



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

APRIL 2026

President
 Editor
 Joanne Smith

1st Vice President
 PAC Chair
 John Eget

2nd Vice President
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 Alzheimer's Chair
 Bob Irish

Advocacy Leader
 Carl Schroder

Helen Orlando
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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, April 1, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in the Longwood Public Library Auditorium

Our guest speaker this month will be Detective Palmer of the Suffolk County Financial Crimes Unit, who will present an update on the latest financial scams, identity thefts, and recommended security measures.

Avoid becoming a victim! Follow these guidelines...

Talk to someone! Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust, such as a family member.

- Keep in mind that wiring money is like sending cash: the sender has no protection against loss! Don't send money to someone you don't know!
- Don't respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial information, whether the message comes as an email, a phone call, a text message, or an ad!
- Don't respond to a request for payment in gold bars or other precious metals.
- Don't believe your caller ID!
- Don't pay upfront for a promise!
- Do not agree to deposit a check from someone you don't know & then wire money back, no matter how convincing their story!
- Avoid getting hurt financially and/or emotionally by a puppy scam!
- In the wake of a natural disaster or another crisis, give to established charities rather than one that seems to have sprung up overnight.
- Remember there's no such thing as a sure thing!

If you believe you are a victim of Identity Theft, call: Suffolk County Police Department (631) 852-2677 or visit suffolkpd.org or the Financial Crimes Unit at (631) 852-6821

File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov or call (877) 382-4357

RECRUIT

NARFE is now paying members \$8 for every member they recruit, regardless of the time of year. You do not have to wait until a fall Membership Contest is held to recruit. Recruiting new members is a full-time effort that all members should be making. We need to keep trying to recruit new members at every opportunity we get.

NARFE NEWSLINE

PLEASE subscribe to Newsline (https://narfe.informz.net/NARFE/pages/subscription_preferences), and stay active on FEDHub, read the NARFE magazine, and continue to let your legislators know where we stand on these bills.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

We are now in our third government shutdown as of Feb 13th. This shutdown affects DHS, which is about 13% of the government employees, including the TSA, FEMA, Coast Guard, the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Agency, and other agencies. We are now in our 5th week of this partial shutdown. Please contact them and express that they need to fund these agencies.

The shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) continues into its fifth week, as Congress and the president failed to extend funding for DHS ahead of a February 13 deadline. While both sides appeared to be negotiating in good faith over the details and conditions of funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), no deal has yet been reached, and progress has been limited.

NARFE National President William “Bill” Shackelford urged Congress to continue good-faith bipartisan negotiations and supported funding of the noncontroversial elements of DHS, such as

such as the Coast Guard, TSA, and FEMA. <https://www.narfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/NARFE-Letter-Urges-Continued-Good-Faith-Bipartisan-Negotiations-on-Homeland-Funding.pdf>

As negotiations continue, the impact of the shutdown expands. Federal workers impacted by the DHS shutdown have now missed two paychecks (two full, one partial), and disruptions to services have begun to pile up. Staffing shortages intensify and lead to longer screening times as TSA workers go for weeks without pay.

On Friday morning, major airports in Houston, Texas, and Queens, New York, reported wait times stretching up to two hours at peak travel periods. John F Kennedy International Airport in New York – one of the busiest international travel hubs in the country – reported security wait times reaching as high as 42 minutes at Terminal 4 on Friday.

As of Friday morning, there were 2,551 flight delays and 105 cancellations within, into, or out of the United States, according to www.FlightAware.com.

CONTACT CONGRESS

Utilize 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 earned federal benefits.

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

The Choice is Yours

Requesting a federal tax withholding on your Social Security is your choice. You can submit a

request to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits throughout the year instead of paying a large bill at tax time. You will pay federal income taxes on your benefits if your combined income (50% of your benefit amount plus any other earned income) exceeds \$25,000/year filing individually or \$32,000/year filing jointly. Furthermore, you can voluntarily have federal income tax withheld from your Social Security benefits at rates of 7%, 10%, 12%, or 22% by filing IRS Form W-4V with the Social Security Administration (SSA). Your taxable amounts are reported on Form SSA-1099, which you receive annually in January. Obtain the tax withholding form at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf> and submit it to your local SSA field office.

