

NARFE

FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

Michael P. Palazzotto chapter 1264
 PO Box 514, Middle Island, NY 11953-0514
 Chartered December 18, 1972

General Meetings 1st Wednesday (except January, February, July & August)
 10:00 AM at the Longwood Public Library Auditorium
 800 Middle Country Road, Middle Island, New York 11953

President / Editor Emeritus: Vincent Nasta

MAY 2025

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 Editor
 Joanne Smith

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 Bob Irish

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Hospitality: Vacancies (2)

INCLEMENT WEATHER - call the Longwood Library at (631) 924-6400 to determine if the building is open or not. Our meeting is canceled if the building is closed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, Email or Renewals Please call NARFE Membership Services at (800) 456-8410 press 2 (Monday to Friday 8 AM to 5 PM) or by emailing memberrecords@narfe.org so you can continue to receive your NARFE Magazine and Chapter Newsletters.

Did you know that your NARFE membership ID# is on the second line of the mailing label on your monthly NARFE Magazine? It's all you need to access all your benefits on <https://www.narfe.org> <https://fedhub.narfe.org/home>

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Longwood Public Library Auditorium



Our guest speaker this month will be Katherine Martin of KGM Wealth Management.

Katherine has been in the financial services industry since 2008, starting her career at a Wall Street asset management company. In 2013, after experiencing a profound personal loss, she decided to channel her skills into more meaningful endeavors. Since 2013, Katherine has focused on educating others about financial planning, using various tools and techniques to create a positive experience throughout the entire financial planning process. She is a firm believer in the motto "Never waste the day." Whether it's in her interactions with clients, her love for travel, or her dedication to personal and professional development, she approaches everything with vigor and intensity to achieve the best possible outcomes. Share your reasons for pursuing financial goals with her, and she will gladly share her insights in return.

[NARFE Seminar - Wealth Management 101 and Principles of Preserving Wealth](#)

Wealth Management 101 - explores various wealth management strategies that can help build long-term wealth in today's uncertain markets. We will cover market summary strategies to protect your lifestyle from rising costs, common investing pitfalls, key principles of investing, and more.

Principles of Preserving Wealth - focuses on investment objectives, including estate management tactics and processes, essential documents, and an overview of how estate taxes work.

Event registration at

<https://www.kgmwealthmanagement.com/events>.

You are welcome to bring your spouse, significant other, or a friend to this event.

SSA UPDATE (Last update April 22)

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has successfully accelerated payment processes through automation. However, for the complex cases that cannot be handled automatically, more time is necessary to manually update records and process both retroactive benefits and new benefit amounts. The SSA is currently prioritizing these cases and will release retroactive benefits and send new monthly benefit amounts as each case is processed. The SSA expects that all beneficiary records will be updated by early November 2025.

It is important to ensure that the SSA has your correct information, such as your address and banking details. This will allow you to receive any retroactive benefits and your new benefit amount more quickly.

If you are unable to create an online account, please call 1-800-772-1213 to verify your information or to schedule an appointment. The SSA has offices located in Patchogue, Riverhead, Melville, and Lindenhurst, with hours from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

Read more at <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html?tl=1%2C2%2C4%2C5%2C7%2C12>

Protect Earned Federal Retirement & Health Benefits from Budget Cuts!

The Senate passed an amended version of the House budget resolution, H. Con. Res. 14, on April 5, by a vote of 51-48. Senator voting details are at (https://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_votes/vote1191/vote_119_1_00191.htm). NARFE opposed this resolution due to its instructions to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to cut at least \$50 billion in mandatory spending from programs within its jurisdiction, which would target federal retirement and health benefits as the primary source of savings. However, the Senate's amendments to the House resolution moved in the right direction, as its instructions to Senate committees provide greater flexibility to cut less spending in their version of the reconciliation bill than the House's. Next up: expected House consideration this week. Read NARFE National President, Bill William Shackelford's Letter to Congress dated April 4, 2025,

at: https://www.narfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/NARFE-Letter-Urging-Opposition-to-Senate-Budget-Resolution.pdf?_zs=DPVfm&_zl=V2fI3

