



Nevada Federation Newsletter

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

To support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants under any federal civilian retirement system and to oppose those detrimental to their interests. To promote the general welfare of federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants, to advise and assist them with respect to their rights under retirement, health and other employee and retiree benefits laws and regulations, and to represent their interests before appropriate authorities. To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.

B H Fanning, Editor 702-468-1069 or bhfanning@gmail.com

May 2017

MAY AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Ch. 2031 Annual Picnic 11:30A 	2 CA FEDERATION CONVENTION LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A 	3	4	5	6
7 Public Service Recognition Week May 7-13		9 LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A	10	11 Ch. 423 Gen'l meeting - 12:00 P	12	13
14 MOTHERS DAY 	15	16 Ch. 0142 NO MEETING LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A	17 NV FEDERATION CONVENTION 10:45 A -4:30 P 	18 CONVENTION 9:00 A-3:30 PM BANQUET 4:30-6:30P	19 Ch 2031 Luncheon 11:30 A	20 ARMED FORCES DAY 
21	22	23 Ch. 2157 Gen'l meeting 2:00 P LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A	24	25 Ch. 423 NO LUNCHEON	26 Deadline for newsletter articles	27
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED 	30 Newsletter mailing LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A	31			

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, NEVADA FEDERATION

These are exciting times for NARFE in Nevada. We are adopting new bylaws and electing new officers at our Convention this month. The future looks great! We have new challenges and new opportunities. But we must not become complacent. There are those in Congress who insist that the Federal Budget must be balanced by reforming entitlements. And when they talk of reform, do you think they will give you more? Let's face it, they don't give us anything. **Our benefits were earned by years of service to our country.** NARFE has done a good job of defending our benefits in past years. However NARFE does not get benefits; you do. Now is the time for members to act. In the next 90 days every NARFE member in Nevada should contact their Congressional Representative. This can be a letter, postcard, phone call, email or best of all a visit to their office. Make your message personal. It should be about you and your concerns.

I have enjoyed my term as your President. I thank those who supported me; far too many to list here. Please give that support to the new officers. I hope to see you at the convention on the 17th of May. ~ Bill Dwyer

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Reno Chapter 0142

President, Kathryn Vitalie
vitaliek@prodigy.net 775-313-6059
VP Membership, Susan Bower
ksusanbower@icloud.com 775-770-4199
VP Programs, Rosemary Damron
rdamron088@gmail.com 775-787-2261
Secretary, Sadie Bowyer
bowyersadi@gmail.com 775-324-5327
Treasurer, Donna Neese
donna38018@gmail.com 775-674-5564
Legislation, Eileen Way
mseileenrenee@yahoo.com 775-560-3248
Service Officer, Lou Mendes
lounkaren@aol.com 775-425-2741
Sunshine Chair, Adele Stoddard
adelerr13@yahoo.com 775-972-8282

Las Vegas Chapter 423

President, Jane Vaughn-Meisel 702-274-7314
Secretary, Paula Perez 702-255-2690
Treasurer, Alice Berly 702-452-5733

Hawthorne Chapter 1854

President, Craig Reed 775-945-3622

Henderson Chapter 2031

President, Vikki Renneckar 702-617-8898
2nd VP, Verena Briley Hudson 702-998-6757
Secretary, Robert Ruskamp 703-628-3234
Treasurer, Edda Quevedo 702-893-2255

Min-Gard Chapter 2167

President, Don Babb 775-265-5549
Vice President, Gloria Grant 775-783-9039
Secretary/Treasurer, Nellie Erskine 775-392-3262

Pahrump, Chapter 2276

President, Pam Raneri 775-727-8361
1st VP, Phil Raneri 775-272-8361
2nd VP, Judie Johnson 775-751-5870
Secretary, Deborah Reneau 775-527-2513
Treasurer, Ralph Johnson 775-751-5870

From Jerry Mork, Lake Mead District VP/ Chairman, Nevada Federation Biennial Convention

Hello again, from your Vice President for the Lake Mead District. MAY IS NEVADA CONVENTION MONTH!! As a reminder for those of you who will be coming from out-of-town for the Convention -- the Palms Hotel is one of the very few Vegas casinos which still offer plenty of FREE parking! (And -- if you still want to avoid the parking fees on the Strip, the Palms has a FREE shuttle to/from the Strip every half hour!

