

The Federal Retiree (Chapter 187)

Volume 27, Issue 4

December 2021

State and Federal Senators and Representatives:

Rep. Warren Davidson 76 East High St, 3rd floor, Springfield, OH 45502, (937) 322-1120

Sen. Sherrod Brown 600 East Superior Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114, (216) 522-7272

Sen. Rob Portman 37 West Broad St. Rm 300, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 469-6774

State Senator Bob D. Hackett (10th District) Senate Building, 1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor, Cols, OH 43215, (614) 466-3780

State Representative Kyle Koehler (79th District) 77 S. High St. 13th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 466-2038

State Representative Bill Dean (74th District) 77 S. High St. 12th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 466-1470

Barb Wieland, Newsletter Editor 937/605-####
Email: #####

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our next chapter meeting is December 8, 2021 at Wittenberg University, Shouplin Center, Room 105, starting at 12:00 noon. Our luncheon will include the same menu that we had at the September 2021 meeting. The cost for the lunch meal is \$13.50 per person. Our speaker will educate us on the latest Medicare fraud schemes. Also, there will be poinsettias.

Call Linda Nichols, 937-717-5232, for your lunch reservations. The number of reservations must be reported to Wittenberg food services by noon December 6, 2021.

As the year 2021 comes to a close it is an understatement to say that it has been a turbulent year for our country. President Biden set a new high record for the number of Presidential Executive Orders to delete existing Presidential Executive Orders and/or add new Executive Orders.

Congress approved a record amount of money to help the country recover from the Covid 19 pandemic, improve our infrastructure needs, and social programs. Inflation is growing faster than it has for several years. Most of the products that we buy regularly have increased substantially.

Manufacturing has been facing part shortages for months. The shortages also affect other

businesses as well. Currently, employers cannot fill the job openings that are available. In some job areas employers are dealing with a bidding war to maintain their work force.

STATE LEGISLATION

No NARFE Issues Are Pending

FEDERAL LEGISLATION/OTHER CONCERNS

President Biden directed a 2.7% average pay increase for federal employees in 2022. This pay increase is 2.2% across-the-board plus 0.5% for locality rates. Before the end of December 2021, the president must sign an executive order to make the 2.7% official.

In the last ten years Social Media platforms have become a major way that Congress does business with their constituents. It is fast and less expensive. To join the trend, NARFE developed a social media toolkit that includes a three-part training module—Social Media Basics: Facebook and Twitter, Social Media as an Advocacy Tool, and Social Media Pages for Federations and Chapters. Members can access these resources on NARFE'S website at www.NARFE.org.

Efforts to eliminate or reduce the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) have been unsuccessful for many years. A new house bill, H.R. 4788 offers a compromise that is based on the combined income from both sources—social security earned in the private sector plus the

government annuity. If the combined monthly income is \$5,500 or less the WEP is repealed for those that are qualified. For those with combined monthly benefits above \$5,500 the WEP penalty is reduced until the combined monthly income is \$6,333. If H.R. 4788 becomes law, it will apply to retirees who began their government employment prior to 1983 and are covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Based on data from December 2020, WEP affects 1,948,427 beneficiaries including 1,836,538 retired workers, 12,520 workers with disabilities, and 99,369 spouses and children.

Harold Crews, President 937-462-####
E-mail: #####

9 SEPTEMBER 2021 MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of NARFE Chapter 187 was held in Shouplin Center at Wittenberg University on Wednesday, September 9, 2021, at noon. President Harold Crews led the members in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Lunch (a deli buffet with water, lemonade and iced tea) was served.

Our guest speakers were Marsha and Greg Ward from Habit for Humanity of Champaign County. It is a volunteer organization that works with a budget of about \$30,000 per year raised through donations and a capital campaign. As a non-profit, they have to raise all monies needed. They described the process that people go through to be selected into the program. After filling out an application and living in the county for a year, there are credit checks, police and FBI checks. Next, they need to be gainfully employed but still need help and can pay a mortgage and taxes and really want to build a house.

