



September 2019
NARFE Chapter 256
Fort Collins, Colorado
www.narfe256.com

Once you retire from government service, you realize that your retirement benefits are the most valuable assets you own. However, you no longer have an agency or any Human Resource staff to help provide you with guidance or keep you informed about changes in your pay and benefits. Your federal contact is now OPM! Federal retirement, life insurance, health care, COLA's, compensation and other benefits for both current and retired federal employees are complex and often amended. NARFE keeps members informed of these changes and provides the answers you need to make important decisions. Additionally, NARFE provides some great saving discounts for travel, insurance and supports scholarships for children and grandchildren.

Local chapters are the foundation of NARFE. Chapter # 256, Fort Collins, provides an opportunity to socialize and exchange dialogue with civil service peers, and keep abreast of the latest information about your federal benefits. In many respects the local chapter and the interaction with NARFE members is a replacement for the office "water cooler" conversations and Human Resource flow of information. The local chapter offers a chance to continue the camaraderie of people with similar work experiences and professional accomplishments. The chapter provides a chance for

people to re-connect with other federal employees and to provide retired employees an opportunity to stay abreast of changes with respect to past duty locations and co-workers. For younger members a chapter also provides easy access to a wealth of “Oral History” which is insightful when assessing work situations and trends in today’s federal workforce from a historical perspective.

If you are in the Fort Collins area, you are encouraged to get involved in Chapter 256. If you are looking for more human interaction, need more personal peer contacts, or have extra energy and ideas to put to good use, then consider joining one of our NARFE Chapter 256 committees. We currently can use more input on the following four committees: Legislative; Service; Membership; and Calling. Our Committees meet periodically (either monthly or quarterly) to discuss issues and identify the best ways of keeping our general membership informed. New members are welcome to participate on a Committee that may be of particular interest. There is no obligation. If you attend one or two of the meetings and decide that it is not for you, no harm done. If you think you are interested or want additional information please contact me, Marshall Flug. I am the 2nd Vice-President and Membership Chair for the Local Chapter 256 in Fort Collins. If I can answer any questions for you about the Local Fort Collins Chapter 256, please let me know.

Marshall Flug, 970.223.6015 or leave a message.

email: flug-water@comcast.net

or President: Henry Shands, 970-495-1906,

or email: henry.shands@hotmail.com

NARFE Members and Guests are welcome to attend a monthly Chapter meeting. Chapter 256 meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month. Meetings are at the Elks Club at 1424 East Mulberry Street, just northwest of the intersection with Link Lane. The meeting format is: doors open by 11:00, with a buffet lunch from about 11:30 until 12:00, followed by a guest speaker from 12:00 until about 12:45, and then a short business meeting until 1:15 adjournment. A variety of programs are provided. Past programs included: Global Crop Diversity; City Water Conservation; Investment and Financial Management; Healthy & Successful Aging; Antique Lighting; Air Traffic Control; the Funeral Consumer Society; Life Assist Skills by the Poudre Fire Authority; and the story of the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. **Upcoming programs** are listed on our web site.

Reservations for the lunch are requested and the cost is \$10.00 payable at the door. You can cancel up to the Sunday evening before the meetings. Reservations are by phone to Lee Ayer at (970) 224-2345; or you can email her at: leeayer@q.com

The Local Chapter 256 in Fort Collins has about 180 members with about 40 who attend the monthly luncheons. Membership is comprised of people that worked/work at all levels and in most Departments/Agencies of the Federal Government. Most members are retired with the average age for the group probably early to mid-70s but includes people from their 40s to their 90s. Some members are very physically active and many are very socially active in the community. While most members are retired some

work full time and some work or volunteer part time in areas related to their professions or in areas where they have an interest. Several members worked for land management agencies; Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife, Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. Several worked/work for the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station and USDA-ARS. Others retired from the Extension Service and a few are involved with CSU. Agencies like the EPA, FAA, Post Office, IRS, DOD and Foreign Services are also represented.

Again if we can help answer any questions just let us know.

Membership Chair & 2nd VP, Marshall Flug, 970.223.6015.
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