



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



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Hagerstown MD

October 2019

From the Desk of the President. Autumn is a gorgeous season where the leaves change to a golden color and the weather cools down a bit. Welcome in the new Fall season

Congress returned to work after Labor Day and will have a lot of issues to debate. To make sure they keep NARFE on their brains, please call, text, email, and/or write a personal letter to your legislators about one or more of NARFE's top four priorities. 100% of members of Congress use social media to communicate with constituents; therefore, you should always identify yourself as such when communicating via social media. As a recap, the top four priorities are: budget threats to federal employees and retirees' earned benefits; more accurate COLAs for federal retirees; federal employees' pay raise for 2020; and U.S. postal reform. If you have questions about the top four legislative priorities, please contact advocacy@narfe.org. You must continue the fight and let your legislators know that you will not tolerate further threats to your earned pay and benefits.

Why so few members at our meetings?? Even though we have 110+ members in our chapter, the most we get at our meetings is 20-25 including the leadership team. Where are the rest of you? What can we do to get higher turnout at our meetings? You all have a reason to be a NARFE member so show up, enjoy our meetings and get to know your fellow members. We have a great lineup of guest speakers for 2019 - 2020 so please try to join us.

Patricia Nix, President, NARFE Hagerstown Chapter 306

Treasurer's Report

Aug. 12, 2019	Balance		\$1,831.71
		Credits	\$ 265.85
		Expenses	<u>\$ 457.49</u>
Sept. 21, 2019	Balance		\$1,640.07

P. Reed, Treasurer

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of NARFE Chapter 306 Membership Meeting

Our Membership Meeting was held on Friday, September 13, with 14 members and one guest present. President Pat Nix opened the meeting with a welcome to all. Jeff Cline, President of the Washington County Commissioners, was our guest speaker. The business meeting followed. Randy Burns won the Free Lunch drawing, Elaine Schneider was presented \$15.50 from the 50/50 drawing, and John Hess was the winner of the Special Raffle drawing. Food items collected will be taken to the Commission on Aging for their 'food pantry'. Our next Membership Meeting will be held on Friday, October 11, with Susan Hurd from the COA as our Guest Speaker. In an effort to free up space in our newsletter, it has been decided not to include the minutes of each Membership Meeting. The minutes will be sent to all members who have email addresses; copies of one month's minutes will also be available at each following meeting. If you would like to receive the minutes and have not provided your email address to Dot Buhrman yet, please do so. Her email address is dotm16509@gmail.com. Thank you. Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ware, Secretary

Legislative Report

OCTOBER's-Legislative-Report: Highlights: "ADVOCACY" (W/Words from NARFE's Advocacy-Department). ** 100 percent of Congress is engaging their constituents on social media - using Social Media Platforms to communicate, develop legislative agendas, and to reach people they couldn't reach before! NARFE Advocates must meet them there as well to be heard on Twitter and Facebook. Identify yourself as a constituent when commenting or posting a question on their page. Visit NARFE.org/advocacy to access important issue briefs on NARFE's Big Four legislative priorities and other important resources - "Before you go on Social Media" -And- Don't Forget: All-Important-Feedback w/NARFE via their "On-Line-Feedback-Form". ** ((From: Chapter-1127, Rockville)): "NARFE Rolls-Out Newsline" -- "NARFE NewsWatch" and the "The NARFE Legislative Hotline" are now merged (Sept-3RD) into one weekly newsletter; look for the new newsletter, "NARFE Newsline," each Tuesday afternoon in your email inbox. ** Legislative updates will be available via phone ((1-800-456-8410, press-3)) each Tuesday afternoon. ** Please make sure that your email address is added to your membership data at NARFE HQ so that you receive this and other time-sensitive items. **

Edward Reed, Chapter Vice President for Legislation & NARFE-PAC Sustainers & Donators.

Membership Report

The annual NARFE Recruiting Campaign from September 1, 2019 through December31, 2019 . National HQ's will recognize each recruiter of a new NARFE member with a \$10.00 reward and a recruiter pin and your MD NARFE Federation will also reward an additional \$10.00 to each MD member recruited . Please ensure that your name and NARFE ID number are on any membership applications submitted (for proper accounting). We need new members to help keep our benefits from fading away. Happy recruiting!

Dorothy C Smith, Membership Chair.

Service Officer Report

A wide difference of opinion remains over the planned further steps to break up OPM. Its background investigations function already is in transition to DoD, and that will be finalized effective October 1. The House bill would deny funding for the remaining planned steps of sending the retirement, insurance and HR services functions of OPM to the GSA while creating a new office under OMB to oversee personnel policies. The bill also contains language to essentially bar agencies from unilaterally imposing new policies over subjects that previously had been negotiated.

Several weeks ago, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland asserted that the House will not allow the further OPM reorganization steps to happen; more recently a majority of the House signed a joint letter urging the Democratic leadership to hold firm on the bargaining provision. Also, the AFGE union has filed a suit contending that decisions being issued in favor of management in disputes over the allowable scope of bargaining are invalid; it argues that by law, the Federal Services Impasses Panel, an arm of the FLRA, cannot issue such decisions without a full complement of members and that the members must be confirmed by the Senate and not directly appointed by the White House, as the current members were.

Disputes over agency reorganizations also could figure in other spending bills, with language in the House bills designed to block planned transfers of employees at Agriculture and Interior.

Tom Brudenell, Service Officer

Special Raffle

We had our first drawing of this season at our September meeting and are off to a good start but don't forget we can always sell these entries to outsiders. I have extra forms for anyone who would like to help out by selling to family, friends and neighbors. Your extra address labels are very helpful in filling out the entry forms easily and legibly. If you have any questions about this, please call and leave a message for me @ 301-745-6355. You can also contact me at the monthly meetings. Thank you.

Dorothy Smith, Raffle Chair.

PAID AD SECTION

We encourage you to check out our sponsors!

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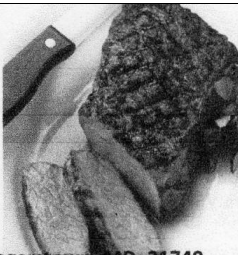
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