The organization gets most of their lots through donations which helps keep the costs down for the build. The homes built are quality homes. They are energy star homes with spray

insulation in walls and attic, vinyl siding, hi-efficiency furnaces, and tankless hot water systems. There are about 250 sweat equity hours put in by the family. Most of the building is done by volunteers except for plumbing and heating. New appliances are gifted to the new homeowner. No carpeting is laid – only vinyl, tile or hardwood.

The new homeowners will have mentors to help them learn how to maintain their new home, budget, etc. because there will be no more landlords to keep things running. The presentation was well received and answered a lot of questions about the organization and their process.

Betty Grimes gave a report on how Springfield Housing works. Habitat for Humanity of Springfield no longer exists.

The free lunch winner was Linda Nichols and the 50/50 drawing was won by Debby Kunselman - \$7.00 for the Alzheimer’s collection which then totaled \$30.00 We welcomed Tom Schumacher, a former co-worker of Barb Wieland, as our guest today. Sharon Minnick gave the Treasurer’s report.

Debby Kunselman, Secretary 864-####

COLA NEWS

The 2022 federal retiree cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 5.9 percent for those under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and 4.9 percent for those under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). The last COLA for federal retirees near this figure was in 2009, when CSRS retirees received 5.8 percent and FERS retirees received 4,8 percent. In 2021, the COLA for both CSRS and FERS retirees was 1.3 percent.

2022 MEDICARE PREMIUMS

Medicare Part B Premium and Deductible
Medicare Part B covers physician services,

outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment, and certain other medical and health services not covered by Medicare Part A.

Each year the Medicare Part B premium, deductible, and coinsurance rates are determined according to the Social Security Act. The **standard monthly premium** for Medicare Part B enrollees will be \$170.10 for 2022, an **increase of \$21.60** from \$148.50 in 2021. The **annual deductible** for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$233 in 2022, an **increase of \$30** from the annual deductible of \$203 in 2021.

The increases in the 2022 Medicare Part B premium and deductible are due to:

- Rising prices and utilization across the health care system.
- Congressional action to significantly lower the increase in the 2021 Medicare Part B premium, which resulted in the \$3.00 per beneficiary per month increase in the Medicare Part B premium (that would have ended in 2021) being continued through 2025.
- Additional contingency reserves due to the uncertainty regarding the potential use of the Alzheimer's drug, Aduhelm™, by people with Medicare. We must plan for the possibility of coverage for this high-cost Alzheimer's drug which could, if covered, result in significantly higher expenditures for the Medicare program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of 31 Jul 21	2374.20
Dues	99.80
Balance as of 31 Aug 21	2474.20
Dues	108.18
Lunch	182.00
50/50	12.00

Alzheimer's	30.00	
Printing	59.60	
Stamps	44.00	
Catering	202.50	
Balance as of 30 Sept 21		2500.08
Dues	128.42	

Balance as of 31 Oct 21	2628.50
Savings`	12.80
CD	1848.26
Total Available	4489.56

Sharon Minick Treasurer 937-408-####

COVID SHOT HINT

My husband and I got our 3 Covid shots at Kroger's in Fairborn. The shot givers generally told us to try to keep our arm limp. I had never heard this before but did a little research.

I found this info on the internet under advice to shot givers. Tell patient that their arm should be very relaxed. If their muscles tense, it actually is harder to get the needle into the muscle. They said that smiling, even if you're faking it, can help with the pain associated with getting a shot.

Wish someone had told me this decades ago.
Barb Wieland

2021 TAX PREPARATION

Some of you have had your taxes done by AARP in Springfield at the United Senior Services building or at some other locations. Because of the pandemic, AARP couldn't find a location in Clark County to host the tax preparers early in 2021.

It looks like USS will definitely be letting AARP set up tax preparation services in 2022. The service may be some sort of drop-off service to avoid having the preparers and the clients sitting near each other for long periods of time.

If you are interested in having AARP prepare your 2021 tax returns, call USS at 937-323-4948 starting in mid-January 2022 to set up an appointment.