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# National Association of Retired & Veteran Railway Employees, Inc.

NARVRE National Office

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NARVRE NEWSLETTER

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## FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT —

The 40th Biennial Convention of NARVRE is now approximately 3 months away. As of February 9, 2016 we show approximately 19 delegates registered for the convention. That is a very small minority of participants at this late stage of the game. . We encourage you to register as soon as possible. We also only showed 22 rooms reserved with a total of 33 people assigned to these rooms.

Questions about registrations should be directed to Ms. Candy Stewart at (314) 651-7097. All other questions should be directed to Convention Chairman Norbert Shacklette at (314) 609-8981 or (636) 451-2890.

The Saint Louis Union Station - a Double Tree by Hilton is located at 1820 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103. Telephone: (314) 231-1234. Web site is [www.stlunionstationhotel.com](http://www.stlunionstationhotel.com) All attendees need to make their own reservations with the Hotel. In order to help out Host Unit 56 in St. Louis your cooperation is greatly appreciated. We want a to help out Unit 56 with their responsibilities.

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I have some calls about the \$2,000 Death Benefit from Met Life. Many retirees are uninformed that there is such a thing. This is a negotiated agreement between rail labor and management and does not pertain to retired management employees. Widows or widowers' should call Met Life at 1-800-

310-7770 to seek information about this policy. They will want to know who the deceased railroad employee is and what is his social security number and what railroad he worked for during his working years. Amtrak employees are under a different plan GPN 1023000 and should call "Amtrak Retiree Life Claims at (202) 906-2436.

—Tom Dwyer, National President

With our 40th Biennial Convention, May 15-17, 2016 in St. Louis upon us, I am announcing my candidacy for re-election as your national president. I would appreciate your support and vote at that time. Thank you for this consideration.

— Tom Dwyer

## From the National Legislative Director —

Earlier this month, we sent out an email to the membership advising that Amtrak has finally decided to determine if rail passenger service should be restored to the old Sunset Limited route along the Gulf Coast. Public pressure from many rail passenger advocates (to include NARVRE) along with favorable results from a study done by Amtrak at the request of the Southern Rail Commission (SRC), has convinced Amtrak to host an inspection train this month that will make special stops at 14 locations in four states running from Baton Rouge, La. to Jacksonville, Fl. Elected officials from the SRC, and Governors from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama will be on board. The goal of the test train is to examine the existing infrastructure on the CSX railroad and to better understand rail's economic, cultural, and mobility opportunities along the gulf coast. Rail passenger service from Louisiana to central Florida

on the Sunset Limited has been dormant since Hurricane Katrina ravaged this route 10 years ago. The continual efforts of many supporting advocacy groups helped last year's transportation bill to authorize the study by Amtrak to examine the feasibility of restoring this Sunset Limited train along the historic route that originally began service in 1984. The study has indicated that restoring this 1,990-mile rail route would attract ridership of 153,000 passengers, with an annual funding commitment of \$9.5 million. The federal financial investment will need to be shared with the states but the Gulf Coast Business Council has stated that "the infrastructure investment required is actually very small as compared to the economic impact that can occur with the return of rail service." NARVRE members have been involved in this effort to restore the Sunset Limited train service, along with the local public support, and we are fully aware of the need for our continual help to get this resolved. The demand is there for an alternative to car travel,

and 7 of the 12 communities along this route have no air service, which leaves these areas with no options for public transportation. More and more travelers are abandoning cars and looking for more opportunities to ride rail passenger trains. Our efforts, as NARVRE members, along with NARP, and the many state coalitions of railroad passengers, can help this become a success and a reality. This office will send out another email reminding our members in the gulf states that their visible support will be appreciated and helpful on Feb.18-19 along the route of this inspection train. The schedule and additional information is at [www.southernrailcommission.org](http://www.southernrailcommission.org).

