

# Region 2 Training Symposium

March 31, 2014

## Legislative Update

**Jessica Klement**  
**Legislative Director**



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# Agenda

- Where We've Been
- Where We're Going
- Grassroots Action
- NARFE-PAC



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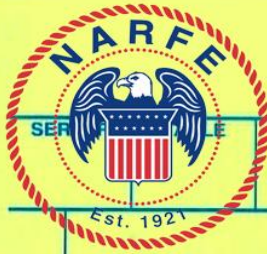
# Where We've Been

- \* Three-year federal employee pay freeze
- \* Increase in retirement contributions for those hired on or after January 1, 2013 (2.3% increase)
- \* Another increase in retirement contributions for those hired on or after January 1, 2014 (1.3%)
- \* Sequestration and Furloughs
- \* Small Raise in 2014

**For a Grand Total of....**



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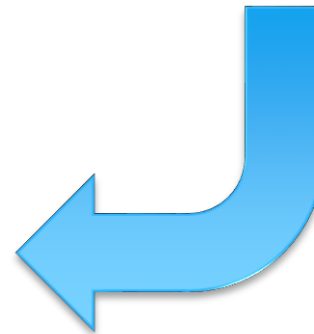
## Fed-Check

GUESTS		CHECK NUMBER
4.6 million feds & retirees		
2011 + 2012 + 2013 federal pay freeze		\$98 billion
Increased retirement contributions for federal employees hired in 2013		\$15 billion
Lost wages due to sequestration-related furloughs		\$1 billion
Increased retirement contributions for federal employees hired in 2014 and beyond		\$6 billion
Thank You		TOTAL \$120 billion

BT-6000

# Changes to Pay and Retirement

...\$120 Billion!



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# Where We've Been: Budget Agreement

- \* Congress passed two-year (FY14 and FY15) budget agreement in January
- \* Avoids sequestration-related furloughs for those years
- \* Increased retirement contributions for new hires
- \* President's Budget getting little attention
- \* No Senate budget this year, House working on one, but still unclear
- \* Ultimately means no “grand bargain,” or big budget fights until FY16.

# Where We've Been: It Wasn't All Bad

- \* Success can be judged as much by what happened as what didn't happen
- \* Chained CPI – no movement in Congress, not in President's budget
- \* No increase in retirement contributions for *current* feds, despite strong bipartisan support
- \* No negative changes to FEHBP, despite efforts
  - \* Only positive ones – self plus one
- \* Back pay provided to feds furloughed during the government shutdown
- \* Improved Senate postal bill compared to original

# Where Are We Going?

- \* Two-year budget deal means lack of deadlines, emergencies, fiscal cliffs and manufactured crises on Capitol Hill.
- \* But that doesn't mean we stop working!
- \* Here are some of the legislative priorities we're working on.



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# Where Are We Going?

## Postal Reform

- \* Senate Postal Reform bill – S. 1486
- \* Most likely vehicle for postal reform
- \* NARFE opposes:
  - Sharply reduces benefits for ALL injured workers (FECA)
  - Allows for the elimination of FERS pension
  - Requires enrollment in Medicare Parts A & B
- \* Passed Committee in February. Floor action is unlikely.



# Where Are We Going?

## Chained CPI

- \* A change in the way annual COLAs are computed to account for “behavioral adjustments”
- \* Not an accurate measure of seniors’ spending habits
  - \* Seniors are already typically buying the lowest priced goods
- \* Amounts to a loss of .3% in COLAs each year
  - \* Over a 9% COLA reduction after 25 years, totaling \$48,000 for the average CSRS annuitant
- \* ALWAYS ON THE TABLE. Where do your Members of Congress stand?

