

Fort Collins Chapter 256 - 2026 Monthly Lunch Programs

NARFE Members and Guests are welcome to attend monthly lunch meetings.

When: Chapter 256 meetings are held on the **3rd Monday of most months.**

Where: Meetings are at the Elks Club at 1424 East Mulberry Street (CO Highway 14), just northwest of the intersection with Link Lane.

Format: 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.

Programs: A variety of programs are provided. Our past, current, and future programs are listed on our Chapter 256 web site: **www.narfe256.com**

Reservations: Reservations for the lunch are requested by the prior Thursday, and the cost currently is \$10.00 payable at the door. The Chapter is currently subsidizing the full lunch cost for attendees. Reservations are made by phone to Carol Ayer at (970) 224-2345; or you can email her at:

cayer9653@gmail.com or rsvp@narfe256.com.

Note that if you make a reservation and do not show up and pay you are still responsible for the full lunch cost (currently \$10.00). You can cancel a reservation by the Thursday before the meeting date.

2026 Monthly Program Schedule: Fort Collins, Chapter 256

January 19, 2026

Program and Brief Annual Business Meeting following Lunch.

This is our only member business meeting of the year. Please come, listen and provide feedback during this very brief meeting.

Program: Summitstone Health Partners

Overview: Summitstone Health Partners is a non-profit mental health care provider focusing on mental health, addiction treatment, child and family therapy, individual therapy, and crisis services. This presentation will cover the training they offer, their services, and how to access them.

Presenter: Sarahy Quintana Trejo, Community Engagement and Communications Specialist, Summitstone Health Partners and Manager for Donor Services for Front Range Community College.

She is a graduate of Colorado State University with a Bachelor's degree in English and Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and a Master of Science degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education.

February 16, 2026

Title: Community-Centered Wildland Fire Management

Speaker: Jennifer Mueller, Ember Alliance CEO

Overview:

- Overview of The Ember Alliance (mission, vision, foundation)
- How The Ember Alliance engages communities/ our programs
- Opportunities for involvement

March 16, 2026

NOTE: CANCELLED LUNCH due to low RSVP's.

Title: Introduction to CASA of Larimer County

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

Speaker: Cassie Maschal, CASA Program Manager; and
Carolyn Murphy, Development Manager

Overview: A brief history on how CASA started and how it has grown over the years, the three programs that serve our community, and wrap up with information on the many ways someone could get involved with our organization.

April 20, 2026

Title: Census Uncovered: More Than Just Numbers

Speaker: Kimberly Davis, Data Dissemination Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau.

Overview: This nerdy presentation takes you on a whirlwind tour of census history — from the very first U.S. census under George Washington, when paperwork was handwritten and probably spilled on. Along the way, we'll peek behind the curtain at modern census operations, think clipboards turned tablets, door knocks turned data uploads . We'll examine the types of data collected, unpack the treasure trove of demographic, economic, and housing data that quietly powers everything from schools to roads to public policy, business decisions, research, and community development. Who knew counting everyone could be this exciting?

May 18, 2026

Title: Human Trafficking 101

U Count Campaign (Human Trafficking)

Speaker: Vicky Dix, U Count Executive Director

Overview: “U COUNT is a 100% volunteer organization, including its leadership. Each of us volunteers our time and talents because we wholeheartedly believe that every person has value and deserves freedom.”

June 15, 2026

Title: Town Hall

Speaker: Representative Joe Neguse (CO-District 2)

Overview: Discussion topics to include protecting and the sustainability of social security and Medicare, protecting democracy and your vote, RIFs-are there more to come, and why can't this administration be held accountable for policy violations during the DOGE firings, OPM's new rule "Schedule Policy/Career," and reaching congressional members outside your congressional district.

July 20, 2026 – 5:00 pm

ANNUAL CHAPTER 256 Afternoon/Evening PICNIC

Cost is estimated at \$5.00 per person, with the rest subsidized by your Chapter 256.

Where: This event is at the Elks Lodge, outside if weather permits. 1424 East Mulberry Street.

Menu: The menu is BBQ Chicken, potato salad, green salad, dessert, coffee and iced tea. All prepared by the Elks Lodge. You do not need to bring anything other than yourself and any guests that are interested in NARFE.

What: This is our event to just meet, eat and chat! We are accepting RSVPs as normal each month.

August – No Lunch, Meeting or Program

September 21, 2026

Title:

Speakers:

Overview:

October 19, 2026

Title:

Speaker:

Overview:

November 16, 2026

Title:

Speaker:

BIO:

December 21, 2026

Topic: *The Senior Serenaders, a local musical and Vocal Group.*