NARVRE will be following certain issues and matters of possible legislation as they are released from Congress and along the campaign trails. One example that needs some coverage is the unfair way the federal government measures the consumer price index (CPI). The formula used to calculate

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## From the National Vice President —

**O**n January 15, 2016 the Railroad Retirement Board released the 2016 schedule of informational meetings for prospective Railroad Retirees as done for the year 2015 when the Labor Member allowed NARVE to participate on those respective meetings to promote the NARVRE organization. We thank the Labor Member Walt Barrows for allowing NARVRE to have an informational table outside the RRB meeting locations. In 2015 we had a presence at most of those meetings. It has long been said, **“Retirees do not even know there is a NARVRE organization.”** We are changing that trend slowly by letting some of those retirees know of our existence. We are also promoting NARVRE through using informational posters in bulletin-boards and railroad work stations. I thank all the Area Directors and units who made that promotion possible to protect and preserve our Railroad Retirement Pension Annuity. **While at this time our pension is not being attacked by Congress, we have to be vigilant as committees and national budgets are introduced,** because this is where the congress sneaks in and slips language to decimate pension benefits using the code word **“reform”** to begin to eliminate senior benefits that regularly and frequently apply to making changes to Senior benefits more notably to our **Social Security which is the Tier 1 of Railroad Retirement along with our Railroad Medicare and other healthcare benefits.** While we may want to attend every RRB informational meetings we will have to evaluate the location and encourage our Area Directors to get nearby units to participate in those RRB informational meetings. President Tom Dwyer has said we have a fiduciary duty to evaluate attendance to see if it’s economically beneficial to attend. This is in terms of Travel expense. We have to be frugal when our membership is in decline. Throughout the years we have had good and bad membership numbers and expenditures are evaluated accordingly. **Area Directors are always encouraged to contact past president WhiteyWestphal at 440-452-8427 who is our legal and designated representative of the Law Firm of Will Moody who would be more than happy to assist you in sponsoring and attending meetings to organize and establish new Units. We appreciate and are thankful for the assistance they provide to NARVRE.** The RRB Spring schedule of the Railroad Retirement Informational Meetings is on the NARVRE Website under the office of NVP Tony Padilla at <http://www.narvre.info/national-vice-president.html>.

**As we get closer to the 40th Biennial National Convention to be held in St. Louis MO on May 15-17, National President Thomas Dwyer and National Vice President Tony Padilla will be seeking to run for re-election and are seeking your continued support.** Our National Secretary Treasurer Joyce Burton who has done an exemplary job has advised the officers of NARVRE that she will be vacating the position of National Secretary-Treasurer. I have been fortunate to be a part of her team and as such also thank every

Delegate to continue to support our Team. Our quest to increase our membership will continue to be of priority as we seek to promote, protect and Preserve our Railroad Retirement Pension Annuity. **Representing the Alliance for Retired Americans and NARVRE Tony Padilla and Jack McCabe of the San Antonio Unit 163 participated at a rally and press release in Austin Texas to oppose the Transpacific Partnership TTP Trade bill on the ill effects for Seniors in terms of giving monopolizing powers to the Drug industry on prescription biologic drugs prices making it difficult for Medicare to negotiate less expensive prices.** The agreement could also jeopardize future Medicare drug rebates that are currently pending in Congress and would save the Medicare program \$121 billion. Pictures at the Press Conference: Pic#1 Jack McCabe; Pic#2 Austin President ARA Glenn Scott and TARA Secretary Tony Padilla; Tony Padilla NARVRE NVP.



— Anthony (Tony) Padilla NARVRE National Vice President

**Hello fellow railroaders and spouses. I am Philip Steward, and I am your Area 1 Director from Unit 18 in Memphis, Tennessee.** I am proud and happy to announce that I will be running for the position of National Secretary Treasurer at the upcoming NARVRE convention in St. Louis. This position is currently held by Joyce Burton who is retiring at the end of her current term. Joyce has done an exceptional job over the past 4 years. I humbly accept the challenge of becoming your National Secretary/Treasurer for the next two years. I thank you in advance for your support. My bio is currently on the NARVRE website, Unit 1 Director <http://www.narvre.info/area-1-director.html>. Please consider my experience and qualification of having held various management positions during my 42 years of rail road service across the mid-south and Midwest including Assistant Personnel Manager, Terminal Trainmaster, Division Manager Safety and Rules, Assistant Division Superintendent Administration, and Division Trainmaster. Additionally, I owned and operated a dry cleaning business for 4 years.