# Where Are We Going?

## FEHBP

- \* Camp bill (H.R. 1780) to remove feds from FEHBP and place them in the state exchanges created under the ACA
  - \* Not moving through Congress
- \* Comprehensive reform forthcoming from House ORG Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA)
- \* Ready to defend at a moment's notice
- \* New talking points on FEHBP available in toolkit

# Where Are We Going?

## New Legislation

- \* Bill to provide federal employees with a 3.3% pay raise in 2015 (H.R. 4202)
- \* Bill to provide feds furloughed from sequestration back pay (H.R. 3744)
- \* Bill to determine COLAs for federal annuities by the CPI-E (H.R. 4306)
- \* Action letters available on the NARFE Legislative Action Center! (<http://capwiz.com/narfe/home/>)

# Protect America's Heartbeat Grassroots Campaign

## **WHAT?**

- ❖ A grassroots campaign designed to get NARFE members more engaged in legislation that affects them

## **WHO?**

- \* You!

## **WHY?**

- \* Because Congress can change your benefits AT ANY TIME

## **WHERE?**

- \* In your home states and districts, at NARFE chapter meetings

## **WHEN?**

- \* NOW!

# Protect America's Heartbeat



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A campaign of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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[www.protectamericasheartbeat.org](http://www.protectamericasheartbeat.org)

## NARFE's Protect America's Heartbeat Toolkits

NARFE's members are their own best advocates and their grassroots efforts are critical to the success of NARFE in defending the earned retirement and health benefits of federal employees, retirees and survivors. The Protect America's Heartbeat Toolkit is a guide to support you in your work as you organize and reach out to policymakers and the media. The resources below will provide you with the tools necessary to achieve success as an advocate.

Each Toolkit below is designed to stand on its own or as single toolkit. Further, each piece of the toolkit can be viewed and printed without having to print the entire toolkit.

If you have any questions, please contact the NARFE Legislative staff at [leg@narfe.org](mailto:leg@narfe.org).

### NARFE Issue Briefs and Fact Sheets Toolkit

In this toolkit you will learn about NARFE's legislative priorities and general facts regarding the federal community. Every document in this guide was created to be given to members of Congress and/or their staff in meetings. However, you should not provide all of the documents at all of your meetings but the materials related to the topics you will be discussing. For guidance, review the Sample Agenda in the Legislative Activities at the Leadership Level Toolkit.

The information in these documents can also be used when writing letters and making calls to members of Congress, or for your personal use to provide a general understanding of our issues. These documents were created to be shared far and wide.

- [America's Federal Family at a Glance Fact Sheet](#)
- [The Federal Family Fact Sheet](#)
- [Federal Employee Deficit Reduction Contributions Fact Sheet](#)
- [Assessing the Private Verses Public Pay Debate Fact Sheet](#)
- [Legislative Priorities in the 113th Congress, Second Session Issue Brief](#)
- [NARFE Opposition to the Chained CPI Issue Brief](#)
- [U.S. Postal Reform in the 113th Congress Issue Brief](#)
- [Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Issue Brief](#)
- [State Specific Federal Family at a Glance Fact Sheets](#)

- New Toolkits Available!
- 6 Individual Toolkits
- Easier to find information and print only what you need.



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# PAH Grassroots Campaign

- ❖ Constantly rethinking how NARFE carries out grassroots activities based on individual factors:
  - ❖ Specific MOCs, chapter abilities, upcoming votes, etc...
- ❖ Including legislative information at chapter meetings, federation events and in newsletters
- ❖ Taking steps towards a larger, functioning grassroots program within NARFE
- ❖ Building personal relationships with your members of Congress is key!
- ❖ You are in a unique position to share your experiences as a federal worker
- ❖ All politics is local. Drive it home!

