



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LANSING AREA MICHIGAN

CHAPTER 0289



1st Quarter Newsletter 2025

NARFE WEBSITES

Important Web Addresses

Chapter Web Page address is: <https://www.narfe.org/chapter0289/>

Federation Webpage address is: <https://www.narfe.org/mi/>

National: <https://www.narfe.org/>

[NARFE National Headquarters | Facebook](#)

Federation NARFE Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/NARFEMI>

FEDHub: [Home - FEDHub \(narfe.org\)](#)

Chapter Officers

President William Fude

1st Vice President Diane Fielder

2nd Vice President Mary Cook

Secretary Frances Johnston

Treasurer Joe DeSira

Nomination Chair Vacant

Audit Chair Kathy Zerkle

Committee Coordinators

Membership Bruce Miles

Sunshine Kathy Zerkle

NARFE-PAC Joe DeSira

Newsletter Frances Johnston

Legislative Chair Frances Johnston

To contact our chapter officers, go to the Chapter Web page

<https://www.narfe.org/chapter0289/>

use Contact Us to send a direct message.

Lansing Chapter 289 meetings are normally held at 1pm at the Tri-County Office on Aging, 5303 South Cedar St. in Lansing. Enter through Door number 1 on north side.

Upcoming Programs

We have some interesting programs coming up in the next months. Be sure to put on your calendar so you will remember what is coming. The newsletter only comes out quarterly.

January 2nd – Brian West from Hantz group will present information on changes in tax law in anticipation of preparation and filing of tax returns. This will be a hybrid (in-person and zoom) in case weather does not permit attending in-person.

February 6th - Channel 10 Chief Meteorologist Darrin Rockcole will be discussing weather forecasting.

If any member has a specific topic that they think might interest the group or has a friend that speaks on a particular topic- let Mary Cook know. She is open to any and all suggestions for guest speakers and work together to bring information to our group. You can email her directly through the Chapter website "About Us" Page at <https://www.narfe.org/chapter0289/about-us/>.

Chapter President Message:

We are closing in on the Winter Solstice and ready to greet the new year. I, for one, am glad the election is over even though about half the voters are disappointed in the outcome. The incoming president has, among other things, repeatedly vowed revenge on all those he thinks have been unkind to him but he "only wants to be a dictator on day one." Think about this; no dictator in history has ever term limited himself to one day! It is likely that federal/postal employees and retirees, along with non-millionaires, are in for some rough times ahead. That is why you need to stick with NARFE and support NARFE-PAC because no one else is going to look out for you.

For now, though, relax and enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.

We wish all of you a very Healthy and Happy New Year!





Chapter Website

Holiday Meeting. You missed a good time at our December Chapter Holiday Meeting. Check out the pictures that have been posted on the Chapter website at: [Holiday Meetings – NARFE Chapter 0289 | Greater Lansing Area, MI](#)

FEDHub

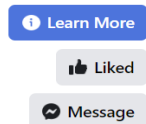
FEDHub, NARFE’s online community is another source for connection and advice from other members. Odds are, another NARFE member either has the same issue or has an answer. Every NARFE member belongs to the open forum and all NARFE members living in Michigan belong to the Michigan Federation Community. Check it out at: [Michigan Federation - FEDHub](#)

FACEBOOK



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association - MI Federation

21 likes • 32 followers



If you have a **Facebook account**, you can use your ID and password to log in and view the Federation NARFE Facebook page -- facebook.com/NARFEMI. If you do not have a Facebook page, you can create one and look at the NARFE Federation page that will help our members stay in touch with and provide eligible people (active and retired Federal employees and their spouses and survivors) information to know about NARFE and possibly become members. You can share a post from this page to your own Facebook page to help spread the word.

Federal Benefits Expert

Do not forget that as a member you have access to the **Federal Benefits Expert Program Manager**. Members can easily initiate contact with the Federal Benefits Institute from the NARFE website by emailing fedbenefits@narfe.org, or by phone 1 (800) 456-8410 or fax (703) 838-7785. If you missed one of the webinars then you can view the recordings by going to the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Tab and check the submenu tab titled “**On Demand**” Webinars at: [On-Demand Webinars – NARFE](#)

ALERT

Have you been receiving the monthly NARFE Magazine? Have you been receiving the emailed chapter newsletter? Have you received emails from Lansing Chapter 289? Have you been receiving emails from NARFE headquarters? **If ANY of the answers to these questions is NO, then you need to update your NARFE records.** Have you changed phone numbers such as stopping your land line and using only a cell phone? Have you moved and have a new address? This is another reason for you to update your NARFE records.

Communication is important to keep you informed about items that might impact on your benefits. If you have not kept your NARFE record up to date, then your chapter cannot keep in contact with you. NARFE would not

know if you are not receiving the magazine since the postal service does not notify NARFE when there is a wrong address for you unless you let NARFE know.

Our Chapter Secretary keeps distribution lists of all our members email addresses and even has several members listed who have requested to keep their emails private and they are not added to the national records but maintained only by the secretary. All you need to do is let her know.

We only mailed this Newsletter to members of Lansing Chapter 289 who do not have emails or based on rejected emails, but we do not know if you are receiving them. **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THE RECORDS NEED CORRECTIONS OR IF THE RECORD IS CORRECT!!!!!!**

The NARFE Membership and Financial System has just been updated. Please help us to keep the records updated. You can send the Chapter Secretary a letter to the return address on this newsletter or reply to the email you received with the newsletter attached.