Incidentally I was instrumental in assisting in starting up two new units in Alabama and helping local retiree leaders setting up four informational meetings in Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi.

**Your vote would be a tremendous help during the election this upcoming May at the National Convention and your support is greatly appreciated.**

—Philip Steward, your Area 1 Director from Unit 18 in Memphis, Tennessee.

## From the National Secretary-Treasurer —

The Convention will be held May 15-17, 2016 at the St. Louis Union Station Hilton Inn. All delegates and guests are cordially invited to attend the NARVRE Convention, we look forward to seeing your shining faces.

Please get your reservation into the hotel by April 1, 2016. Phone # to call 314-621-5262.

Mention the National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees, Inc. to get special room rates for your stay. Room rates for each night is \$139.00 plus tax at 16.9% travel by air no shuttle service.

Call Yellow Cab or flag at airport cab Ph# 314-993-8294 fare for one person is \$37.00 plus \$1.00 for each additional person and a \$3.00 airport fee. For a group of 6 persons they will send a van for \$5.00.

Metro Link stops two blocks from the hotel, may still need a cab and I think Yellow Cab is your best bet to get from Airport to hotel without further hassle.

Rental car is available to anyone needing that transportation Enterprise, Alamo and National.

National Ph # 1-855-703-6890.

Packets to all Committee's members will be sent by email not snail mail as you all have email address.

This will include Hotel reservation information as well as convention registration. Your credentials if you are attending and expense forms to sent back to National after the convention. Also any and all Amendments and Res-

olutions will be sent to Committee's as well as all Units for your vote as a delegate or alternate delegate for your unit.

Please call the National Office if you have any questions 1-800-551-2588.

Program booklet ad's should be sent to Norbert Shacklette at 125 American Inn Rd, Villa Ridge, MO 63089-2153, Call 314-609-8981 or email Pat Shacklette [shackpat@charter.net](mailto:shackpat@charter.net) for details.

There is a disconnect between local Units and the National Office when it comes to the fall (Sept) packets that are sent to Units. We are now at the same place we have been since I have held this office of National Secretary-Treasurer, that many Units are not taking the date of January 1 seriously for Nationals business purposes. At your National Office our obligation is to support the National Officers, Governing Board, Units Officers and Members and Members at large we are required to conduct business and follow the rules and regulations that the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures have committed us to adhere too in conducting the National Office in a manner that is able to function complete all duties as adopted by our delegates each Convention meeting.

We are now in that time period when our members are going South for the Winter or being temporarily away from their home address, lots of newsletters are being returned to the National Office each one of these costs us \$.49 and that amounts to about \$100.00 per month that we pay the U.S. Postal system.

This happen every month, please help by sending new address changes to the National Office by mail or email [narvre@](mailto:narvre@)

but we will remain active and hopeful for a good result in this year's general election. There will be many different proposals dealing with this issue, and we will keep track of their progress. We will also make our voices heard on any proposals that place all of the burdens of Medicare reform on the backs of retired beneficiaries. NARVRE will insist on fair and common sense proposals that will serve to strengthen the Medicare Trust Fund. Any proposal to change Medicare must be based on a concept of shared sacrifice for all enrollees. All of us need to listen for promises and possible threats between now and the November election. And figure out who will best serve to protect Medicare and railroad retirement.

2016...have we all paid our dues?

— Gary Faley, Legislative Director

[gmail.com](mailto:) Thanks for your assistance.

My hopes are that in the future that changes can be made by all local Units to get the business of NARVRE completed in a more timely manner. Please get your dues collection up to date as stated in the National Bylaws as of January 1 and eliminate the cost of sending three months of free newsletters to our delinquent members, and eliminate the deadline for delinquent dues payments altogether.