# NARFE-PAC

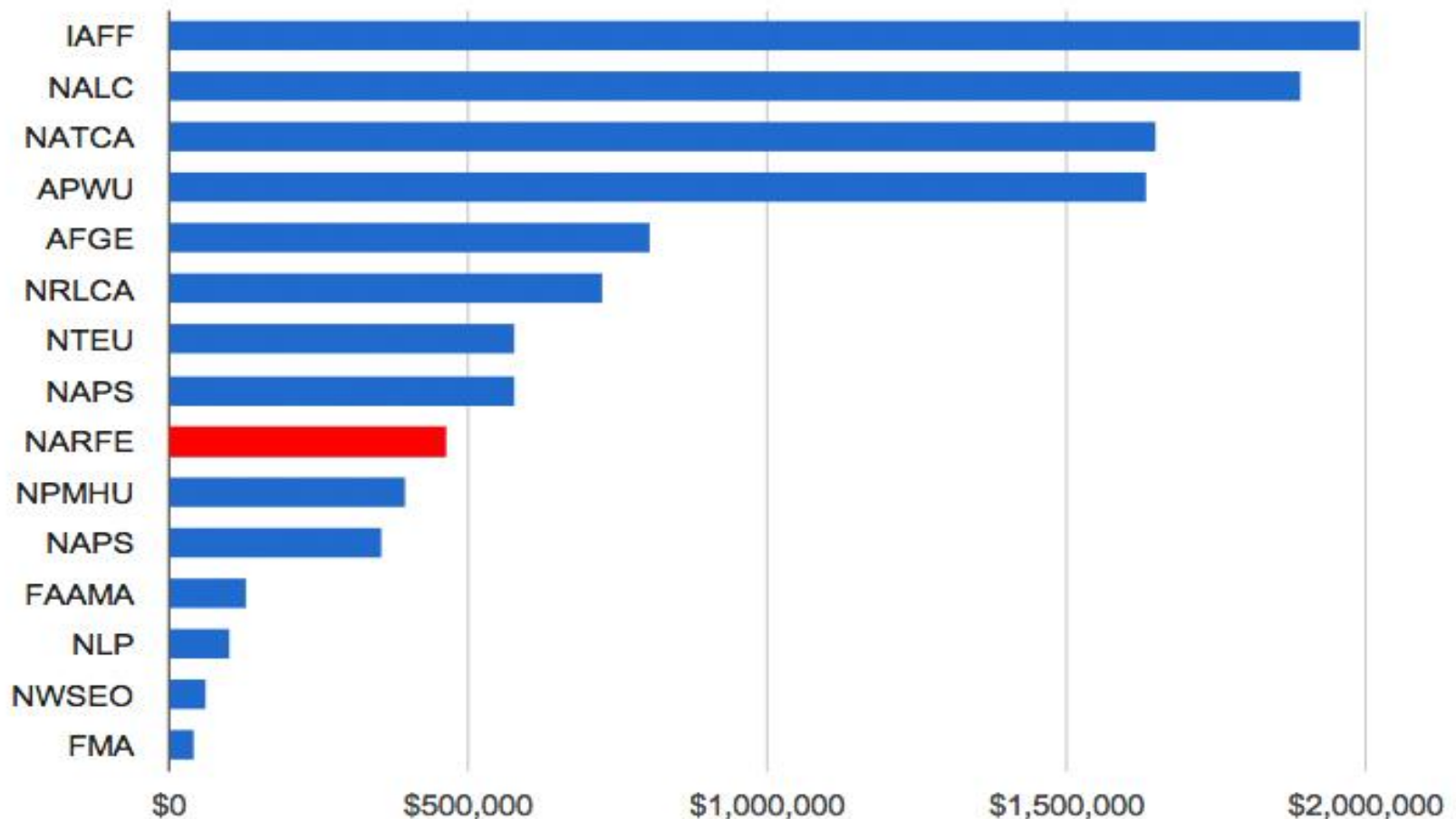
## Why is NARFE-PAC Important?

- **Elections** cost money. NARFE-PAC helps fund the campaigns of candidates who will support federal employees and retirees in Congress. Making sure our friends in Congress stay in Congress.
- **Access.** Allows direct contact with members of Congress, face-to-face interactions at campaign fundraisers
- **Leaders.** Helps develop relationships with our strongest proponents, helps them gain more influence.

