

The Federal Retiree (Chapter 187)

Volume 28, Issue 1

March 2022

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

We plan to have our March 9, 2022 meeting unless something beyond our control occurs. The chapter meeting will be located at Wittenberg University, Shouplin Center, Room 105, starting at 12:00 noon. I will ask Wittenberg food service to provide the same sandwich lunch items and drinks that we had at our last meeting. The cost for the lunch is \$13.50 per person.

Presently, I believe the Wittenberg University mask policy is still required—everyone needs to wear a mask in the building unless you are eating or drinking.

We hope to have a speaker but at this time no one is confirmed. I am working through United Senior Services (USS) to find a local speaker.

Some things in our society are hard to leave behind. Pandemics, bad politics, monetary inflation, storms, heated international issues, and scarcities are a few of the prevailing things that are with us every day.

Mid-term elections are scheduled for November 8, 2022. All of the house members (435) and a third of the Senators (33 or 34) are trying to get elected or reelected. Early election observers predict a brutal year for both parties.

STATE LEGISLATION

No NARFE Issues Are Pending

FEDERAL LEGISLATION/OTHER CONCERNS

Our NARFE NATIONAL PRESIDENT, KENNETH J. THOMAS, is reminding NARFE members to advocate NARFE issues to candidates that are asking for your vote. Try to determine if the candidates are pro or con on the important issues to NARFE.

This year, 2022, NARFE elections occur July 15 to August 31. The positions of **national president, national secretary/treasurer and regional vice presidents** are on the ballot. Candidate statements and other information will be provided as soon as the information is available. Also, the NARFE national convention (**FEDCON22**) is scheduled for August 21-23, 2022 at Weston Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, AZ. This convention is NARFE's first in-person national event since 2019.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION/OTHER CONCERNS

The 2022 COLA is 5.9% for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Social Security Benefits while the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) is 4.9%. This is the largest increase in nearly 40 years. This is a significant increase. (Example: if your current annual retirement is \$20,000, your new annual income is \$21,180 if you are a CSRS member and \$20,980 if you are a FERS member.) These increases were based on the average inflationary increases for the last three fiscal months of 2021 according to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

If you own Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) be sure you adhere to the tax requirements for each kind of IRA.

NARFE members contributed for Alzheimer's research: \$15 Million Fund stands at \$14,101,695.14.

Harold Crews, President 937-462-####

E-mail: #####

8 DECEMBER 2021 MINUTES

The quarterly meeting of NARFE Chapter 187 was held in the Shouplin Center at Wittenberg University on Wednesday, December 8, 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.

The guest speaker was Brian Rhame from **Senior Medicare Patrol**. This is a free service in every state and it is a part of Medicare. This agency has two goals. The first is to educate seniors about Medicare fraud and the second is to help people get out of a fraud situation. Pro Seniors is a statewide agency located in Cincinnati providing free legal help getting out from under a fraud situation. It was noted that veterans are the most frequent targets of fraudsters.

Your Medicare statement needs to be checked for errors when you receive it to make sure that all the charges are correct and actually are charges for you and not someone else or for something that was not ordered by your doctor. Any money or treatments charged fraudulently can affect future monies or medical treatments in the future. This can affect your Medicare benefits, your Social Security and even your taxes.

The people defrauding you are very organized. They try to overwhelm you with information to cause confusion or they will try to scare you if you don't agree with them. Equipment charges are one of the most frequent frauds. Also, the calls you receive about switching insurances for more or better benefits are from insurance companies and not from Medicare. Medicare does not call you. Never call the number on an email or letter. The fraudsters have excelled at making letters look official. Always look up the official phone number before calling.

You need to protect yourself and your Medicare number. Be aware that there are people out there who wish to make money off your account. Remember to make sure that there are no errors on your Medicare statement that could cause future issues. Report any issues to your physician, pharmacy and Medicare immediately.

