

NARFE

FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

Michael P. Palazzotto Chapter 1264
 PO Box 552, Ridge, NY 11961-0552
 Chartered December 18, 1972

General Meetings 1st Wednesday (except January, February, July & August)
 10:30 AM at the Longwood Public Library Auditorium
 800 Middle Country Road, Middle Island, New York 11953

President / Editor Emeritus: Vincent Nasta

MARCH 2026

President
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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 email 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, March 4, 2026, at 10:30 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.

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

MARCH is POLITICAL ACTION (PAC) Month

Vice President John Eget will be doing a short presentation on this subject at our meeting.

Annual New York Federation Conference

Save the date! On Wednesday, **May 6, 2026**, we will hold our Annual NY Federation Conference in Albany, NY. Whether you are brand new to NARFE, a longtime member, still working, retired, a national-only member, or affiliated with a chapter, you are sure to benefit from attending this event!

The conference and accommodations will be paid for at the elegant Crowne Plaza Albany – The Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY. Travel expenses are not reimbursed, but one night of hotel accommodations will be covered for those traveling over 60 miles each way. There is on-site parking, an indoor pool, a fitness center, a restaurant, and a lounge. This will be a statewide conference to provide valuable training and information for both active and retired federal employees who are members of NARFE, so if you are not already a NARFE member, join today!

The NARFE conference will be held from 9 am to 4 pm on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. A 10 am continental breakfast and lunch at noon will be provided to attendees. This conference will provide all officers and members, both National-only members and Chapter members, with updated information and the current state of Congress regarding our earned benefits. At the conference, we will learn about the latest emerging threats to the federal community, reductions in force, proposed cuts to earned federal benefits, and the information and resources we need to help us make informed decisions. We will connect with other feds, refine our skills and knowledge, and become inspired by innovative concepts that will help us network and grow as individuals and grow our chapters. We will hear from federal benefits experts, leadership from NARFE National Headquarters, Congressional staff, and others – all discussing issues affecting our federal community.

If you would like to be on the email list for this year's New York Federation Annual Conference in May 2026, go to

<https://www.narfe.org/ny/contact-annual-conference/>

Read more at:

<https://www.narfe.org/ny/2025/05/13/news-latest-news/>

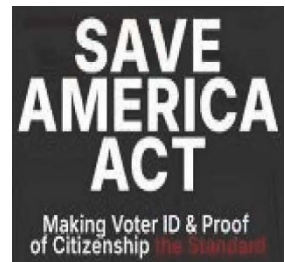
AND THE RAFFLE WINNER IS.....



At the December Health Fair Meeting, we raffled off a wine basket filled with goodies. The winner of this prize was our chapter member Bruce Lederman and his wife, Carol. Congratulations!

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Congress is debating a bill that could dramatically change how Americans register to vote. Supporters say the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, would prevent election fraud. The SAVE Act would require Americans to show proof of citizenship to register to vote. Currently, when people register, they are only required to confirm their citizenship under penalty of perjury.



The bill requires native-born American citizens to show a passport, birth certificate, or consular report of birth abroad to register to vote. For naturalized citizens, a certificate of naturalization or certificate of citizenship is required. Some REAL-ID or enhanced driver's licenses are eligible if the ID explicitly indicates citizenship. Under the legislation, those registered to vote would need to show a valid driver's license, a state-issued non-driver ID, a passport, or a military ID when casting a ballot. Thirty-six states already require voters to show some form of identification at the polls.

The House passed an earlier version of the SAVE Act in 2025, but the Senate did not advance the bill for a vote. Then, this January, representatives introduced the SAVE America Act, which revised the original SAVE Act to include a requirement

for a photo ID when casting a ballot. The House passed the new bill on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, with a vote of 218 to 213, again sending it to the Senate. 83% of Americans support this bill!

It's unclear when the Senate might take up the bill, but it is seen as having little to no chance of winning the support of the 60 senators needed for passage. Now is the time to contact our New York Senators Schumer and Gillibrand with your views on this bill.

REVISITING CHAPTER BYLAWS

NARFE has embarked on an ongoing journey to improve the efficiency of database technology, reporting, and membership processing. With last year's AMS upgrade, NARFE transitioned to the Microsoft Dynamics 365 platform and plans to further enhance the database over the next 18 to 24 months. These improvements will give NARFE greater flexibility in accessing and reporting data, enabling faster and more effective membership processing.

Currently, chapters set a wide range of annual dues rates between \$0 and \$20. This variability increases system complexity, leading to a higher risk of errors and requiring significant staff time for corrections. The current approach is unsustainable and needs to be resolved.

Chapters have been tasked with revising their chapter dues amounts and considering setting annual chapter dues to one of the following amounts: \$0, \$6, \$12, or \$18. By standardizing chapter dues to these set amounts, NARFE will:

- Better align chapter dues with member value
- Simplify processing and reduce errors
- Financial savings of \$50,000 or more per year in staff time
- Streamline renewals and transfers
- Free up time for mission-focused work

Please attend this chapter meeting to have your voice heard, as we will be discussing revising our chapter by-laws again and our chapter dues. In addition, I am proposing we also consider changing the period between officer elections from the current one to two years.

OPM 1099-R

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has updated its delivery policy for the 1099-R form. Annuitants who have provided an email address will receive their 1099-R forms electronically, unless they opt to receive them by mail through their OPM online account. Individuals without internet or computer access should contact OPM's Retirement Services to request a mailed copy of their 1099-R forms. Annuitants can change their delivery preference by visiting their Retirement Services Online account at <http://www.opm.gov/rso> or by calling the Retirement Services hotline at 1-888-767-6738 to request a mailed copy.

2026 National Elections timeline:

November 1, 2025: The call for candidates and by-laws amendments.

March 6, 2026: Deadline to declare candidacy and submit a statement for publication in NARFE magazine; and bylaws and rules amendments submission cutoff for consideration by the By-laws Committee.

June 1, 2026: Publication of candidate statements in the June/July issue of NARFE magazine.

June 15, 2026: Deadline to declare candidacy and submit statement for publication on NARFE website (online only).

August 26, 2026: Online voting begins – after FEDCON26

30 September 2026: Voting ends

FEDCON26 will be held August 23 to 25, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, IN. Mark your calendars to attend this outstanding conference!

Message from Chapter President



This month's chapter newsletter is being mailed to all members. Moving forward, we will be sending out only mailed newsletters in alternate months. To ensure you stay informed, I must have your email address on file so you can receive important updates and announcements in between our paper newsletters. We are planning effective March 2027 to discontinue mailing newsletters and will shift to e-mail only due to the increasing expense of the postal permit, printing, and USPS mailing costs.

Next month, on April 1st, I am planning to have the Suffolk County Financial Crimes Unit as our guest presenters who will discuss Identity theft and scams in our area. Join us on Wednesday, March 4th, for our NARFE Chapter meeting explained on the cover page. Don't miss this opportunity to connect and grow with fellow members! Please note that a social hour will follow the meeting.

Joanne Smith
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