As outlined in Bill Shackelford's letter, NARFE's position is opposing the following:

1. Move FEHB from a Premium-share model to a voucher model
2. Eliminate the TSP G Fund subsidy
3. Raise the FERS Contribution Rate to 4.4 %
4. Convert New Employees to At-Will Unless They Accept a Higher FERS Contribution
5. Charge a Fee for Federal Employee MSPB Appeals
6. Base FERS Retiree Benefit on High-5 Instead of High-3 Salary
7. Eliminate FERS Supplemental Retirement Payments

There is strength in numbers, so please contact your Members of Congress Now!

<https://www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page to write to your Senators & Representative.

It's easy to use NARFE's Legislative Action Center to send letters to your members of Congress urging them to respond to executive actions targeting public servants, protect the merit-based civil service, and oppose cuts to our earned federal benefits. Or if you prefer you can write a handwritten personal letter. Contact information is provided below:

Our New York State Senators are:

CHUCK SCHUMER
Washington DC Office
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6542

CHUCK SCHUMER
Long Island Office
145 Pinelawn Road,
#300N
Melville, NY 11747
Phone: (631) 753-0978

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
Washington DC Office
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4451

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
Long Island Office
155 Pinelawn Road
Suite 250 North
Melville, NY 11747
Tel. (631) 249-2825

Our SUFFOLK COUNTY
Congressional District 02 (north shore & twin fork areas)

NICK LALOTA <u>Washington DC Office</u> 122 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3826	NICK LALOTA <u>Long Island District Office</u> 515 Hauppauge Road Suite 3B Hauppauge, NY 11788 Phone: (631) 289-1097
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Our SUFFOLK COUNTY
Congressional District 01 (south shore areas)

ANDREW R. GARBARINO <u>Washington DC Office</u> 2344 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-7896	ANDREW R. GARBARINO <u>Long Island District Office</u> 31 Oak Street Suite 20 Patchogue, NY 11772 Phone: (631) 541-4225
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OPM Retirement Services Online

The website <https://www.serviceline.opm.gov/> is the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Services Online portal, which provides various online services for federal retirees. OPM updated its website on April 1st with additional services.

Their website update includes:

- **How-to Guides** (for different types of web browsers).
- **Booklet Requests** (for Annuitant Initial and Current period for mailed copies).
- **Digital Booklets** (for Annuitant Initial and Current period for immediate download).
- **Form 1099R Request** (for immediate download or a mailed copy).
- **Annual Notice of Annuity** (for immediate download for the past 5 years).
- **Annual Summary of Payments** (for immediate download for the past 5 years)
- **Disability Earnings Report** (if available)

Long Island Alzheimer’s Association

Luanne Jabbonsky, our guest speaker from the Alzheimer’s Association this past April, delivered an insightful and impactful presentation on the urgent issue of rising Alzheimer’s cases worldwide. This alarming trend poses significant healthcare and economic challenges, affecting not just the individuals diagnosed but also placing immense strain on families and caregivers. Her expertise and compelling insights have left a lasting impression, and we are eager to welcome her back for a follow-up presentation next year to continue this crucial conversation.



Message from Chapter President



This chapter newsletter marks the new “Spring Edition e-newsletter!” Moving forward, we will be sending out only four-chapter newsletters each year. To ensure you stay informed, it’s crucial that we have your email address on file so you can receive important updates and announcements in between our paper newsletters.

Join us for our NARFE Chapter meeting on Wednesday, June 4th, where we’ll have an

engaging report on the recent NYS Federation Conference held in Latham, NY. This meeting will include a dynamic "Getting to Know You" chapter-building exercise and a special wellness presentation by our guest speaker from Blue Shield Blue Cross. Don't miss this opportunity to connect and grow with fellow members!

Before our summer break in July and August, we will have our last meeting in June. Instead of a social gathering after the meeting, we will be going out to lunch at Athens Diner. To ensure we have enough table space, we need a head count for the restaurant. Please RSVP either by email or in person at the May meeting. I sincerely hope you can join us!

Joanne Smith
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