We are anxiously awaiting the appearance of our keynote speaker, Jessica Klement, Director of Legislation at NARFE Headquarters. I have spoken with Jessica and she is thrilled to be coming to our Federation's Convention. Jessica will be presenting us with the latest happenings in the Nation's Capital and the effects some of the new legislation will have on Federal retirees. Her presentation will be the first item on the agenda for Thursday morning's program. [Agenda follows.]

Robert Ruskamp, Henderson Chapter #2031's secretary will be introducing Jessica. Robert just returned from the Legislative Training Conference at NARFE Headquarters, where he met with the staff of every one of Nevada's elected officials from both the Senate and the House. We congratulate Robert on this accomplishment. And speaking of our congressional reps, right after Jessica speaks, we have invited the staff representatives from the Nevada delegation who will provide a brief synopsis of what's happening in their District/State.

A big THANK YOU to our Federation Treasurer, Donna Neese, for her help with the registration and banquet checks. We are anticipating an excellent turnout. **And if there are any**

last minute Convention-Attendees, Donna will be happy to accept their checks at the Registration Table. Anyway -- I will be looking forward to meeting up with everyone at the Convention -- and -- please come up and introduce yourself to me if we have not previously met!

NARFE FEDERATION CONVENTION PROGRAM PALMS HOTEL AND CASINO, MADISON A & B CONFERENCE ROOMS 4321 W. FLAMINGO RD. LAS VEGAS 89103

Wednesday, May 17

9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. — Starting Line Breakfast
(9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) — Executive Board Meeting with Chapter Presidents
10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. — Welcome and Introductions — Bill Dwyer, President
Moment of Silence & Pledge of Allegiance
— Verena Briley Hudson, Exec VP
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. — By Laws Discussion and Approval
12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. — Break
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. — Buffet Lunch Provided
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. — Break
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. — Chapter Presidents' Reports
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. — Update — Helen Zajac, Region VIII Vice-Pr esident
4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. — Announcements

Thursday, May 18

Breakfast on your own/leisure
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. — Welcome and Announcements - Jerry Mork, LM District VP/Convention Coordinator
9:15 a.m. — Introduction of Speaker & Report- Robert Ruskamp
9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. — NARFE -HQ Legislative Report - Jessica Klement, Director
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. —Break
10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. —Congressional Representatives Update
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. —Lunch on Your Own/Leisure
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. — Memorial Service - Chapter Presidents Reading of Deceased Members
1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. —Alzheimer's Update - Barbara Leetch, District VIII, (CA)
1:45 - 3:00 ----Nominations, Election and Results
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. —Break
3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. —Wrap Up and Closure
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. —Banquet, Installation of Officers, Awards, Entertainment, Raffles, and Fun

From Don Babb, President, Min-Gard Chapter 2167

At our last chapter meeting March 28th, our Secretary stated NARFE Hq had completed a review of our draft chapter bylaws and recommended one addition. The addition was agreed to by members present and the changed bylaws were returned to NARFE Hq for final approval. A final vote on Delegates to Federation Convention was conducted - four (4) members will attend as Delegates. Secretary signed Delegate forms, distributed copies to Delegates, and mailed copies to Convention Chairman. Copies of the Convention Program/Agenda were distributed and discussed. At our April 25th meeting Delegate support (stipend, transportation allowance, registration fee) will be voted; the chapter's annual Alzheimer's donations will be discussed/voted; the Chapter General Liability Insurance Policy renewal will be discussed/voted; and the "Draft" Federation Bylaws will be presented and discussed.

