

1st Quarter Newsletter 2026



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,
use the direct message linked to
the officer title above.**



Lansing Chapter 0289 meetings are 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 7th – Our January meeting will be moved to **Wednesday, January 7 at 1:00** for this month only, due to the holiday. We meet at the usual date and time for February. Our speakers in January will be from the Hantz Group, speaking about tax law changes for your tax return. This meeting will be a hybrid (in-person and zoom) with the zoom link emailed out just ahead of the meeting.

February 5th - The scheduled speaker for our meeting on **Thursday, February 5th** will be Sergeant Austin Brown of the Lansing Police Department K-9 Unit. He will be joined by another officer and their K-9 partner. This will be an interesting talk.

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.

Chapter President Message:

I am writing this on the Solstice under the observation of a large black cat lounging beneath a Christmas tree. We now begin winter. Hopefully it will not be the “winter of our discontent” but those of you who follow the news know that we cannot ignore the moral challenges facing our nation. All of us must ensure that our culture remains based on the core ideals of mutual respect and adherence to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. We must remain dedicated to the well-being, freedom, dignity, and justice for all people. We must also soundly reject the bigotry and hatred that have caused so many conflicts in our nation and world. And, while you are at it, be kind to animals!



May you experience peace and love and have a healthy, Happy New Year!

CHAPTER NEWS

One of our faithful Chapter members has moved to Georgia. Bill Simonsen and his wife, Nancy moved to Georgia permanently to be closer to family and have found a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) at the edge of Stone Mountain Park in Stone Mountain, GA. Bill has asked to transfer his Chapter membership to CDC Atlanta Chapter 1419. Bill used to work with CDC, so he feels at home with the members in the chapter. The new chapter holds some meetings in person but also holds zoom meetings between those so members do not need to travel through the Atlanta traffic too often. We all wish him and Nancy well as they settle in their new area.



Chapter members – As your Chapter Webmaster I am interested in your thoughts, concerns and ideas about the [NARFE Website](#) as well as the [Michigan Federation Microsite](#) and [Chapter 0289 Microsite](#). The NARFE website was changed on October 31, 2025, unexpectedly. As a member of the Microsite Working Group (MWG), I have been reviewing all three sites since the NARFE change took place and what was impacted to both the Michigan Federation and the Chapter sites. The MWG has received a number of messages stating members could not find what they were used to accessing on a regular basis. I would like you to send me your thoughts and tell me your opinion of the changes on the NARFE website and will these changes help you use the site more or less. I would also like your evaluation of the Michigan Federation Microsite and the Chapter Microsite in the same manner as you evaluate the NARFE Website. I have addressed some of the NARFE changes and Federation and Chapter Microsite changes further in the Newsletter. I have added a direct email link for you to use for this. Fran Johnston, [Chapter 0289 Webmaster](#).

2026 Federal Pay Raise Finalized in Executive Order

My Federal Retirement, By staff, December 18,

The 2026 GS pay schedules are effective the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2026. OPM 2026 GS Pay Tables (Now Available). The Office of Personnel Management has also published the official 2026 GS Pay tables. 2026 GS Pay Scale Table Incorporating the 4.7% General Schedule Increase (not including locality pay adjustments) Effective January 2026.

The [article](#) has the table and the Executive Order for viewing.

Big Changes to the TSP in 2026

My Federal Retirement, by Chris Kowalik, December 16, 2025

How newly implemented laws affect your take-home pay and taxes

CHANGES: What has changed, who is affected, and when it will happen

WARNINGS: What you should know before you make any decisions

IMPACT: The serious tax consequences you may face without knowing it

REALITY: Why the TSP isn't responsible for the outcome of your actions

This has a [video on the subject](#) as well.

OMB, OPM pitch new governmentwide HR system

Government Executive article by Carten Cordell, Managing Editor, Government Executive, dated December 10, 2025, announced an upcoming plan from OPM. "A joint memo from OMB Director Russ Vought and OPM Director Scott Kupor Wednesday laid out plans to encompass all federal HR management data into a single technology platform by fiscal 2028."

“As part of the plan, the memo said OMB and OPM officials will lead efforts “to procure a modern, best-in-class commercial Core HCM system” for governmentwide adoption by fiscal 2028.” [Read the full article.](#)

Expanded NARFE Bill Tracker Now Available Online

NARFE now has a new [Bill Tracker](#) on the website. Check out what federal workforce legislation is pending in Congress, where NARFE stands on it, how many cosponsors there are, and even connect to relevant action letters to let your views be known. NARFE has provided this information in the NARFE Magazine but now it is available daily. The NARFE Advocacy staff will update the page on a weekly basis to ensure that it contains accurate and relevant information for our members.

NARFE Bill Tracker

This tracker highlights legislation NARFE is following as of December 8, 2025. Expand a topic, then expand a bill to view details. Check back often for updates.