V.P. Joe Kleehammer reported that there was no change in membership and one recent renewal. Treasurer Sharon Minnick gave the financial report. Secretary Debby Kunselman reported that hopefully Vintage Voices will return next year.

The free lunch was won by Betty Grimes. Linda Nichols was the 50/50 (\$14). Alzheimer's collection was \$15.00

Paul Reichert had a letter for Warren Davidson about recalculating Social Security that the members needed to sign.

A drawing was held for the poinsettias. Almost everyone went home with one.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Debby Kunselman, Secretary 864-####

2021 TAX PREPARATION

If you are interested in having AARP prepare your 2021 tax returns, call USS at 937-323-4948 to set up an appointment. They are doing Tax preparation at the United Senior Services center on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays until early in April 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of 31 Oct 21	2628.50
Dues	23.30
Balance as of 30 Nov 21	2651.80
Dues	49.88
Lunch	148.50
50/50	14.00
Alz	15.00
Printing	59.10
Stamps	46.40
Flowers	52.40
Catering	175.50
Checks	29.98
Balance as of 31 Dec 2021	2515.80
Dues	39.88
Balance as of 31 Jan 2022	2555.68
Savings`	12.80
CD	1851.05
Total Available	4419.53

Sharon Minick Treasurer 937-408-####

RETIRED CIVILIAN BASE ID

I, Barb Wieland, decided to get a pass that would allow me to drive onto Wright-Patterson AFB. Under recent rules, retired DOD civilians can shop at the Base Exchange. Also, we have always been allowed to exercise at the base gyms.

The first hurdle is to schedule an appointment with the ID Card office. That office is in building 2 in Area C near building 1. They, apparently, also have walk-in service on Mondays and Tuesdays starting at 0800. They will give appointments for later in the day to so many people at the front of the line.

To get on base to get to the ID card office, you must head towards the Area A gate in front of building 262, the Headquarters building. Use Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd or Col Glenn Hwy to get there. Do not go through the gate onto the base. Turn left into the big parking lot in front of buildings 262/266. Go to the old Pass and ID building in that parking lot to get a one-day pass to get on the base.

If you prefer getting an appointment, you must go on line after 4 PM on the first Friday of the month to schedule an appointment for the next month.

You can check after 4 PM on any Friday to may be lucky enough to get an appointment in the current month.

That web site is

<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>

On the day of the appointment, leave time to get the one-day pass before driving a few miles to building 2. I took a valid passport and my driver's license as forms of ID. Apparently, one's fingerprints get fainter as we age, so they finally just approved me after the machine refused to read my fingerprints even though I can see them.

I feel proud of myself that I hung in through all of the hoops to get a pass. It wasn't easy. I have heard that people can maybe go to the Springfield airport to get a base pass that works for WPAFB. I would recommend trying that first if you are interested in shopping at the base exchange or using the base gyms.

2021 TAX TIPS

Because of various COVID related legislation, 2021 has some unique tax rules. Even if you don't itemize, you can deduct some cash Charity donations anyway (\$300 for singles/ \$600 for joint returns).

Even if you have no income or are a retired person with no earned income, you can get the Child Tax Credits if you have children as dependents. I never thought it was right that a retired person with only Social Security and Pension income could not get the Child Tax Credit for children they were raising. At least for 2021, they can.

NARFE CHAPTER 187
404 Dayton St
Yellow Springs, OH
45387-1706

Luncheon attendance is open to members and invited guests. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** They can be made by calling **Linda Nichols (937-717-5232)** by noon **Saturday, Mar 5, 2022.** Cancellations can be made until noon Monday, March 7, 2022 again by calling Linda Nichols at 937-717-5232.

*** RESERVATIONS NOT KEPT OR CANCELLED MUST BE PAID FOR. ***

For your calendars:

2022 Executive Board Meetings (10 AM at United Senior Services): May 11
Aug 10 Nov 9

2022 Membership Meetings (Wittenberg): March 9 June 8 Sept 14 Dec 14

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