I thank all Unit Officers especially the Sec-Treas that strive to meet the end of the year collection of member renewals as well as our other reports for year end. I know you are all volunteers and have taken on this tremendous task of recording all information about your members and keeping up with changes. This does not go unnoticed by your National Officers. If you would like to send a donation to NARVRE please send it to the National Office make check out to NARVRE. 509 W Reed St, Moberly, MO 65270. We still after three years get mail addressed to the old address the National Office address is always on your newsletter each month. Thanks for you help.

— Joyce A. Burton, National Sec/Treas

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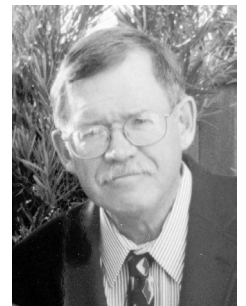
## OBITUARY

### Kenny Lloyd Rogers

Monday, December 21, 2015, Roseville/Sacramento unit 65 was shocked by the loss of Kenny Lloyd Rogers, our Membership Chairman. Kenny was a tireless advocate for the railroad men and women, doing a thorough research of any problem and coming up with the answer. He would also contact the family of a deceased railroader and make sure they knew about the railroad death benefit and also help them with any other decisions they would have to make in their time of sorrow. Many of his coworkers have said that "Kenny made them money and saved them money while working". He also continued to help many people after he retired. His devotion to our unit will not easily be replaced.

Tom Dwyer, NARVRES National President, wrote in an e-mail, "Kenny Rogers activist member of unit 65 Roseville/Sacramento, CA." This is the guy who would go to a retiree's home and sign them up." Also, in an email from National Vice President of NARVRE, Tony Padilla wrote, "I am deeply saddened that Kenny has left our family. He indeed will be missed. God bless".

Kenny Rogers was 67 and he passed in his sleep.




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## (National Legislative Director from page 1)

and determine the cost-of-living adjustments in the current **CPI-W** is outdated and needs to be replaced with a new and fully developed **CPI-E (Elderly)**, which will more accurately measure the effect of inflation on the price of goods and services that are purchased by seniors. It does not make sense to keep using the **CPI-W** which tracks the spending patterns of younger wage earners and clerical workers, as they are not drawing retirement benefits. We need a true calculation for seniors who spend more money on health care and important medical issues. You will no doubt remember this issue from recent years. We have not been successful with the current breakdown in Congress,

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## From Palmetto, GBA

### New Preventive Services for Lung and Colorectal Cancer Screenings

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has added two new screenings to the many free preventive services that are available to you. They are: Lung Cancer Screening with Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) and Colorectal Cancer Screening Using Cologuard™ (a Multitarget Stool DNA Test).

Lung cancer screening using Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) is free for individuals who meet all of the following conditions:

1. They are between the ages of 55 to 77
2. They don't have signs or symptoms of lung cancer
3. They are either a current smoker or have quit within the last 15 years
4. They have a history of smoking at least one pack a day for at least 30 years
5. Their physician or qualified non-physician practitioner provides a written order

Coverage for this service begins for dates of service of February 5, 2015 and forward. Before the first lung cancer LDCT screening is performed, you must have a lung cancer screening counseling and shared-decision making visit during which you can talk with your doctor to see if this is the right test for you.

Colorectal cancer screening using the Cologuard™ at-home stool DNA test is covered once every three years if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The patient is between the ages of 50 to 85
2. The patient doesn't don't have signs or symptoms of colorectal disease (such as lower gastrointestinal pain, blood in stools, positive guaiac fecal cult blood test or fecal immunochemical test)
3. The patient is at an average risk of developing colorectal cancer, to mean:
  - They don't have a personal history of adenomatous polyps, colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis.
  - They don't have a family history of colorectal cancers or adenomatous polyps, familial adenomatous polyposis, or hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer.

Coverage for this preventive service begins for the dates of service of October 9, 2014 and forward. As with the lung cancer screening, it's important to talk to your doctor to see if this is the right screening test for you.

If you have general questions about these new preventive services, please call us, toll-free, at 800-833-4455, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. We encourage you to visit our website at [www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me](http://www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/Me), as well as our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/MyRRMedicare](http://www.Facebook.com/MyRRMedicare).

— Jennifer Johnson