

## DuPage Chapter 1771 Newsletter

Editors: Myra Celestin, John Crank, & Jowanna Jenkins

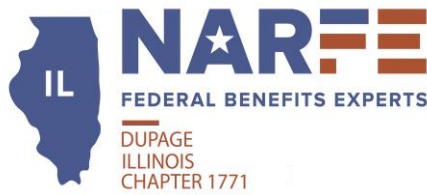
Hello NARFE Members!

Let me share with you what has been happening in the **DuPage Chapter 1771**! An Emergency organizational meeting was called for February 2023 at the Villa Park Public Library, 305 S. Ardmore., Villa Park 60181, to acquire Leadership to prevent the chapter from closing. NARFE Illinois Federation President James Glover talked about what makes a successful chapter and accepted nominations for President. Myra Celestin was elected Chapter President and Jowanna Jenkins was elected Chapter Secretary. Irene Spaletto agreed to continue as Treasurer along with the duties of Service Officer & Alzheimer's Chair, Gene Niewoehner agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor, and past Chapter President Ron Stevens agreed to serve as the Network Coordinator and as a member of the Membership Committee with the current Membership Chairperson, Norman Barber.

Following Mr. Glover's suggestions to have interesting speakers who would draw members to the meetings. A new Zoom Pro account for one year was established to continue offering meetings via hybrid and complete Virtual platforms. The Zoom access number is the Zoom meeting id 828 2943 3608 and the Passcode is 880475. Call-ins are welcome at (312) 626-6799. During the March meeting, a presentation entitled "**Ten Signs of Alzheimer's**" from the Alzheimer's Association-Illinois Chapter with staff members Ms. Rose Pagonis and Ms. Hadi Finerty was given. A toll-free number, 1-800-272-3900, was provided for questions concerning Alzheimer's.

***There was no special*** guest ***in April, the membership focused on the following:*** (1) The 2023 Budget was approved (2) Meet and Greet to promote camaraderie (3) Federation Raffle Tickets, \$10 each, were sold (4) LEGCon23 for June 20-24, 2023 members' participation was encouraged with reimbursement and, (5) Illinois Federation Convention September 26-28,2023, in Effingham with registration being submitted through the Treasurer to avoid members having initial out-of-pocket expense. Mileage reimbursement and hotel are approved.

The Chapter was honored to have Mr. Skip Gonsoulin from the Illinois Attorney General's Office join our **May meeting**. Mr. Gonsoulin discussed the "Common Scams and Fraud on Senior Citizens". He indicated that many scams via telephone can be avoided by simply hanging up the phone or not answering calls from unknown numbers. A toll-free number, 1-800-243-5377, was provided with plenty of printed handouts concerning scams and frauds.



In **June**, Linda Johnson, a Mental Health Therapist serving Chicago’s Westside community and the State of Illinois, gave a talk on “Mental Health Awareness.” In addition to the toll-free number provided, Crisis Support Services Center, 1-800-273-8255. Several resources can be found online <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat-terms-of-service/> as well as [Warmlines for non-crisis situations but individuals needing to talk with someone.](#)

There was no guest speaker at the **July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting**, and the following was discussed: Recap on LEGcon23. Several members attended and will be reimbursed for attending the NARFE LEGcon23, which was held online on June 21-22. It featured presentations on representing NARFE to members of Congress and their staff. Later, meetings with members of Congress and their staffs were held on Zoom. Representative Sean Casten of the 6th Illinois Congressional District made one of the most telling comments. He pointed out that bills in Congress were aimed at garnering 51 votes in the Senate, as opposed to 218 votes in the House of Representatives. This leaves more populous states, like Illinois, with less federal funding per capita and needing to use local sources instead of federal sources to fund initiatives. Other discussions included. (1) planning for future speakers, (2) membership involvement, (3) Illinois Federation Booster Donations (\$2/person \$3/couple), and the Gift Basket Theme Donation. Additionally, it was discussed that the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased by 0.34 in June 2023, and the Consumer Price Index for July 2023 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting on August 10, 2023, at 1:00.

## Things to Do

**Update your contact information to include an email address, phone & home address**

**Renew Your NARFE Membership**

**BlueCross & Blue Shield 30-minute Monthly Program training begins July 26, 2023, @ 12:30. Registration is required**