# NARFE-PAC vs. Coalition Partners

2011-2012

## PAC Disbursements (Money to Candidates)

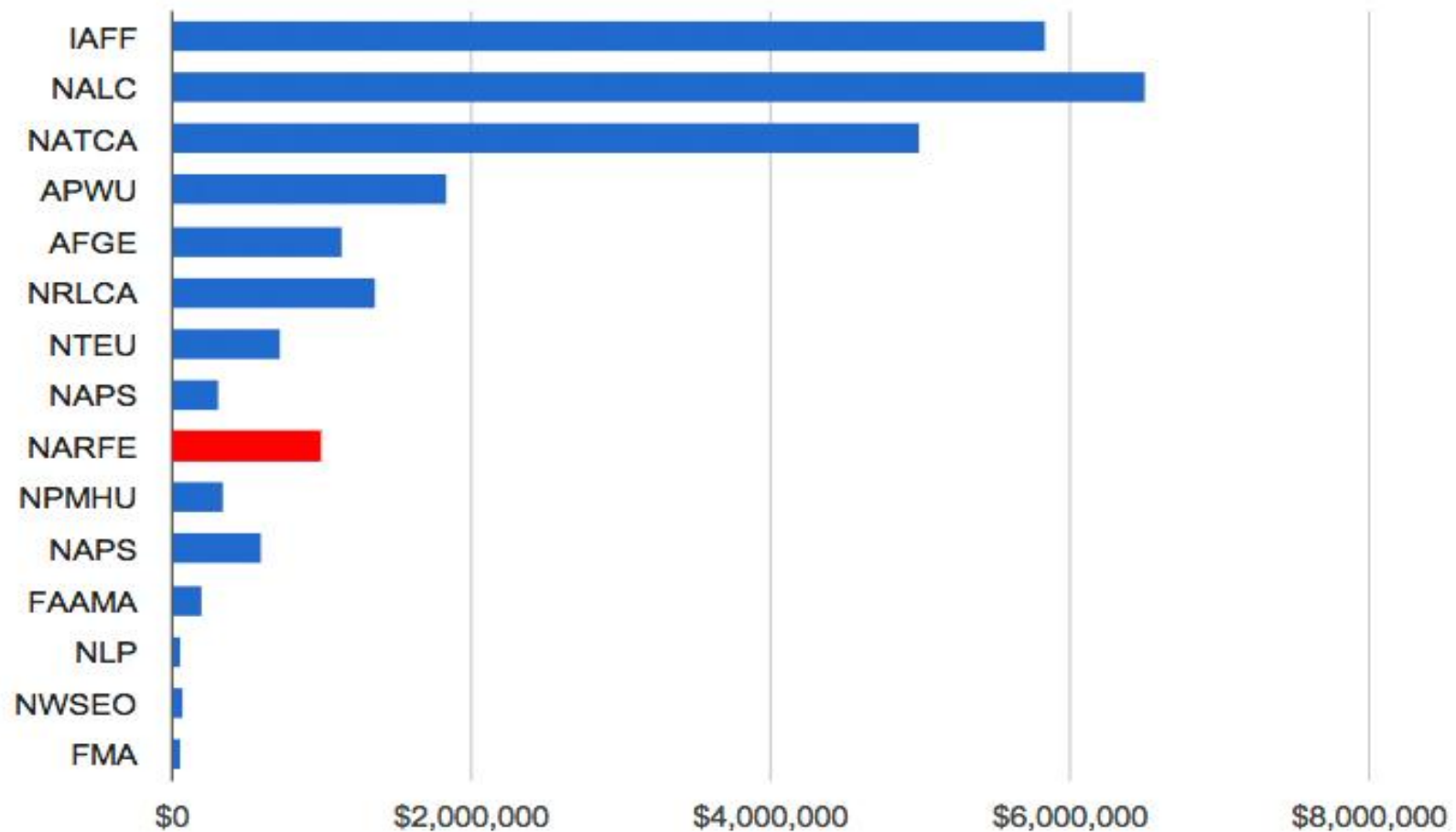




# NARFE-PAC vs. Coalition Partners

2011-2012

## PAC Receipts (Contributions from Members)



# Questions?



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