Submitted by Jane Vaughn-Meisel, President, Las Vegas Chapter 423 From NARFE HQ Legislation

NARFE Disappointed in Committee Action on USPS Reform Legislation – The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is deeply disappointed the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved the Postal Service Reform Act of 2017, H.R. 756, without addressing the serious concerns of 76,000 postal retirees who would be forced to enroll in Medicare under the bill. NARFE President Richard G. Thissen issued the following statement:

“There are many solutions to the financial problems facing the U.S. Postal Service, all of which the Committee unfortunately has rejected in favor of balancing the books of the USPS on the backs of its retirees. In doing so, this legislation forces 76,000 current postal retirees who are satisfied with their current health insurance coverage to pay an additional \$1,600 per year, or more, to receive coverage through Medicare.

“While the majority of federal and postal retirees choose Medicare when they turn age 65, those without it actively made the decision not to enroll. The reasons for doing are numerous and personal, and it was their choice. That choice should not be eliminated now because Congress is unwilling to make more politically difficult decisions.

“After finishing long careers with USPS, postal retirees should not be threatened with the loss of their health insurance entirely if they do not buy additional coverage through Medicare. This not only eliminates choice with regard to health insurance for postal retirees living on fixed incomes, but it also sets a dangerous precedent for all federal retirees. The committee is sending all retirees a very dangerous message with approval of this bill – we can, and will, change your retirement benefits, after you’ve retired and are living on fixed incomes, without regard to whether or not you can afford it.

“NARFE, as an organization representing postal retirees and as a customer of the Postal Service, is committed to supporting legislation that provides much needed reforms to USPS that allow for its long-term stability. However, we remain disappointed that the Committee failed to once again consider our simple, fair and reasonable alternative: maintain automatic enrollment of current postal retirees into Medicare Part B, but provide them with a short opt-out window of 60 or 90 days. Without this option, the bill breaks an unwritten promise regarding retiree health benefits and replaces the individual postal retiree’s choice of health insurance with a paternalistic requirement, at significant cost to the Medicare program.”

WHERE AND WHEN WE MEET

Reno Chapter 142 meets at 12:15 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at the Faith Lutheran Church. Exceptions: July – picnic; August – dark; December – Holiday Luncheon

Las Vegas 423 meets on the second Thursday at 12:00 PM (except Jul, Aug and Dec), at the Howard Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Avenue. Board meets at 11:00 AM just before the regular chapter meeting. Monthly speaker TBA. Luncheons are on the fourth Thursday of each month- NOTE: No lunch schedule in May.

Hawthorn Chapter 1854 TBA

Henderson Chapter 2031 meets at 1:00 PM on the first Monday of the month (except the Tuesday after Labor Day in September, and none in July and August) at the American Legion Post #40, 425 Van Wagenen St in Henderson. Monthly luncheons on the 3rd Friday at 11:30 AM. Speakers TBA.

Min-Gard Chapter 2167 meets at 2:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of 22nd the month (except June, July, August, November, December) at the Carson Valley United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville, NV. Speakers TBA

Pahrump Chapter 2276 meets four times a year, TBA.

THE SERVICE OFFICE 24/7 HOTLINE is available to all members and/or spouses throughout our NV Federation. The number is 702-516-7001. **Paula Perez, Federation Service Officer:** paulacperez4@hotmail.com

“A single fact can spoil a good argument.” A. N. Onymous

For past issues, more news & updates from our Nevada Federation, log on to to our website: www.narfenv.org.

