27,800 e-mails last year and 95 wrote letters.

What does all of this mean? I think it is open to interpretation; however, I would venture to say that there is a huge number of Federal Employees that we are not reaching and that are not aware of our existence. Each one of us can help with that by speaking to Federal Employees that we know and informing them about NARFE. I would also venture to say that perhaps many members are not knowledgeable about NARFE PAC. The abundance of older folks in NARFE tells me that the older we get the more we are concerned about our pay and benefits. What do you think these numbers mean? I would be very interested in YOUR interpretation.

Best wishes to you all.

Linda A. Wright, President, Chapter 241

LEGISLATION

By Larry Lightfoot

PAY FREEZE—If you receive GEMS notices this is old news and if you have a computer and don't receive GEMS, I would highly recommend you go to the NARFE site and sign up. Also, sign up for www.ProtectAmericansHeartbeat.org so you can send letters to your congressional representative. If they don't hear from us they assume they are right and we agree. GET INVOLVED.

“The payroll tax cut is designed to help America’s middle-class families who are struggling in this tough economy. So it’s incomprehensible why some senators, to offset the cost of the payroll tax cut, have proposed freezing pay once more for middle-class federal workers across the nation—62 percent of who only earn between \$25,000 to \$75,000 a year.”

“The current federal worker pay freeze, which went into effect last year, is expected to save the United States \$50 billion over two years. Our nation’s federal workers are already doing their part to address a financial crisis they did not cause.”

The Republican proposal also includes an irresponsible plan to cut up to one-in-ten federal jobs—jobs that ensure our food, water, airports, borders, nuclear power plants and highways are safe.

Continued on page 3

CHAPTER 241 ELECTED OFFICERS

President:

Linda Wright.....632-5213
e-mail: wright.linda54@yahoo.com

First Vice President/Membership Chair:

Phyllis Corl.....264-7669
e-mail: pacorl@attglobal.net

Second Vice President/Legislative:

Larry Lightfoot.....540-0472
e-mail: larryfoot@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Jeanne Vincent.....633-7955
e-mail: jvincent144@msm.com

Secretary/Newspaper Editor & Publisher:

Verda Spitz.....637-0582
e-mail: Vspitz@comcast.net

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Chaplain:

Dolly Currier.....473-6231

Door Greeter:

Pauline Barley.....598-0317

Door Prize & 50/50 Drawing:

Anny Jackson392-1528

Historian:

Mona Lightfoot.....540-0472

Programs:

Curry Horak:
e-mail: candmhorak@comcast.net

Programs Consultant:

Mona Lightfoot.....540-0472

Refreshments:

Loeda Westphal.....632-5965

Service Officer:

Eloise Wittleder.....528-7094

Sunshine:

Mary Weiss.....576-8656

Calling Tree:

Betty Armstrong.....598-2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALL ELECTED OFFICERS, Plus

Eloise Wittleder, Past President
Dolly Currier, Past President
Mary Weiss
Curry Horak
Mona Lightfoot

All Chapter members are invited and encouraged to attend the Executive Board Meetings held the first Tuesday of the month at the Senior Center.

NEW MEMBERS

New members joining Chapter 241 since our last newsletter:

Bruce E. Green
Diane Duplissis
Judith Miller

Member transferred from another chapter: Alleyne L. Schoolfield

DEATHS

Death reported this month: Ruth S. Maloney

Other deaths recently discovered are: Mary E. DeMoore, June 23, 2006; and Mrs Oruel Wood, March 29 2011.

Members of Chapter 241 send their condolences to their families.

OFFICER POSITIONS

There will be at least two officer positions open the end of this year (2012). The first one is that of **TREASURER**. Please read Jeanne Vincent's article on page 4, this newsletter.

The second officer position is **SECRETARY**. Verda Spitz, has been the secretary for 10 years. It is time for someone else to take this position. It is not a difficult job and she will be happy to help you all she can.

Verda is also the editor, publisher and what have you for the newsletter. This is **NOT** an elected position. She feels she cannot continue to do a credible job and asks for someone to step up and take over this important position. Again, she will do all she can to assist someone willing to do this important job

LEGISLATION continued from page 1

DO NOT CALL—Are you getting telephone calls you do not want? I know I do.

I am sure most everyone has heard of the DO NOT CALL Registry. In 2007 the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) launched the National DO NOT CALL Registry to give Americans a choice about getting telemarketing calls at home. According to a Harris Interactive poll, 92 percent of people who reported placing a number on the registry said they are receiving fewer calls: a total of 78 percent said they're getting "far fewer calls" or none at all.