Top NARFE Recruiters Bring in 345 New Members in 2025

The Fall Recruitment Drive (FRD) started on September 1, 2025, and concluded on December 31, 2025. 352 total members recruited at least one member in 2025. 226 recruiters participated in the Recruiter Rewards promotion from September 1 through December 31, 2025, recruiting a total of 345 members! NARFE member Barbara Wilson was the top recruiter in 2025.

Below are the superstars who recruited three or more new members:

Recruiters with 15 recruits: Barbara Wilson

Recruiters with 13 recruits: Deborah Fredericksen

Recruiters with 10 recruits: Philip Kraus

Recruiters with 9 recruits: Marianne Polo *of Nassau County Chapter 0471*

Recruiters with 8 recruits: Rose Tansosch

Recruiters with 6 recruits: **Joanne Smith of Suffolk County Chapter 1264**
and Rosyletta Simms

Recruiters with 4 recruits: Olivia Street, Cheryl Molnar, and Paul Roznowski

Recruiters with 3 recruits: Wanda Faulkner, James Gearhart, Cynthia Housh, Ted Genengels, Merry Byrum, Thomas Keating, Cathy Linta Leader, Louis Bornman, Johanna Caylor, Doris McAdams, Steven Johnson, and Scott Stover

New York Federation Conference

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, will be the Annual NY Federation Conference in Albany, NY.

FEDCON26

Will be held August 23 through August 25, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mark your calendars to attend this outstanding conference!

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

All **435 districts** in the U.S. House of Representatives and **33 seats** in the U.S. Senate are up for election. Elections to the U.S. Congress will take place on November 3, 2026. Heading into the 2026 general elections, Republicans control both chambers of Congress. They hold a 53–45 majority in the Senate, while two independents caucus with the Democrats, effectively giving the Democrats 47 votes for organizational purposes. In the House, Republicans have a 218-214 majority, with three vacancies.

The New York State primary election for 2026 is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 23, 2026**, with several key races and candidates already declared.

Governor of New York

- **Kathy Hochul (Incumbent, Democratic)** – Running for re-election; declared candidate.
- **Jean Anglade (Democratic)** – Challenging Hochul in the Democratic primary.
- **Bruce Blakeman (Republican)** – Nassau County Executive; declared candidate for governor.

Lieutenant Governor of New York

- **Todd Hood (Republican)** – Declared candidate.

U.S. House of Representatives, New York District 1

- **Nicholas J. LaLota CD1, (Incumbent, Republican)** Running for re-election: declared candidate.
- **Christopher Gallant (Democratic)** – declared candidate for U.S. House, New York District 1
- **Jonathan Jacobs (Democratic)** – declared candidate for U.S. House, New York District 1
- **Luca Nascimbene (Democratic)** – declared candidate for U.S. House, New York District 1
- **Jonathan Schneider (Democratic)** – declared candidate for U.S. House, New York District 1
- **Lukas Ventouras (Democratic)** – declared candidate for U.S. House, New York District 1

U.S. House of Representatives, New York District 2

- **Andrew Garbarino CD2, (Incumbent, Republican)** Running for re-election: declared candidate.
- **Patrick Halpin (Democratic)** – declared candidate for U.S. House, New York District 2
- **Jess Murphy (Democratic)** – declared candidate for U.S. House, New York District 2
- **Garret Peterson (Democratic)** – declared candidate for U.S. House, New York District 2

What is the voter registration deadline?

- In-person: June 13, 2026
- By mail: Received by June 13, 2026
- Online: June 13, 2026

What is the absentee/mail-in ballot request deadline?

- In-person: June 22, 2026
- By mail: Received by June 13, 2026
- Online: June 13, 2026

What is the absentee/mail-in ballot return deadline?

- In-person: June 23, 2026 and by mail: Postmarked by June 23, 2026

Is early voting available to all voters? YES

What are the early voting start and end dates? June 13, 2026 to June 21, 2026

When are polls open on Election Day? 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. (ET)

Message from Chapter President



This month's chapter newsletter is being emailed to all members. Moving forward, we will be sending out 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 to discontinue mailing newsletters effective March 2027 and will shift to e-mail only due to the increasing expense of the postal permit, printing, and USPS mailing costs.

Join us on Wednesday, April 1st, for our NARFE Chapter meeting, as 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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