NARFE's Position

- Support
- Oppose
- No Position

Any questions? [Email NARFE's advocacy staff.](#)

FEDERAL BENEFITS

- ▶ FEDERAL ANNUITIES
- ▶ FEDERAL PERSONNEL POLICY
- ▶ FEDERAL COMPENSATION
- ▶ POSTAL SERVICE

Here are a couple of Bills currently in the works that our members need to keep track of as they work through the approval process in Washington, D.C.

House Passes the Protect America’s Workforce Act

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Protect America’s Workforce Act, [PAWA, H.R. 2550](#), on December 11, 2025, with support from both parties in a 231-195 vote. This came after 218 members signed a discharge petition that allowed the bill to bypass House leadership and gain a vote on the House floor. Sponsored by Representatives Jared Golden (D-ME) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), the bill seeks to reverse the Trump Administration’s executive orders that took away collective bargaining rights from about one million federal employees. If enacted, it would restore collective rights and reaffirm existing contracts. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

NARFE supports H.R. 2550, as the executive orders targeted specific unions for their opposition to Trump Administration policies, undermining the rights to free speech and free association of federal employees.

Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R 492/ S. 134

The Trump Administration is in the late stages of finalizing a rule to facilitate its plan to strip more than 50,000 federal employees of critical competitive service protections that ensure firings are based on merit, not political affiliation. The [Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R. 492/S.134](#), sponsored by U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, and the late Rep. Gerry Connolly (now sponsored by Rep. James Walkinshaw), would prohibit the implementation of Schedule P/C.

Reach out to your members of Congress today and urge them to cosponsor the [Saving the Civil Service Act!](#) [Use the sample letter](#) to send a message to your lawmakers urging them to cosponsor the Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R. 492/ S. 134. This bill would block the return of Schedule F, a statutory loophole created by the first Trump administration that would have bypassed the system of rules ensuring civil servants are hired and fired based on merit. Now, in the second Trump administration, Schedule F has been revised and reissued as an Executive Order as of January 20, 2025.

The bill would also block any position in the federal competitive service, created after September 30, 2020, from being reclassified outside of merit system principles without the express consent of Congress and install a cap on the number of conversions to the frozen excepted service schedule (Schedule C), with the cap not to exceed more than one percent of the total number of employees, whichever is greater.

The Michigan Federation and Lansing Chapter 0289 Microsites have had some changes

The Document Page on each of these sites have been modified to hopefully making it easier to find specific information such as Alzheimer's, Life Events and Survivor Resources, Scholarships and now an addition has been added titled "Michigan Resources for Shutdowns and RIFs" to Help Federal Employees going through these types of actions. The delays by congress to approve the 2026 Budget could again cause a shutdown in January. Pam Liebegott, Ann Arbor Chapter Newsletter Editor prepared several documents earlier in the year providing this information in the Ann Arbor Newsletter. Since then, discussion has led to the development of this new page and Pam will be adding additional information when needed. Check the new format of the [Lansing Chapter Document page](#).

WAYS OF PAYING FOR YOUR NARFE MEMBERSHIP

MONEY SAVING METHODS:

DUES WITHHOLDING - Members who receive an annuity can sign up for a monthly annuity deduction, also known as Dues Withholding, which takes a small portion of NARFE dues out of your annuity each month. The total annual amount charged is \$42, a \$6 annual savings. To sign up for Dues Withholding, simply fill out the form on the back of your renewal notice or in the magazine, or you can find the form online to print and mail back: <https://www.narfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/dw-2.pdf>

Note: Do not mail payment with your dues withholding form, simply complete the form and mail.

TWO OR THREE YEAR RENEWALS - Not yet retired or not ready to commit to dues withholding? Save money by signing up for a Two- or Three-Year renewal! Two-Year Renewal is \$92 (savings of \$2/annually) and Three-Year Renewal is \$126 (savings of \$6/annually). To sign up, select one of these options on your renewal notice, email memberrecords@narfe.org to request a change to your renewal invoice or call us at 800-456-8410 x1.

OTHER WAYS TO PAY:

AUTOPAY - While not a special discount for signing up for AutoPay, this does save you time and hassle of having to renew each year. Simply set it and forget it by providing your credit card number up front to be charged upon your membership expiration date. Simply login to <https://members.narfe.org> and click on My Account/My Settings/My AutoPay Account. Click on Save New Payment Type, complete the form and hit 'I agree to Pre-Authorize this card' and you're all set!

PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE - Save a stamp and pay your dues online! Login to <https://members.narfe.org> and click on My Account/My Invoices. If you do not see an open invoice, you do not owe any dues. This is a great way to check to see if we have received your renewal payment as well. Pro tip: Check in the early days of the following month for which you mailed your payment, dues payments are usually processed by that time for the previous month.

DO NOT FORGET TO ADD YOUR CHAPTER DUES

Thank you for being a member, I hope this helps make renewing a little easier for you and put some extra cash back in your pocket!

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/NARFEM/>

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