From Kathryn Vitalie, President, Reno Chapter 0142

Chapter 0142 met on April 18, 2017, and members enjoyed a very informative presentation by Nancy Andersen, AARP, on fraud. The presentation featured Fraud Watch sponsored by AARP. Nancy explained in detail how our members could be tricked and swindled by criminals. Members must use caution when dealing with individuals requesting financial and personal information via email, telephone, or by personal contact. Members also celebrated Al and Lola Ouska’s 70th Wedding Anniversary. Al and Lola provided a beautiful cake and a good time was enjoyed by all. We were so fortunate to celebrate this very special day with them. Welcome Judy Scherr, the first former Fallon chapter member to attend a Reno chapter meeting. We hope there will be others from Fallon we can also welcome in person! Congratulations to Renata Ranneh our latest Distinguished Member! To be a Distinguished Member one must have 20 years as a NARFE member and be active in the chapter. Reno Chapter 0142 will be represented by five member delegates attending the Nevada Federation Conference in Las Vegas on May 17 and 18, 2017. Several members will also be attending the California Federation Convention on May 2 and 3, 2017, at the Reno Grand Sierra Resort. The Reno chapter virtual team will be joining the National FEEA 5KWalk/Run. The walk will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m., on May 7, 2017, at the Sparks Marina. Our next meeting will be held on June 20, 2017. Our speaker will be Barbara Kopp, RN, BS, MS; Healthcare Consultant and Care Coordinator. Final reminder – **No May Meeting** will be held due to the California Federation Convention and Nevada Federation Conference both being held in May.

OPM RETIREMENT CENTER

188-767-6738 and/or email: retire@opm.gov Also TDD (toll-free). Business hours: Mon-Fri 7:30 AM-5:00 PM EST



UPCOMING EVENTS

Henderson 2031 – Annual Spring Picnic
May 1st, 11:30 A at O’Callaghans Park, Henderson. Contact Mary Elms for more info: 702-568-5398.

California Federation Convention **May 2nd and 3rd**, at the Reno Grand Sierra Resort

Las Vegas 423 – Speaker at May 11th Meeting., 12:00P Shannon Keaton will be speaking about SSA

Henderson 2031 Monthly Lunch, Friday, May 19th, at Famous Dave’s BBQ, 651 Mall Ring Circle, Henderson (at Galleria Mall. Questions call Mary Elms 702-568-5398.

NV Federation Convention & Banquet **May 17th & 18th**
Palms Hotel & Casio, Las Vegas. **Thursday’s Banquet** **4:30 – 6:30 PM**

Reno 142 - Speaker at June 20th meeting. Barbara Kopp, RN, BS, MS; Healthcare Consultant and Care Coordinator.

“Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn’t know you left open.” John Barrymore



**National Active and Retired
Federal Employees
Nevada Federation**
P.O. Box 777452
Henderson NV 89077-7452

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The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), one of America's oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/retiree organization, NARFE represents the retirement interests of nearly five million current and future federal annuitants, spouses and survivors.

NEVADA LEGISLATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION

<p><u>Governor Brian Sandoval</u> 555 E. Washington St., Suite 5100 Las Vegas, NV 89101 Phone: 702-486-2500 Fax: 702-486-2505</p>	<p><u>Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto</u> 333 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Ste. 8016 Las Vegas, NV 89101 Phone: 702-388-5020 Fax: 702-388-5030:</p>	<p><u>Senator Dean Heller</u> 8930 W. Sunset Road #230 Las Vegas, NV 89148 Phone: 702-388-6605 Fax: 702-388-6501</p>
<p><u>Congresswoman Dina Titus CD1 Las Vegas</u> 550 E. Charleston Blvd. Ste. B Las Vegas, NV 89104 Phone: 702-220-9823 Fax: 702-220-9841</p>	<p><u>Congressman Mark Amodei CD2 Reno</u> 5310 Kietzke Lane, Suite 103 Reno, NV 89511 Phone: 775-686-5760 Fax: 775-686-5711</p>	<p><u>Congresswoman Jacky Rosen CD3 Las Vegas</u> 8872 S. Eastern Ave, Suite #210/220 Las Vegas, NV 89123 Phone: 702-387-4941 Fax: 702-837-0728</p>
<p><u>Congressman Ruben Kihuen CD4 North Las Vegas</u> 2250 Las Vegas Blvd., N. #500 North Las Vegas, NV 89030 Phone: 702-912-1634 Fax: 702-476-0911</p>	<p><u>Legislative Counsel Bureau</u> 702-486-2800 (This number is for State Issues-Laws & Casework) Grant Sawyer State Office Building 555 E. Washington Ave., Room #4000 Las Vegas, NV 89101-1072</p>	<p><u>Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt (Housing Assistance)</u> 1-855-457-4638 toll free www.HomeAgainNevada.gov.</p>