NEWS ITEM THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

Federal Employees with Young Children and Dependent Parents Can Benefit from the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account

Article in My Federal Retirement, December 6, 2024 by Edward A. Zurndorfer

[The following is just excerpts from the article to provide our members with information and source if they want to learn more about the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account \(DCFSA\).](#)

Federal employees who need child or dependent care for a qualifying relative can benefit through participation in the DCFSA. The DCFSA is one of two flexible spending accounts offered to federal employees through the “FedFlex” program. Information including eligibility requirements for the DCFSA can be found at: <https://www.fsafeds.com>.

The complete column discusses the DCFSA and how employees can benefit by using DCFSA to pay for daycare expenses for qualifying relatives in order for the employees (and, if married, their spouses) to work.

The DCFSA allows employees to be reimbursed on a before-tax basis for qualified child and adult daycare expenses. An adult includes a parent, a grandparent, or a disabled adult for whom an employee can claim as a tax dependent. The employee must provide more than half of the adult’s support during the year.

The rules regarding an employee’s participation in a DCFSA are identical to the rules for an employee to take the child and dependent care tax credit (CDCTC) when the employee files his or her federal income tax return.

Earned Income Requirement - A single federal employee must have earned income -salary or self-employment income – in order to utilize the DCFSA. With a married couple in which one spouse is a federal employee, both spouses have earned income in order for the federal employee to utilize the DCFSA. The exception for a married couple is when one spouse is a full-time student.

How to Participate in the FSAFEDS DCFSA - Only permanent (full-time or part-time) may participate in the DCFSA offered through FSAFEDS. Federal retirees are not allowed to participate in the DCFSA.

Read full article: <https://www.myfederalretirement.com/dependent-fsa/>

BOLD Legislation to Strengthen Nation’s Dementia Public Health Infrastructure Signed into Law

December 11, 2024 - *Third Alzheimer’s Association priority legislation signed into law this Congress* — Washington, D.C., Dec. 11, 2024 — The bipartisan BOLD Reauthorization Act, legislation which will enable public health departments to implement effective dementia interventions, has been signed into law. The bill, which passed unanimously out of Congress, will reauthorize the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act (P.L.115-406).

“In the five years since the initial BOLD Act was signed into law, public health departments across the country have been making a real-world impact by successfully implementing effective Alzheimer’s interventions, such as increasing early detection and diagnosis and reducing risk,” said Robert Egge, Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM) president and Alzheimer’s Association chief public policy officer. “Today’s reauthorization will build on this progress and expand the law’s impact further into communities.”

“We are grateful to the bill’s sponsors for their tremendous bipartisan leadership in introducing the bipartisan BOLD Reauthorization Act, and their steadfast commitment to the Alzheimer’s and dementia community.”

The BOLD Act has been essential to creating and growing a public health infrastructure for dementia across the country. Through the law, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided funding to state, local and tribal public health departments to help them improve brain health in their communities. Since 2018, the CDC has made 66 awards to 45 state, local and tribal public health departments to help them implement effective dementia interventions such as reducing risk, increasing early detection and diagnosis, and supporting the needs of caregivers.

The BOLD Reauthorization Act is the third Alzheimer’s Association/AIM priority legislation to pass unanimously and be signed into law in the 118th Congress. In October, the NAPA Reauthorization Act (P.L. 118-92) and the Alzheimer’s Accountability and Investment Act (P.L. 118-93) were signed into law.

“Alzheimer’s isn’t a red issue or blue issue — it’s purple. And over the last decade Congress has shown true bipartisan leadership, taking strong action to address this growing crisis,” said Egge. “On behalf of those impacted by Alzheimer’s and other dementia, we thank these leaders and our relentless advocates who work everyday to change the trajectory of this devastating disease.”

House, Senate Democrats urge Biden to bump civilian federal pay raise up to 4.5%

From Federal News Network By Drew Friedman, December 11, 2024 – [Excerpt from this article](#) –

Lawmakers called for a 4.5% federal pay raise to align with the military’s expected 2025 raise. Currently, civilian feds are likely to get a 2% raise next year.

With just a few weeks left in the year for President Joe Biden to finalize the 2025 federal pay raise, House and Senate Democrats are calling for a larger pay boost than the currently planned raise for civilian federal employees on the General Schedule.

In a letter sent to Biden Wednesday morning, a group of 27 Democrats pushed for what they said should be “pay parity” between civilian and military federal employees. Currently, civilian and military personnel are slated for likely different pay raises for 2025.

Currently, most civilian employees are on track to receive a 2% federal pay raise beginning in January, according to the alternative pay plan Biden sent to congressional leaders in August. In contrast, military personnel are expected to likely receive a 4.5% raise for 2025. Although the raise amounts appear to be heading in those two directions, neither raise amount is final just yet. Unless Congress or Biden opts for a different pay plan, the 2% raise is expected to become final through signing an executive order by the end of December.

“Our nation’s service members and civilian employees both work tirelessly to keep us safe and run the critical operations of the government,” the lawmakers wrote to Biden. “By aligning military and civilian pay raises for 2025, you will recognize the efforts of the entire federal workforce.”

Read Full article at:

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/pay/2024/12/house-senate-democrats-urge-biden-to-bump-civilian-federal-pay-raise-up-to-4-5/?readmore=1>