Scammers have been making calls claiming to represent the National Do Not Call Registry. The calls claim to provide an opportunity to sign up for the Registry. These calls are not coming from the Registry or the Federal Trade commission and you **should not** respond to these calls.

If you would like to add your telephone number(s) to the NO CALL Registry you can go to: www.donotcall.gov and follow the instructions. If you do not have a computer, you can call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-886-290-423) to have your phone numbers added to the registry. This information is also good for checking if your number is on the no call list or filing a complaint with FTC.

Cell phone numbers are now available to the telemarketing people, so you need to add your cell phone number to the NO CALL Registry if you haven't already done so. This is important if you are charged for the call or the text message, or just don't want to listen to the telemarketer.

Understand that some calls are not covered. Once your number has been on the registry for 31 days, most telemarketing calls will stop. However, you may still get:

Calls from—or on behalf of—political organizations, charities, and telephone surveyors;

Calls from companies with whom you have an existing business relationship. A company may call you for 18 months after you make a purchase or three months after you submit an inquiry or application. However, if you request that the company place your number on its own do-not-call list, it must honor your request. You should keep a record of the date you make the request.

Calls from companies you've given permission to call.

The FC works to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair practices in the market place and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Jeanne Vincent

Initial review of the 2011 records indicate we have a shortage of \$376.26 which will be covered by available funds (we have sufficient assets to cover our deficit).

ASSETS

<u>JANUARY 1, 2011</u>		<u>DECEMBER 31, 2011</u>	
Checking Account	\$ 919.84	Checking Account	\$ 1,450.05
Savings Account	2,274.89	Savings Account	1,628.38
Certs Deposit	6,603.03	Certs Deposit	6,563.35

LOOKING FOR A NEW RETIREMENT CAREER?

Available January 1, 2013 – Treasurer’s Position

Available January 1, 2013 – Treasurer’s Position, NARFE Chapter 241

I will not run again for Treasurer at the end of this year (November elections). It is time to let someone else keep the books. You do not have to be a CPA! If you can keep good records (daily journal); add 2 and 2 and get 4 – you qualify!!

Did I mention the great salary? You’ll have the satisfaction of volunteering your time in support of NARFE and our local chapter – always a worthy cause.

Seriously—the Treasurer’s job is important. Most of us have, at one time, kept budget records and balanced a checkbook. NARFE Headquarters and the Colorado Federation provide general guidelines, but there is leeway for record keeping formats. Also, I will be available to help during the transition.

If you are even the least bit interested, contact me now and we can talk about it. Just talking will not be a commitment!

Jeanne Vincent Tele: 633-7955 e-mail: jvincent144@msm.com.

CHAPTER 241 ACTIVITIES

EXECUTIVE BOARD. The Executive Board met on December 6, 2011. Jeanne presented the 2012 budget that we need to approve and submit to the General Membership meeting in January. The Christmas meeting on December 13th was discussed – the chairities we selected for 2011 were the Colorado Springs Rescue Mission and Westside Cares. We have contracted for a Santa Claus to be present and invited members to bring grandchildren or any child to the meeting.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP. The December 13th membership meeting was attended by 30 people and Mr. Rick Baker, USAF, Ret. came as Santa Claus. We only had one child (grandchild of member Sharon Harrison), but he did a good job of including everyone he could in joining in singing and he persuaded several members to sit on his lap to tell him what they wanted for Christmas. A special cake (provided by Curry Horak) was enjoyed by all. (Continued on page 5 with pictures of Santa with some of our members)

CALENDAR FOR 2012

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Colorado Springs Senior Center. All members are welcome to attend.

COMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

February 14, 2012 -- 1:30 to 3:00 at the Senior Center. Guest speaker is: a Fireman (or Firemen) from the Colorado Springs Fire Department – who will speak on Fire Safety, they may bring a fire engine so don’t be surprised.

March 13, 2012. Program to be announced, Curry is trying to get someone to speak from USA Hockey

Chapter Activities continued from page 4.

At our December meeting we presented Eloise Wittleder with a Distinguished Member certificate for her long service to NARFE and Chapter 241. .The pictures below are some of our members enjoying the visit by Santa Claus.



Linda presents Eloise with her Distinguished Membership Certificate



Jamie Wonnett tells Santa what she wants for Christmas



Kody Harrison Talks to Santa



Eloise Wittleder chats with Santa



Margie Eells and Santa



Diana Gantz telling Santa what she wants for Christmas

At our January 10th General Membership Meeting, Dr. John Wright gave an excellent talk and slide show on cataracts. He also displayed slide pictures of the cataracts that most of we old folks develop in our late years, and explained the details of surgery to remove them. It was an excellent presentation and those of us who attended got a great education on this common problem most of we seniors have.